



*Building bridges between  
criminal justice & behavioral health  
to prevent incarceration*

## **Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health Responses to Stakeholder Concerns Regarding the use of CCJBH's MHSAs Funding Allocation**

At the December 9, 2022, Full Council Meeting, during which time the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) was scheduled to discuss and vote on proposed contracts that would be funded using CCJBH's Mental Health Services Act (MHSAs) allocations for Fiscal Years 2023-26, CCJBH received a stakeholder letter expressing concerns about the use of MHSAs funds on one of these proposed contracts – the Public Health Meets Public Safety (PH/PS) Project. This paper reflects CCJBH's responses to these stakeholder concerns so that Councilmembers and stakeholders are well-informed for the discussion of this and other related contract proposals at the April 21, 2023, meeting.

### **Concern #1. CCJBH must spend \$670,000 per year on stakeholder advocacy contracts.**

Fiscal Year 2018-19 Trailer Bill allocated \$795,000 ongoing funds to CCJBH to support “stakeholder advocacy contracts, and associated program administration, to support mental health outreach and services for criminal justice involved populations.” As such, CCJBH does have the authority to use the MHSAs funds that are annually allocated to CCJBH from the 2018-19 Trailer Bill to establish contracts to continue the Public Health Meets Public Safety (PH/PS) Project.

### **Concern #2. The Public Health Meets Public Safety Project Data Analysis and Reporting Framework does not fulfill the intent of the stakeholder advocacy contract funding.**

There is no language regarding intent for CCJBH's MHSAs allocation in the 2018-19 Trailer Bill. That said, CCJBH believes that the use of data is a critical for supporting mental health outreach and services for criminal justice involved populations, and therefore has structured the proposed contract concepts for the next three fiscal years of CCJBH's MHSAs funding to reflect the interconnected relationship between data analysis and reporting and stakeholder advocacy efforts.

### **Concern #3. Reducing the funding for stakeholder advocacy contracts unfairly disadvantages the justice-involved population.**

CCJBH's proposals for its FY 2023-26 MHSAs funding allocations solely focus on addressing needs of individuals with behavioral health needs who are, or at risk of becoming, involved with the justice system.