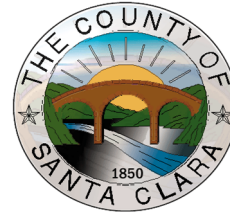


County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive

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DATE: July 6, 2021

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Martha Wapenski, Deputy County Executive

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report relating to the Community Engagement Process Work Plan

At the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 8, 2021 (Item No. 23), Supervisor Ellenberg requested an off-agenda report on the assignment of community members to the highly engaged and high-propensity groups and/or the black, indigenous, and the people of low or moderate income groups during the non-custodial focus group outreach process; agendas, questions, and response format for the community outreach sessions; and, assurances that 800 participants is an appropriate and representative number of the Countywide survey. Further, Supervisor Wasserman requested an off-agenda report on the cost of the consultants retained by the County to complete the work plan; and, include in the Countywide survey a three-part question, “Do you want a jail built in Santa Clara County; do you want a mental health facility built in Santa Clara County; and, do you want both a jail and a mental health facility built in Santa Clara County?”

General Population Focus Groups

EMC Research has been contracted to conduct the general population research related to the Community Engagement Process Work Plan. Based on the discussion at the June 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, the consultant has modified the profile of the general population focus groups to explore attitudes among highly engaged and less engaged residents.

The consultant is defining people as highly engaged based on either their voting frequency in past elections or how many civic activities they claim to have participated in recently (namely, individuals are asked if they have attended a community meeting;

led a community organization; led a community/social/religious group; contacted a local elected official; volunteered on a political campaign; or signed an online petition or shared information about a local issue on social media). If an individual claims to have engaged in at least three of these activities or they voted in three of the last six elections, then the consultant will consider them highly engaged. The consultant will consider people to be less engaged if they have voted in less than 3 of the last six elections and have participated in less than three of those activities.

Following the discussion at the June 8th Board meeting, the profiles of the General Population Focus Groups have been revised to:

1. Highly engaged under age 55
2. Highly engaged age 55+
3. Less engaged under age 55
4. Less engaged age 55+

General Population Survey

As directed by the Board of Supervisors at the June 8th Board of Supervisors meeting, the consultant, EMC Research, will include the following three-part question as part of the general population survey:

“Do you want a jail built in Santa Clara County; do you want a mental health facility built in Santa Clara County; and, do you want both a jail and a mental health facility built in Santa Clara County?”

Additionally, EMC Research indicates that targeting 800 respondents for the general population survey is a random sampling technique that is, by design, how to ensure that the 800 interviews are statistically representative of the larger countywide population. Specifically, the 800 respondents reflect the larger electorate with regards to geography, political partisanship, age, ethnicity, homeownership, and so on. It is a statistically significant, and typical sample size for research of this kind.

Cost of Community Engagement Process Work Plan Consultants

The current total budget for both consultants to complete the Community Engagement Process Work Plan is \$173,309.

Community Engagement Process Work Plan Agenda and Questions

The Virtual Community Engagement Sessions are scheduled for July 8, 2021 and July 10, 2021. The format style of these sessions will focus on small group discussions and will include 2-3 breakout sessions. The agenda for the Virtual Community Engagement Sessions is included in this report.

The planning for the rest of the components of the Community Engagement Process Work Plan will be finalized soon. A follow-up off-agenda report is planned in late July 2021 that will include additional information and the final agenda for the In-person Community Engagement Session that is tentatively scheduled for early August 2021. Additionally, the follow-up report will also include the questions that will be part of the remaining phases of the community engagement process, which are the General Population Focus Groups, General Population Survey, Custody Survey, and Custody Focus Groups.

cc: Chief Board Aides

Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator
Erica Kelly, Principal Budget and Public Policy Analyst



SCC Community Engagement Session Agenda

Let's Dream Together

- 1. Welcome/Land Acknowledgement**
- 2. Cultural/Artistic Opening**
- 3. Framing/Background Information**
 - a. Intro of the Haywood Burns Institute and facilitators
 - b. Brief Overview of Data: jail population yearly trends, racial disparities, pre-trial numbers, etc.
 - c. Historical overview
- 4. Breakout Session Questions**
 - a. First Breakout Session: Larger Envisioning**
 - i. How would you define community safety? How can community safety be achieved in the county? What would a vision of safety from a racial justice lens look like?
 - ii. What do you see as the root causes of incarceration? How should the county address these root causes?
 - iii. According to the *2015-2016 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Report*, "the Grand Jury was informed that approximately 45% to 50% of total inmates and up to 80% of female inmates have mental health issues."* How can this issue be addressed in Santa Clara County? How can the county better meet the needs of individuals living with mental illness?
 - iv. What needs to be gone/transformed/created in order to reduce the number of individuals incarcerated in the county?
 - b. Second Breakout Session: Immediate Issue**
 - i. The county wants your input on the options of building a replacement jail facility and/or a mental health facility and/or something different. What do you think is needed in Santa Clara County and why?
 - ii. What are possible alternatives to jail/incarceration? It is important to note that roughly 85% of the jail population are awaiting trial (pre-trial).
 - iii. What do you see as immediate next steps for the county regarding the facility question? What needs to be part of a long-term vision for justice transformation?
 - c. Possible 3rd Breakout Session** (Depending on time and ability to quickly create breakout sessions based on themes from previous breakouts)
 - i. The following are alternatives to incarceration that were mentioned in the previous breakout sessions (list out): Choose one and spend 10 minutes fleshing out further details for that alternative.
- 5. Report Back from Breakout Sessions**
- 6. Cultural expression**
- 7. Closing**

* https://www.sccourt.org/court_divisions/civil/cgj/2016/MentalIllnessJail.pdf