

County of Santa Clara
Office of the Sheriff



DATE: August 26, 2016

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Laurie Smith, Sheriff

Handwritten signature of Laurie Smith in blue ink.

Carl Neusel, Interim Chief of Correction *C. Neusel 1652*

SUBJECT: August 30, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting, Item 8:

Consider recommendations relating to the Jail Diversion and Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Reentry Network report regarding the Santa Clara County Jail Diversion Program including appropriate treatment placements and support services.

We are writing in support of the recommendations from the Jail Diversion and Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Reentry Network (JDBHS). We were honored to be part of the committee and want to thank Supervisor Chavez and Judge Manley for their leadership as co-chairs.

In the Jail Reform Plan, we made a recommendation to implement a plan to reduce the number of inmates in custody with mental health issues. The report provides a blueprint for how we as a County can make a commitment to preventing the mentally ill from being incarcerated. The additional mental health beds in the community are desperately needed to ensure those who need treatment receive services and support. As a County, we cannot allow inmates to remain in custody while they wait for treatment beds. We look forward to implementing the plan from JDBHS which will begin to provide treatment for substance use to inmates while they are in-custody and continue upon release.

CC: Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors