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May 11, 2026

Re: Eighth Expert Monitoring Report on the Consent Decree
Babu et al. v. County of Alameda et al.
Case No. 5:18-CV-07677

Dear Counsel,

This letter serves to introduce my eighth monitoring report on the implementation status of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and Adult Forensic Behavioral Health's (AFBH) Consent Decree (CD) within the Santa Rita Jail (SRJ). This report addresses all provisions currently assigned to me for review and rating as the Mental Health Expert. The period for this report covers information received and reviewed from July 1st through December 31st, 2025. In preparing this report, as in the past, I've obtained feedback from the other Joint Experts and provided feedback on their individual reports.

The most recent site visit of the court-appointed Joint Experts team took place from December 8th and 9th, 2025. The team was joined by Defense Counsel and Class Counsel for discussions related to the implementation of the CD with the Sheriff, County Behavioral Health, and Wellpath leadership. The tour also afforded an opportunity to observe facility operations, have informal conversations with staff, and attend meetings on the Therapeutic Housing Units and a Restrictive Housing Committee meeting.

For this report, the County has continued to provide access to information and a range of documentation necessary for my evaluation of their progress and compliance with provisions. I am pleased to note that proof of compliance data has further improved during this reporting period. Additional requirements to support compliance are specified in the attached report.

The improvements noted during this rating period are essentially the same as in the last report and include:

- Greater attention to providing therapeutic activities, especially for the incarcerated women and for persons with reported substance use disorders,
- Continued implementation and refinement of the Therapeutic Housing Unit (THU) model with dedicated teams in specified housing units,
- Continued implementation and refinement of the mental health "Level of Care" (LOC) system applied to all persons incarcerated at the SRJ with ongoing training of staff, and confluence between the LOC and the THU models,
- Consistency in the intake process for all persons during the SRJ "booking" and movement towards compliance with the specified timeframe for initial assessment,
- Efforts towards addressing proof-of-practice and quality assurance measures,
- Improvements in clinical documentation,
- Creation of aesthetically pleasing areas within the THUs for treatment services at the group and individual level, and
- Creation of an extensive, dedicated staff work area.

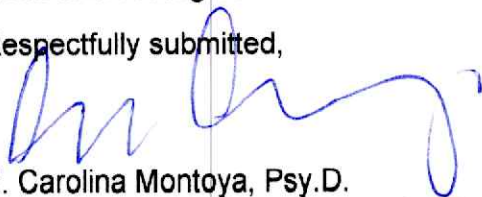
Continued areas for attention include:

- Efforts to increase staffing as required by the CD,
- Efforts to develop and obtain approval of policies and procedures, with related forms and documentation and training requirements,
- Development of the behavioral health continuum of care beginning at intake through release with adequate staffing and available housing at the appropriate levels of care,
- Strengthening collaboration of clinical and custody personnel, which includes effective in-custody programming reinforced by reentry and discharge supports,
- Availability of community-based resources within the SRJ providing much-needed services in substance use and "re-entry" services, and
- Ability for AFBH and ACSO to conduct meaningful reviews of both individual critical incidents and overall trends to address issues and situations that contribute to non-compliance with the CD.

Advancements in services and the improved service delivery environment evident during this reporting period reflect the willingness shown by the County, AFBH and ACSO to implement the modifications and enhancements required by the CD provisions. In the areas assigned to me, this rating period demonstrates the attention being paid by the County to the critical changes and improvements that must be made.

I look forward to the continued engagement, willingness and collaboration by all parties to implement new ideas and strategies.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment