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November 2, 2026

Re: Ninth 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 introduces my ninth 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, 2026. As with prior reports, this report reflects the results of the review and feedback from the other Joint Experts.

The most recent site visit of the court-appointed Joint Experts team took place from July 20th through July 22nd, 2026. 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.

As with prior reports, 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.

The improvements noted during this rating period continue to address the following:

- 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
- Completion of additional treatment areas within the THUs.

Continued areas for attention include:

- Efforts to increase staffing as required by the CD and determination of the type and number of positions required for compliance,
- 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.

Improvements in services and in the service delivery environment evident during this reporting period continue to 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. A meaningful number of provisions are now considered to be in Substantial Compliance with no provisions in Non-Compliance.

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