

Calendar Year 2025

Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)

Strategic Framework

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) meets quarterly, focusing on key issues of Councilmember interest related to individuals with behavioral health (BH) needs who are justice involved (JI; hereafter referred to as the BH/JI population). CCJBH also has two workgroups, Juvenile Justice and Diversion/Reentry, which meet bimonthly, typically one week apart. These specialty workgroups are led by Councilmember Advisors¹ who identify the issues/topics for discussion. The seven staff that support the Council include an Executive Officer, Staff Services Manager II (Supervisor), Research Scientist III, Health Program Specialist II, two Associate Governmental Program Staff Analysts and a Staff Services Analyst. For quick reference, CCJBH's statutory mandate, as well as vision and mission statements, may be found on page 2 of this document.

CCJBH's Strategic Framework: A Comprehensive Approach to Serving the BH/JI Population

For reference, CCJBH's statute, vision/mission statements, and 2025 goals are pasted at the end of this document. CCJBH seeks to influence and shape the State's efforts to address the following "drivers" of outcomes when developing solutions to address the needs of the BH/JI population:

- Poverty
- Lack of Education and Employment Opportunities
- Disability/ Poor Health (Behavioral Health)
- Marginalization
- Disenfranchisement
- Discrimination (Racism)
- Trauma



As depicted in the figure to the right, which was first featured in the [2019 Annual Legislative Report](#), in order to achieve optimal outcomes, the unique needs of this population must be adequately addressed across multiple systems.

Given this comprehensive approach, Councilmembers voted to focus on the following topic areas for Calendar Year (CY) 2025:

- Strengthening Treatment and Support Services
- Housing
- Workforce
- Data
- Community Involvement
- Education (best and promising practices, etc.)

¹ Councilmembers Mack Jenkins and Danitza Pantoja lead the Juvenile Justice Workgroup and Councilmembers Mack Jenkins, Judge Manley and Tony Hobson lead the Diversion/Reentry Workgroup.

California Penal Code Section 6044(a)

Established by California Penal Code Section 6044(a), the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) is a 12-member council chaired by the Secretary of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and is comprised of the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and appointed expert representatives from the criminal justice and behavioral health fields such as probation, court officers, and mental health care professionals. CCJBH serves as a resource to assist and advise the administration and legislature on best practices to reduce the incarceration of youth and adults with mental illness and substance use disorders (SUDs) with a focus on prevention, diversion, and reentry strategies. CCJBH is charged with investigating, identifying, and promoting cost-effective strategies that:

- Prevent adults and juveniles with mental health needs from becoming offenders
- Improve services for adults and juveniles with mental health needs who have a history of offending, and
- Identify incentives to encourage state and local criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health programs to adopt such approaches.

The Council shall consider strategies that:

- 1) Improve service coordination among state and local mental health, criminal justice, and juvenile justice programs.
- 2) Improve the ability of adult and juvenile offenders with mental health needs to transition successfully between corrections-based, juvenile-based, and community-based treatment programs.

Vision

A true shift in the paradigm between criminal justice and behavioral health will embody an effective jail diversion system that fosters an ongoing and successful exchange of information among courts, criminal justice agencies, behavioral health professionals, government and non-government organizations to achieve a substantial positive change in the way individuals with mental illness are treated in our communities.

Mission

The leaders in criminal justice and behavioral health participating in this effort strive to end the criminalization of individuals with mental illness by supporting proven strategies that promote early intervention, access to effective treatments, a planned re-entry and the preservation of public safety.

2025 Goals

In an effort to influence system-level changes, in the [18th Annual CCJBH Legislative Report](#), CCJBH identified four visionary, measurable goals that CCJBH could track to assess the overarching impact of the investments made in California to meet the unique needs of justice-involved individuals. While CCJBH is not directly responsible for these goals, the Council holds an important role in using data to identify and highlight successes, as well as target areas for improvement.

Goal #1: The prevalence rate of mental illness and SUDs in jails and prisons should be similar, if not equal to, the prevalence rate of mental illness and SUDs in the community.

Goal #2: Community-based services, particularly residential, are robust enough to meet demand starting with ensuring that those with multiple needs are not left behind due to their numerous and complex challenges.

Goal #3: Through consistent dedication to workforce development, quality education and training, and on-going technical assistance to an array of service providers and partners, Californians benefit from professionals having core competencies that provide effective integrated correctional (i.e., criminogenic needs interventions) and behavioral health services to achieve recovery and reduced recidivism

Goal #4: Through state leadership to support data-driven practices and policy-making among criminal justice and behavioral health systems, continuity of care and desired public safety and health outcomes improve significantly.

While CCJBH is not directly responsible for these goals, the Council holds an important role in using data to identify and highlighting successes, as well as target areas for improvement. Ideally, in addition to anchoring and guiding CCJBH Full Council and workgroup discussions, this information is used to inform and shape relevant policy and programmatic decisions.