



Rutherford Litigation

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Custody Operations

Rutherford Case – Key Facts

- Brought by ACLU in the 1970s to address jail overcrowding and jail conditions. Focus has changed over time as the conditions in the jails have changed.
- February 2023: ACLU filed a contempt motion regarding Inmate Reception Center conditions and wait times.
- June 2023: Motion dismissed after significant improvement with no finding of contempt; County agreed to new corrective actions and articulated plans to address the root causes of IRC overcrowding, including a two-year ramp up of ODR and DMH community beds for the severely mentally ill.
- Since June 2023, the County has been substantially compliant in 24 out of 28 months, and in July of 2025 reached sustained substantial compliance for 6 months straight in all 6 provisions of the Rutherford Stipulation (now at 9 months).
- The County also achieved its planned two-year ramp up of community beds.

The 2023 Rutherford Stipulation

The 6 Core Requirements of the Rutherford Stipulation:

- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person in the IRC more than 24 hours without a bed
- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person restrained for more than 4 hours on the “front bench” or similar location
- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person in an IRC holding cell for more than 12 hours, or holding more people in a cell than its BSCC rated capacity
- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person in the IRC clinic cage, when locked, for more than 8 hours total
- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person in the IRC clinic area, cage, or cell when it is not in a clean or sanitary condition with access to toilets, water, and garbage receptacles
- ✓ Not holding an incarcerated person in the IRC anywhere in the IRC without ongoing access to adequate medical and mental health care

Rutherford Compliance to Date

2023

- ☒ July
- ☒ August
- ☒ September
- ☒ October
- ☒ November
- ☒ December

2024

- ☒ January
- ☒ February
- ☒ March
- ☒ April
- ☒ May
- ☒ June
- ☒ July
- ☒ August
- ☒ September
- ☒ October
- ☒ November
- ☒ December

2025

- ☒ January
- ☒ February
- ☒ March
- ☒ April
- ☒ May
- ☒ June
- ☒ July
- ☒ August
- ☒ September
- ☒ October

Areas of Progress

LASD have achieved the following improvements:

- ✓ **Developed technological solutions to better track wait times**
 - Shared Intake Management System (SIMS) uses wristband scanner technology integrated with LASD systems to track, monitor, and implement the timely movement of people.
- ✓ **Increased and maintained critical staffing**
 - Prioritized LASD staffing for *Rutherford* compliance, including adding 24/7 compliance sergeant in the IRC
 - Expanded the number of cleaning crews and sanitation checks in the IRC
- ✓ **Expedited the movement of people out of County jails**
 - Achieved a **61% decline** since February 2025 in those waiting for transfer to state prison, and an **80% decline** in those waiting for transfer to state hospitals. Those numbers have now been very low for nearly two years.

Areas of Progress

CHS and other County partners have achieved the following improvements:

✓ **Increased and maintained critical staffing**

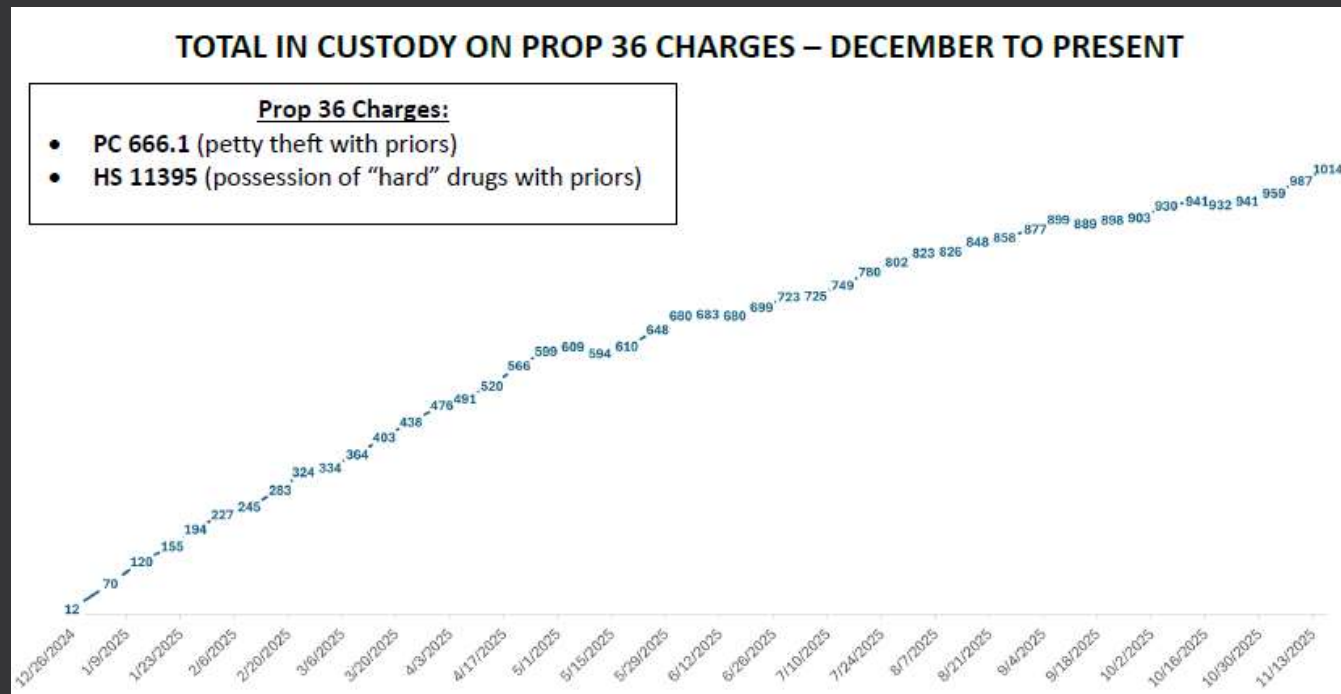
- Offered bonuses of up to 20% for more than 1,900 CHS employees working in the jails to help retain and recruit staff in key jail-based clinical, case management, technical, and administrative positions.

✓ **Expedited the movement of people out of County jails**

- Surpassed Year 1 and 2 ramp up goals set by the ODR and the DMH for new community beds for the severely mentally ill, adding approximately 1,700 treatment beds over two years.

Challenges for Maintaining Compliance

The jail population continues to rise, with over 1,000 people in custody on Prop 36 charges



Challenges for Maintaining Compliance

There is a mismatch between the need for specialty mental health housing (MOH/HOH) and the growing mental health population

TOTAL INMATE POPULATION vs. MENTAL HEALTH POPULATION
2016–2025 (Q1–Q3)



Total Inmate Population Data Source: Average Daily Inmate Population from LASD Custody Division Reports
Mental Health Population Data Source: 2016–2019 LASD MH Count, 2020–2025 P-Level Reports



Thank You.
Questions?