



*Building bridges to prevent incarceration*

# Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails

*A Collaboration Between the  
Council on State Governments Justice Center and the  
Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*

**August 18, 2021**



# Agenda

2:00 PM	Welcome & Introductions
2:10 PM	State Agency Speakers
2:25 PM	Lived Experience Perspectives – Amity Foundation
2:40 PM	CSG Housing Report Presentation
3:05 PM	Justice and Housing: Collaboration in Action
3:15 PM	Call to Action and Announcements
3:20 PM	Q&A



# Quick Notes:

**\*\* Presentation is being recorded \*\***

- Use the “raise hand” feature to make a comment
- *You will be placed in line to comment in the order in which requests are received by the host.*
- **When it is your turn to comment, the meeting host will unmute your line and announce your name.**
- *Members of the public should be prepared to complete their comments within 3 minutes or less if a different time allotment is needed and announced by the Executive Officer.*

**Email:**

**[CCJBH@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:CCJBH@cdcr.ca.gov)**



# State Agency Speakers

**Corrin Buchanan**, *Assistant Director*  
California Department of Social Services (DSS)

**Julie Lo**, *Executive Officer*  
Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC)

**Geoffrey Ross**, *Deputy Director*  
Housing and Community Development (HCD)

**Susan Philip**, *Deputy Director*  
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)



# **Amity Foundation**

## **Stories of Lived Experience**





**Justice Center**

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

# **Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails**

Recommendations to the California Council  
on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

August 18, 2021

# The Council of State Governments Justice Center

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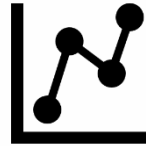
We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.

# Our Process: Defining Need and Developing Recommendations

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**39 interviews**  
with state and local  
policymakers,  
researchers, people  
w/ lived experience



**Grounded in**  
(available) **data**



**Informed by best**  
**practices** and local  
successes



**Guided by key leaders**  
and building on prior work



# Today's Presentation

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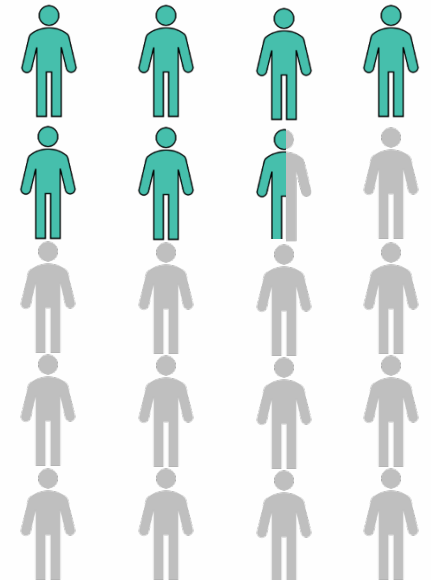
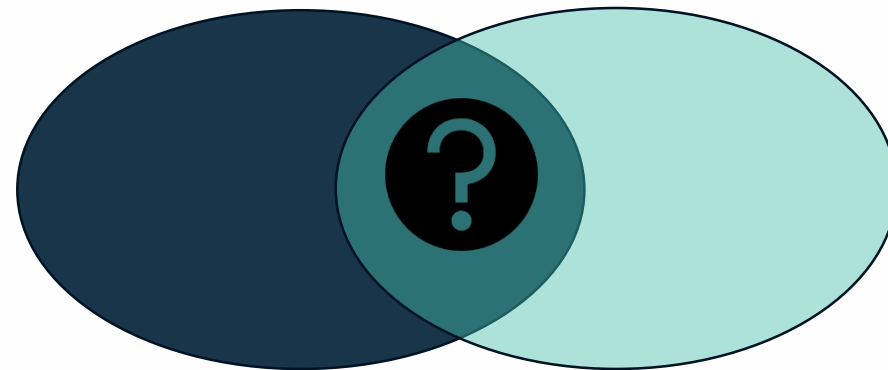
- How many people are we talking about?
- What are the challenges in the field?
- What are the recommendations to reduce homelessness for people with behavioral health needs leaving prisons and jails in California?

# The Overlap between Homelessness and Mental Health Needs in California Jails

**17–39 percent** of people experienced homelessness in 30 days prior to jail stay



Approximately 30 percent or more of jail population has **mental health needs**



# Housing and Service Needs for People Leaving California Jails

Up to **10 percent** of people in jail may need **ongoing housing assistance** *and* **intensive mental health services**

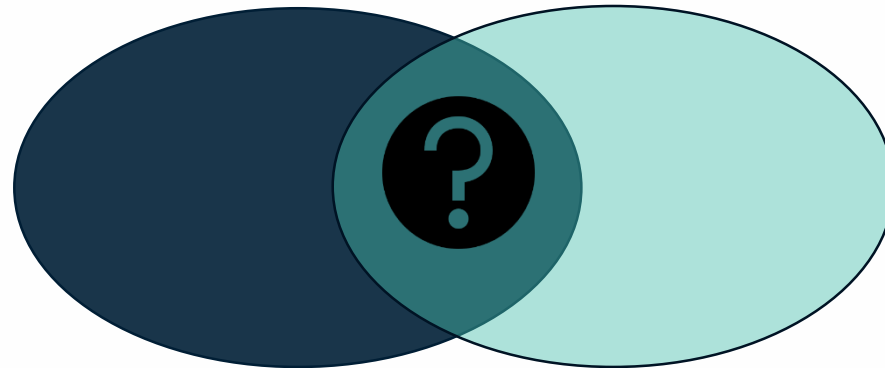


Another **8–16 percent** may need **ongoing housing assistance** *and* **less intensive mental health services**

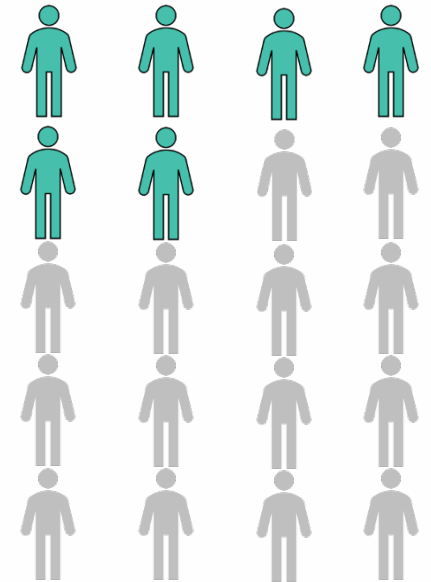


# Homelessness Risk and Mental Illness in California Prisons

About **39 percent** of people **leaving prison on parole** report some level of “residential instability”



At least **29 percent** of people in **prison** have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness



# Inequities in Multiple Domains

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- **Homelessness:** Black Californians represent 6 percent of state population, 29 percent of those experiencing homelessness
- **Criminal Justice:** Incarceration rate for Black Californians nearly 7x higher than for White people, 2x higher for Latinx
- **Behavioral Health:** Higher rates of unmet mental health needs for Black and Latinx people than general population

# Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Silos

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## **Silos between criminal justice, behavioral health, and housing systems**

- ✓ *Hard to connect with housing and supportive services without these relationships*

# Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Data

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## Lack of data on homelessness and housing needs

- ✓ *Difficult to match people to the right level of housing and services*
- ✓ *Hard to ask for more resources if you can't define the problem*

# Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Stigma and Policy Barriers

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## Stigma among landlords and policy barriers among housing providers



- ✓ *Communities may not prioritize people leaving jail/prison for housing assistance*
- ✓ *Difficult to access limited housing that is available*



# Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Supply

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## Lack of affordable housing statewide

- ✓ *Only 1 unit available for every 4 Californians who need it*
- ✓ *Significant competition and long waits for limited supply*

# Recommendations: Overall Key Themes

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**1. Data**



**2. Access**



**3. Supply**



# Key Theme 1: Data

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## Why is this a key theme?

- Essential to connect people with the right housing and maximize limited resources
- Supports efforts to advocate for more resources and “grow the housing pie” (see Theme 3)

# Key Theme 1: Data Action Steps



## Key Action Steps

- Implement simple, brief jail homelessness risk assessment
- Expand housing needs assessments across prisons and jails
  - Require for all CDCR releases
  - Identify “in-reach” funding to implement in jails
- Build systems and create incentives to report these data publicly

# Key Theme 2: Access

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## Why is this a key theme?

- Expanding supply is the ultimate solution but requires significant time and investment
- Improving access to existing housing and services helps meet immediate needs

# Key Theme 2: Access Action Steps

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## Key Action Steps

- Build relationships between discharge planners, community supervision, and housing providers
- Implement landlord incentives to expand inventory
- Expand and target rental assistance toward reentry population
- Partner with private funders on innovative approaches such as Flexible Subsidy Pools
- Leverage new supportive services investments (i.e., CalAIM) to help locate and retain housing

# Key Theme 3: Supply

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## Why is this a key theme?

- Significant scope of housing need, statewide lack of units, and barriers to accessing existing housing
- “Growing the housing pie” is the only long-term strategy that addresses all these issues

# Key Theme 3: Supply Action Steps








## Key Action Steps






- **Assess community needs and build development partnerships**
- Leverage state/federal capital (**including new state and ARP resources**) and operating funding
- Prioritize surplus land for reentry population
- Identify cost savings to fund gaps in financing
- Expand successful Pay for Success approaches



# All Recommendations at a Glance

Recommendation	Challenges Addressed	Why it Matters
1. <b>Facilitate</b> cross-system collaboration		Ensures coordination and maximizes resources
2. <b>Identify</b> those at risk of homelessness		Spurs early planning and reduces future homelessness risk
3. <b>Assess</b> housing needs prior to release		Matches people to appropriate housing options
4. <b>Connect</b> people to the homeless assistance system		Helps prevent “falling through the cracks” upon reentry
5. <b>Quantify</b> housing and service needs		Supports funding requests and captures changing trends


# Recommendations at a Glance (continued)

Recommendation	Challenges Addressed	Why it Matters
6. <b>Increase</b> resources to meet immediate housing needs		Improves access to existing housing via financial assistance & incentives
7. <b>Leverage</b> supportive services to connect with housing		Increases chances of securing and maintaining housing
8. <b>Prioritize</b> target population for existing housing		Reduces competition for scarce housing resources
9. <b>Equip</b> staff across systems to meet needs		Combines resources and expertise to address underlying issues
10. <b>Develop</b> new affordable housing supply statewide		Provides long-term solution given scope of need and lack of supply

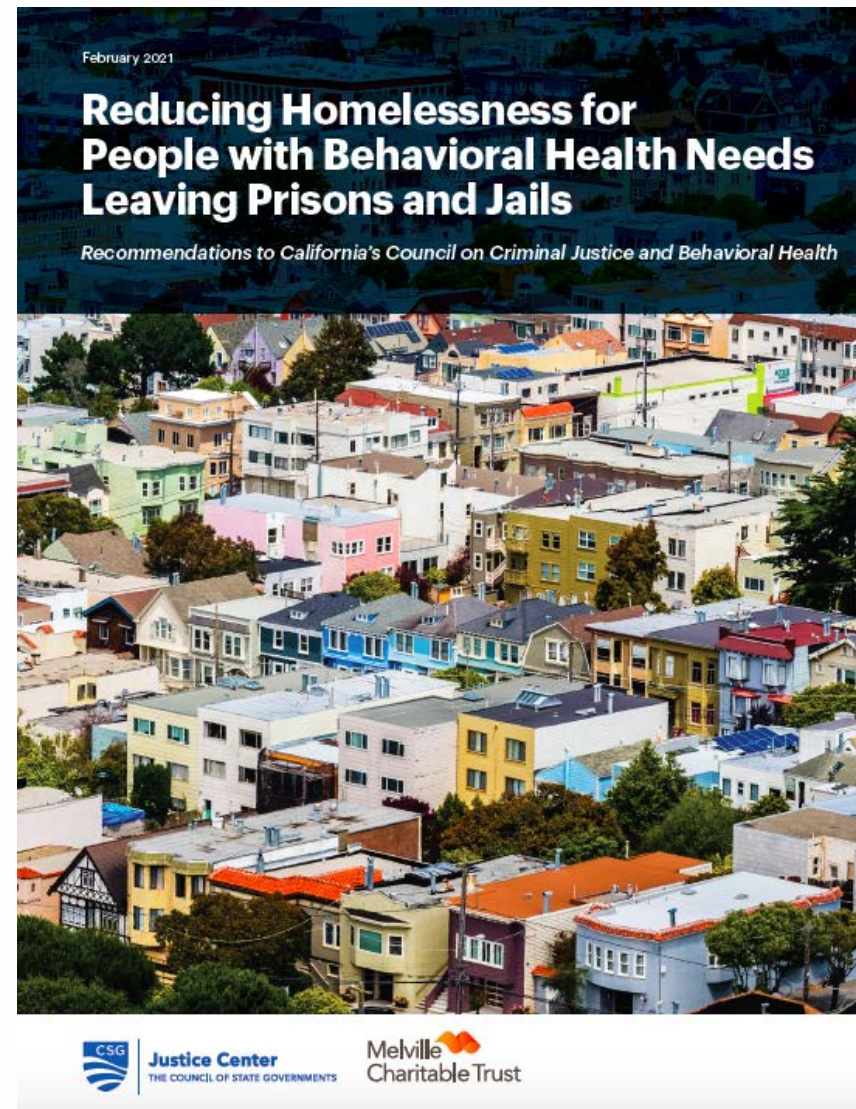
# The Full Report: What's Inside & Where to Find It

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- The issues in California and national **context**
- **All recommendations** with detailed **action items**
- **Data** appendix and methodology



<https://csgjusticecenter.org/publications/reducing-homelessness-for-people-with-behavioral-health-needs-leaving-prisons-and-jails/>



# Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

<https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/>

For more information please contact Charley Francis at  
[cfrancis@csg.org](mailto:cfrancis@csg.org)

*This project was supported by the Melville Charitable Trust. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice nor the Melville Charitable Trust. To learn more about the Bureau of Justice Assistance, please visit [bj.gov](http://bja.gov). To learn more about the Melville Charitable Trust, please visit [melvilletrust.org](http://melvilletrust.org).*

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# Slide 5 Sources

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- “Jail Profile Survey” BSCC, accessed January 2021, [https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s\\_fsojailprofilesurvey/](https://www.bscc.ca.gov/s_fsojailprofilesurvey/); California Health Policy Strategies (CalHPS), *The Prevalence of Mental Illness in California Jails is Rising: An Analysis of Mental Health Cases & Psychotropic Medication Prescriptions, 2009–2019* (Sacramento: CalHPS, 2020), [https://calhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Jail\\_MentalHealth\\_JPSReport\\_02-03-2020.pdf](https://calhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Jail_MentalHealth_JPSReport_02-03-2020.pdf). Current estimate comes from June 2020 BSCC report, reported as of the last day of the month. A previous study by CalHPS, before the pandemic, put the number of people in California jails with an “open mental health case” at 32 percent.

# Slide 6 Sources

- Applied Research Division, "Homelessness Among Justice System-Involved Individuals in San Diego County," SANDAG Vol. 21, 9 (2019), [https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid\\_4631\\_26706.pdf](https://www.sandag.org/uploads/publicationid/publicationid_4631_26706.pdf); Fei Wu and Max Stevens, *The Services Homeless Single Adults Use and their Associated Costs: An Examination of Utilization Patterns and Expenditures in Los Angeles County over One Fiscal Year* (Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office's Research and Evaluation Services, 2016), <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/homeless-costs-final.pdf>; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, *Custody Division Year End Review: 2016* (Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 2017), [http://www.la-sheriff.org/s2/static\\_content/info/documents/PMB\\_YER2016.pdf](http://www.la-sheriff.org/s2/static_content/info/documents/PMB_YER2016.pdf); Maria Raven, Matthew Niedzwiecki, and Margot Kushel, "A randomized trial of permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons with high use of publicly funded services," *Health Services Research* 55, no. S2 (2020): 797–806, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1475-6773.13553>; Elsa Augustine and Evan White, *High Utilizers of Multiple Systems in Sonoma County* (Berkeley: University of California-Berkeley Cal Policy Lab, 2020), <https://www.capolicylab.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/High-Utilizers-of-Multiple-Systems-in-Sonoma-County.pdf>.

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- Office of the Inspector General, *September 15, 2020 C-ROB Report* (Sacramento: California Rehabilitation Oversight Board, 2020), <https://crob.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/C-ROB-Report-September-2020-Rev-9-17.pdf>; California State Auditor, *Report 2020–103* (Sacramento: California State Auditor, 2020), <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/2020-103/summary.html>.

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- “California profile,” Prison Policy Initiative, accessed August 2021, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/CA.html>; HUD, *HUD 2019 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; “California’s Population,” Public Policy Institute of California, accessed August 2021, <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-population>; Nicole Eberhart, et al., “Monitoring Californians’ Mental Health Population Surveillance Reveals Gender, Racial/Ethnic, Age, and Regional Disparities” *Rand Health Quarterly* 8, no. 3 (2019), 5, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6557041/?report=printable>.



# Housing Collaboration In Action

Lahela Mattox, *Chief Operating Officer*  
*Regional Task Force on the Homeless*  
*San Diego County*



# **HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE**

**REDUCING HOMELESSNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS LEAVING PRISONS AND  
JAILS**

**AUGUST 18, 2021**



**Lahela Mattox**  
**RTFH**  
**Chief Operations Officer**

## **We believe:**

- **Housing is a basic human need and right.**

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- **Homelessness is solvable.**
- **Homelessness is an experience.**
- **Homelessness does not define who a person is.**
- **All people can be successful in housing with the right support.**
- **All people deserve compassion, respect, and to be treated with dignity.**

# What we do

## LEAD SAN DIEGO CONTINUUM OF CARE

A CoC is a planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals and promotes a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. We are subject matter experts, strategic planners and coordinate region wide efforts.

# **WE END HOMELESSNESS EVERYDAY**

**WE MUST  
ACCELERATE  
OUR EFFORTS  
WITH  
HISTORICAL  
FUNDING LEVELS**

## **DO MORE OF WHAT WORKS**

There are proven strategies to address homelessness, we need to do these with more coordination and urgency.

## **EXTREMELY LOW INCOME HOUSING UNITS**

Housing ends Homelessness – we need more housing stock.

## **HISTORICALLY UNDERFUNDED**

Government investments and resources have never been at these levels, we **MUST ACT** with urgency to rehab, purchase and develop **AND** prevent homelessness with rental assistance.

## **ENGAGE MORE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS**

Reduce the stigma and shame around homelessness, Communities must embrace vulnerable populations with adequate housing and supports.

# Collaboration, Coordination, and Commitment

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**Collaboration**-Local, state, and federal government, stakeholders, non-traditional entities, people with lived experience.



**Coordination** to maximize funding and resources to achieve solutions.



**Commitment** to doing our part and implementing plans.

# Housing Ends Homelessness

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# San Diego Flexible Housing Pool

## Challenge



Lack of available rental housing that is affordable is the greatest challenge San Diego faces to addressing homelessness

**Solution** - Meeting the housing inventory needs will require a multi-pronged approach



Development of new  
affordable/supportive  
housing



Acquisitions and  
Rehab



Effectively utilizing  
existing rental market



# FHP Model in San Diego



Dedicated staff to secure units and create housing portfolio



Community Partners operating tenant-based PSH or RRH



Flexible funding to support immediate lease up



Supportive services in housing



Dedicated staff to provide housing tenancy services



Vouchers/rental assistance (PSH or RRH)

# FHP Benefits

Ability to secure units immediately and begin paying landlord while tenant is identified for the unit.

Ability to enter into agreements with landlords to dedicate/secure large number of units in a complex.

Ability to pay arrears locally and out of state.

Ability to partner with our providers to leverage flexible funds to reduce barriers and house more people.



Brilliant Corners entered into agreement with large SRO owner for 34 units across two properties



Referrals for people who did not have housing ready documents. BC was able to negotiate with landlords to accept affidavits by the organization and **expedite the housing process**



Youth provider referred young mother to FHP as one of her main barriers to housing was rental arrears. Brilliant Corners **negotiated arrears to a reduced amount and paid the arrears.** She selected a unit from the portfolio for her and her daughter and they entered housing.

## Success Stories



A young man referred by YHDP found himself two weeks into a lease agreement when he recognized he would not be able to assume responsibility for the rent once his subsidy was exhausted. **BC negotiated with the landlord to break the lease with no negative repercussions** for the tenant and he selected another unit in the portfolio.

# Contact Information

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Regional Task Force on the Homeless

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**FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/RTFHSD](http://www.facebook.com/RTFHSD)**

# Call to Action & Next Steps

Brenda Grealish, *Executive Officer*  
*Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health*



# Announcements

September is Suicide Prevention and Recovery Awareness month

Details on CCJBH activities coming soon!

[Juvenile Justice Workgroup](#)

Friday, September 10, 2021 1-3PM

[Diversion/Reentry Workgroup](#)

Friday, September 17, 2021 1-3PM

[Full Council Meeting](#)

Friday, October 29, 2021 2-4:30PM

If you would like to be added to CCJBH's listserv, email us at [ccjbh@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:ccjbh@cdcr.ca.gov)

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!***

