

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisors Marion Ashley and John J. Benoit

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
July 7, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Enhancing Services for the Mentally Ill [all districts]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office, County Counsel, the Department of Mental Health and the criminal justice partner departments:

1. To develop a plan to enhance current services and programs for mentally ill offenders in order to provide effective treatment and therefore reduce recidivism and incarceration.
2. To work with the Economic Development Agency and Carter Gobel LLC to prepare an application for SB 863 jail construction funding that includes beds and programs specifically designed for inmates with mental illness at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility; and
3. Prepare a report on the range of alternatives to incarceration currently in use and the number of individuals with mental illness being served through those alternatives.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

The jail population in Riverside County has changed dramatically in the past four years due in part to the state's realignment of criminal justice as well as the passage of Proposition 47 in November 2014. Individuals who served time in state prison and are on probation are sent to jail for violations instead of  
(Continued on page 2)

Departmental Concurrence

*John J. Benoit*  
John J. Benoit, Vice Chairman  
Fourth District Supervisor

*Marion Ashley*  
Marion Ashley, Chairman  
Fifth District Supervisor

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A				Budget Adjustment: N/A	
				For Fiscal Year: N/A	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

County Executive Office Signature

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

- A-30
- Positions Added
- 4/5 Vote
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: ALL

Agenda Number:

**3-20**

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary (continued)**

to state prison. Mentally ill offenders who commit crimes following jail release return to jail needing both crisis intervention and treatment both while they are incarcerated and after release from jail. The Board directs the Mental Health Department, Probation Department and the executive office to explore the range of services that could be provided to the mentally ill in our community in order to better serve them and reduce recidivism. We will continue looking for ways to enhance treatment services in our jails and juvenile halls by adding additional evidence based programs. Our goal is to always improve upon our delivery of treatment in the least restrictive setting that still maintains public safety.

The Board needs additional information about model programs and services for mental ill offenders and their families. Riverside County has the opportunity to become a leader in mental health treatment across the criminal justice system. The Board has confidence that the already established partnerships among departments will ensure positive outcomes in this area.

**Impact on Citizens and Businesses**

Residents and the business community benefit when inmates return to the community as productive citizens. Reduced recidivism leads to less use of jail beds and a concomitant reduction in the cost of incarceration. Residential treatment alternatives are less costly than jails and the outcomes are more positive for families as well as the mentally ill.