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Re: Seventh 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 seventh 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 January 1st through June 30th, 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 July 15th through July 17th, 2025. The team was joined by Defense Counsel, Class Counsel, and representatives from the Department of Justice 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 as well as a Restrictive Housing Committee meeting and an AFBH staff training.

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 continued to improve during this reporting period. Additional requirements to support compliance are specified in the attached report.

Improvements have been noted during this rating period 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, and
- Creation of areas within the THUs for treatment services at the group and individual level.

Areas for attention include:

- Continued efforts to increase staffing as required by the CD,
- Continued efforts to develop and obtain approval of policies and procedures, with related forms and documentation and training requirements,
- Continued 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,
- Continued implementation of Therapeutic Housing Units, with a true 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 in all provision areas to address issues and situations that contribute to negative outcomes and non-compliance with the CD.

This report reflects the openness and 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. The notable improvements in operations and movement towards CD compliance shown during this rating period demonstrate the shared interest in making changes and seeking sustainable reforms.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment