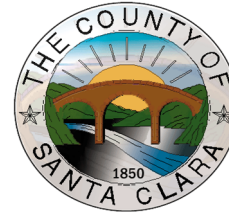


**County of Santa Clara**  
**Office of the County Executive**

County Government Center, East Wing  
70 West Hedding Street, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Jose, California 95110  
(408) 299-5105



**DATE:** August 6, 2021

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

**FROM:** Martha Wapenski, Deputy County Executive

**SUBJECT: Update on the Community Engagement Process Work Plan to gather input on Justice-Involved Individuals**

This is a follow-up to the off-agenda report (Attachment A) submitted to the Board of Supervisors on July 6, 2021. At the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 8, 2021 (Item No. 23), Supervisor Ellenberg requested an off-agenda report on agendas, questions, and response format for the community outreach process (Attachment B).

As outlined in the June 8, 2021 report presented to the Board of Supervisors, the Community Engagement Process includes a series of community engagement sessions, custody focus groups and surveys, general population survey, and general population focus groups.

<b>Task</b>	<b>Projected Timeline</b>
Community Engagement Sessions Planning Phase	June 2021
Community Engagement Sessions Outreach Campaign	June 2021
Community Engagement Session - Evening Session	July 8, 2021
Community Engagement Session - Weekend Session	July 10, 2021
In-Person Community Engagement Session	August 2021
Surveys and/or Focus Groups of Incarcerated Individuals	July – September 2021
Qualitative Research – Online Focus Groups	June – August 2021
Quantitative Research – Mixed-mode Surveys	August – October 2021

**Board of Supervisors:** Mike Wasserman, Cindy Chavez, Otto Lee, Susan Ellenberg, S. Joseph Simitian  
**County Executive:** Jeffrey V. Smith

### *Community Engagement Sessions*

Two virtual community engagement sessions were held on July 8, 2021 and July 10, 2021. A preliminary report is scheduled for the August 5, 2021 Public Safety and Justice Committee.

An In-person Community Engagement Session is currently being coordinated and is planned for late August. The consultant, W. Haywood Burns Institute, recommended for the In-person Community Engagement session to be held at a community location. Locations that are in the community, have plenty of parking space, outdoors, and have a capacity for at least approximately 100 people are currently being considered for the in-person session. Once the location, date, and time of the In-person Community Engagement Session is finalized, then this information will be forwarded to the Board offices.

### *Custody Focus Groups and Surveys*

Planning and coordination have started on the Custody Focus Groups and Surveys. Staff from the W. Haywood Burns Institute, Office of the Sheriff, and Office of the County Executive are working to schedule the dates that the focus groups will be facilitated and plan the method that surveys will be distributed to in custody individuals. Currently, the focus groups and surveys are scheduled to be conducted in custody in late August or early September.

### *General Population Focus Groups and Surveys*

The Community Engagement Process work plan also includes a comprehensive research program that will be conducted in two phases: qualitative focus groups, and a baseline survey. The General Population Focus Group questions are included in this report. The General Population Survey is scheduled to be conducted from August through October 2021. The questions for the General Population Survey will be shared with the Board offices once the questions have been finalized.

### *Next Steps*

Another update on the status of the Community Engagement Sessions is planned in late August 2021 through an off-agenda report. The follow-up report will include the questions for the Custody Focus Groups, Custody Survey and General Population Survey.

cc: Chief Board Aides  
Miguel Marquez, Chief Operating Officer  
James R. Williams, County Counsel  
Tiffany Lennear, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator  
Erica Kelly, Principal Budget and Public Policy Analyst



**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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

July 6, 2021

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

**Focus Groups**  
**Santa Clara County Voters**  
**Confidential Moderator's Guide**  
7/19/2021  
EMC Research #21-8158

**I. Introduction (10 minutes *for section* / 10 minutes *time elapsed*)**

- A. Introduce moderator
- B. Disclosures
  - 1. Confidentiality
  - 2. Audio and video taping
- C. Focus group rules
- D. Introduction of participants
  - 1. Name
  - 2. Occupation
  - 3. One positive and unexpected thing that's happened in the last year?

**II. Awareness (10 minutes *for section* / 20 minutes *time elapsed*)**

*Goal: To establish what participants know about the demolition of the Main Jail South and the choices facing the County about how or if to replace it*

- A. Has anyone heard or seen anything recently about a County jail here, called the Main Jail South?
- B. **IF YES**, what have you heard?
- C. What has been happening there?



**III. Presentation of the Issue (15 minutes for section / 35 minutes time elapsed)**

*Goal: If necessary, begin to educate the participants about the demolition of the Main Jail South and the options currently being considered in order to gain informed reactions and preferences*

- A. I'd to share a short presentation about what's been going on at the location where the Main Jail South used to be. **(SHOW A SHORT 2 MINUTE PRECORDED PRESENTATION THAT DESCRIBES THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS AND WHAT THE CURRENT SITUATION AND CHOICES ARE AROUND THE MAIN JAIL SOUTH REPLACEMENT)**
- B. Having seen all that, what is your top reaction to what's been going on?
- C. What questions do you have about on the situation?
- D. Based on what you've learned, what do you think should happen? Why do you say that?

**IV. Reasons to Rebuild a Jail (15 minutes for section / 50 minutes time elapsed)**

*Goal: Establish what rationale residents see (whether they agree with it or not) to rebuild the facility as a jail*

- A. Whether or not you agree rebuilding a jail in the location of the former Main Jail South is a good idea or not, what are some reasons to rebuild it as a jail?
- B. And again, regardless of what you personally think our County should do with the space, what are some reasons **not** to rebuild the jail?

**V. Reasons to Build a Mental Health Facility (15 minutes for section / 1:05 minutes time elapsed)**

*Goal: Establish what rationale residents see (whether they agree with it or not) to replace with a mental health and behavioral treatment facility*

- A. Some have suggested that instead of building a jail on this site, we should replace it with a mental health facility that is for people that get arrested but that suffer from mental illnesses. Let's talk about that
- B. Likewise, regardless of whether or not you think it's a good idea, what are some reasons to build a mental health treatment facility where the Main Jail South used to be, instead of replacing it with another jail?
- C. And what are some reasons we should **not** replace the old Main Jail South with a mental health treatment facility?
- D. If we build a mental health facility instead of a jail, should this facility be locked, or not? What makes you say that?

## **VI. Bigger Picture Impact on Others / Alternatives to Incarceration (15 minutes *for section* / 1:20 minutes *time elapsed*)**

*Goal: Understand if they factor in the impact on others in their opinions when it comes to what they think the County should do.*

- A. Is this an important issue for you personally? How so?
- B. Does the way our community deal with crime impact everyone the same? Who and how are they impacted differently?
- C. Are there any ongoing impacts of having a jail in our community? What are they?
- D. I'd like to share some information about who gets incarcerated **(SHOW VIDEO OF SLIDE A)**
  - 1. Was this a surprise to you? How so?
  - 2. Does this change your perception of how jails might impact certain people differently?
- E. Now I'd like to show you another piece of information **(SHOW VIDEO OF SLIDE B)**
  - 1. And was this a surprise to you? How so?
  - 2. Does this change your perception of how jails might impact certain people differently?
- F. What are some alternatives to putting people in jail?
  - 1. Are these alternatives a good idea or a bad idea? How so?

## **VII. Revisit the Conversation About What to Do (20 minutes *for section* / 1:40 minutes *time elapsed*)**

*Goal: Understand if, and how, opinions have shifted on the issue after we've asked them to think critically and discuss with one another.*

- A. So now that we've spent some time talking about this issue – what is your opinion about what we should do with the space where Main Jail South used to be?
- B. Do you think we should build a new jail, a mental health facility, or do something else?
- C. Did your opinion change? What made you change your opinion?
- D. If you were able to ask questions directly to County leaders about this issue, what would you ask them?
- E. Imagine you were on the Board of Supervisors and had to help decide what to replace the Main Jail South with, what would you do? Why would you choose to do that?

## **VIII. Conclusions (5 minutes *for section* / 1:45 minutes *time elapsed*)**

- A. What is one thing you took away from our conversation today?