

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
April 7, 2026

Reducing Harm for Transgender, Gender-Diverse, and Intersex (TGI) People Who Are Incarcerated in the Los Angeles County Jails

There is an average of 13-14,000 people who are presently incarcerated in the Los Angeles County jails, the largest jail system in the country. Among those incarcerated in Los Angeles County jails at any given time, approximately 50 – 120 have self-identified as transgender, gender-diverse, or intersex (TGI). This is likely an undercount and there exists no exact accounting of the total TGI population in Los Angeles County jails for a number of reasons: some incarcerated people may choose to not disclose for personal or safety reasons, while others fall through the cracks due to inconsistent implementation of Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department (LASD) policies and procedures around identifying TGI incarcerated individuals. Nationwide, TGI individuals are nine times more likely than cisgender individuals to experience sexual harassment or assault during their first year of incarceration¹. While the only real solution to these harms is decarceration, harm reduction measures are important and necessary in the short term.

Those who are TGI are not always housed in facilities that align with their gender identity. For example, most trans women are, at least initially, housed in facilities designated for men, such as Men’s Central Jail (MCJ) and Twin Towers Correctional

¹ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/federal-survey-transgender-inmates-more-likely-to-be-victims-of-sexual-assault/>

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Facility (TTCF). Trans men are almost exclusively housed in the facility designated for women. Trans women can, however, be housed at the facility designated for women—Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF)—if approved by the Gender Identity Review Board (GIRB), an LASD body that seeks input from Correctional Health Services (CHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG), and community advocacy groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California (ACLU SoCal) and Just Detention International (JDI). Similarly, trans men can be housed in a facility or unit designated for men. Unfortunately, LASD only schedules GIRB meetings once a month, and approvals to transfer have often been slow to execute, leaving many TGI folks in limbo for weeks or even months at a facility that does not align with their gender identity and in which they often fear for their safety.

For TGI people, housing is often a matter of survival. To reduce harm in the housing of TGI incarcerated individuals, it is crucial that staff be held accountable when they fail to treat this population respectfully and with dignity. Despite the provision of “sensitivity training” to LASD staff, there are continual external and internal reports to the Department of LASD staff misgendering TGI individuals, making transphobic comments, withholding resources—including food and medications—from TGI folks, and otherwise engaging in sexual harassment of this population.

Harm reduction in this area also requires that staff know the signs of interpersonal violence, threats, and other forms of harm that TGI incarcerated individuals face from other incarcerated individuals. Just as there are gangs and cliques within the jails in general population, they also exist in specialized populations like the LGBTQ+ (K6-G) units in Men’s Central Jail. Some TGI individuals housed in K6-G units have at times

disclosed that they are uncomfortable seeking assistance, resources, or even transfers to more appropriate housing units because they were intimidated or threatened by another incarcerated person. Both sworn and civilian staff should be instructed and trained to recognize when an incarcerated person is being coerced or threatened and to appropriately address these dynamics. Additionally, it is important that outside resources are available so that TGI incarcerated individuals can seek care and help, without the risk of retaliation, outside of the jail system.

Harm reduction for TGI incarcerated individuals also means having consistent and equitable access to gender-affirming resources and services, which are critical to maintaining their physical and mental health and well-being. For example, TGI individuals need to have access to clean, appropriately fitted clothing and undergarments that align with their gender identity. Recently, TGI individuals in custody have been forced to wear undergarments that don't align with their gender identity, are incorrectly sized, and/or are dirty despite appropriate items being available at the facility, because requests to have their needs met are not promptly addressed or were ignored altogether.

Access to razors and/or depilatory products is also important for TGI incarcerated individuals, especially for trans women, since unwanted facial hair can worsen their gender dysphoria and/or mental health struggles as well as invite harassment from others. Unfortunately, there have been recent reports across multiple facilities that trans women, especially those with mental health needs, are not receiving a razor consistently or at all, despite established protocol in LASD's Custody Division Manual for temporary supervised use and return of razors to address safety concerns.

Consistent with the needs of cisgender incarcerated individuals in the County jails,

harm reduction for the TGI population must include relevant and trauma-informed programming, including access to educational, therapeutic, and credit-earning work opportunities within the jails.

It is incumbent on the County to employ harm reduction measures to address the aforementioned issues while still expanding and accelerating its investments in meaningful alternatives to incarceration and supports for the TGI community to help prevent entanglement with criminal legal systems in the first place.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), in consultation with the Office of Inspector General (OIG), other participants in meetings of the Gender Identity Review Board (GIRB), the LGBTQ+ Commission, and other relevant stakeholders, to:
 - a. In 90 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to provide access to razors to TGI incarcerated individuals, and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
 - i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
 - b. In 90 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to provide appropriately sized clothing/undergarments, hygiene items, and access to commissary items that align with TGI incarcerated individuals' gender identity,

- and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
- i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
- c. In 90 days, explore to create a feasibility plan to update the commissary catalog to make all items available to everyone, regardless of by gender or orientation, and provide a public report back and a presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion;
- d. In 90 days, provide tailored and relevant programming for TGI individuals that is consistently and equitably accessible and includes in-person trauma-informed services and treatment, and provide a public report back and a presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
- i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
- e. In 180 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to hold Department staff accountable for failure to treat TGI incarcerated individuals respectfully and with dignity, and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public

Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:

- i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
- f. In 180 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to ensure consistent identification of self-identified TGI incarcerated individuals, and provide a public report back and presentation, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
 - i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
- g. In 180 days, begin providing written informational materials about how to request K6G housing and/or a GIRB meeting to all incarcerated people upon intake, and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
 - i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;

- h. In 180 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to increase the frequency of GIRB meetings, expedite transfers upon approval, create meaningful mechanisms for regular follow-up, and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
 - i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident;
- i. In 180 days, update and/or create policies and procedures to identify and address interpersonal harm experienced by TGI incarcerated individuals, including provision of outside resources, and provide a public report back and presentation at the Public Safety Cluster meeting, 60 days after completion, on what steps the Department took to effectuate this, including:
 - i. A comprehensive anonymized list of relevant complaints reported to the Department, whether internally or externally, over the preceding one year; and
 - ii. What actions the Department took to address each incident; and
- j. Provide training and communicate to staff about the aforementioned updated and newly created policies and procedures in 14 days, or sooner, upon finalization of each.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of Inspector General and Sybil Brand Commission to engage with incarcerated TGI people, every

quarter, about access and application of policies and procedures relevant to housing; safety; gender-affirming care, resources, and services; programming; staff interactions; and other issues; and provide the Board with updates through the OIG's and SBC's respective reports.

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