

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

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October 19, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Jeff Rosen, District Attorney
Jeffrey V. Smith, M.D., J.D., County Executive

FROM: Ky Le, Deputy County Executive ^{DS} kl
James Gibbons-Shapiro, Assistant District Attorney ^{DS} JG

SUBJECT: VTA Resiliency Center and Trauma Recovery Center – Potential Staffing Needs and Preliminary Stakeholder Outreach

This report provides additional information regarding the development of a Resiliency Center to support individuals affected by the May 26th mass shooting at Valley Transportation Authority (VTA), as well as related efforts to develop a long-term, countywide Trauma Recovery Center.

Background

As the Administration previously reported to the Board of Supervisors in an Off-Agenda Report dated September 10, 2021, the Administration, Office of the District Attorney (DAO), and VTA have been working collaboratively to support VTA employees and their families who are dealing with grief and trauma following the May 26, 2021 shooting. At its October 5, 2021 meeting (Item No. 51), the Board approved contracts with Dr. Tammy McCoy-Arballo and Bill Wilson Center for its Centre for Living with Dying to provide continued behavioral health supports to individuals and families. These services will form a core component of the VTA Resiliency Center, which is under development and eligible for funding through the federal Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program (AEAP) from the Department of Justice.

Staffing Needs at the Office of the District Attorney-Victim Services Unit

Staffing needs for the DAO are being analyzed as part of the planning for the VTA Resiliency Center. As suggested by the referral, this analysis includes the needs for the Resiliency Center itself as well as the impacts on the existing Victim Services organization of staffing the Center. Preliminary analysis indicates that the VTA Resiliency Center staffing will mirror that of the Gilroy Strong Resiliency Center (GSRC): a DAO Program Manager, victim advocate staff, and staff from various partner organizations, primarily community-based organizations.

Given the impacts of staffing two Resiliency Centers, it is likely that victim advocate staff additions will be necessary to maintain the same level of service to all other crime victims. Specific staffing recommendations will be brought forward as part of the VTA Resiliency Center proposal in November or December

2021. Funding sources to be considered for any new positions would include VTA funding through its State relief package and federal grant (AEAP) funding, as is being used for the GSRC. Any additional budget impacts associated with the VTA Resiliency Center or a possible long-term County Trauma Recovery Center would likely be brought forward for Board consideration as part of the FY 2022-23 budget process.

Preliminary Stakeholder Outreach

Stakeholder outreach and engagement is a core component of planning for both the event-specific Resiliency Center and a long-term Trauma Recovery Center.

VTA Resiliency Center – Community Engagement

The Administration, DAO, and VTA recently met with the California Victim Compensation Board to discuss funding through the federal AEAP program, which would support the Resiliency Center for up to three years, retroactive to the May 26, 2021 shooting. The first stage in planning for such a grant is community engagement sessions. The DAO's Victim Services Unit coordinated similar engagement sessions for the development of the GSRC. The community engagement sessions will be scheduled over the next month and will be facilitated by staff with expertise in providing trauma-informed services to ensure as much comfort and safety as possible for participants. The groups from which to seek input include:

- Victims' families
- Direct witnesses
- Employees who were working onsite the day of the shooting
- The larger VTA community of employees
- Employees' families
- VTA's joint labor-management committee

For those who are not comfortable providing feedback in a group setting, there will be opportunities to provide feedback individually or anonymously.

Trauma Recovery Center - Preliminary Stakeholder Outreach Plan

The feedback from these VTA-specific community engagement sessions will shape the activities and focus of the time-limited Resiliency Center, and will provide the initial stakeholder outreach to inform longer-term plans for a Trauma Recovery Center that is not event-specific. As previously described, such a center can help address long-term behavioral health and other needs among all victims of crime, create the organization, agency, process, place, and equipment infrastructure to improve the response to future mass casualty events and traumatic events (e.g., wildfires) and expedite deployment of transitional behavioral health services.

The initial work to develop the Trauma Recovery Center model for Santa Clara County has been a collaborative effort between the Office of the County Executive, DAO's Victim Services Unit, and the Behavioral Health Services Department. Building on the community engagement sessions informing the development of the VTA Resiliency Center, the Administration plans to conduct an informal competitive process (ICP) or other procurement to obtain third-party assistance with stakeholder outreach that will include input from victims of violent crime or traumatic events, first responders, emergency management personnel, community-based organizations serving victims of crime and providing disaster response services, and governmental agencies, including County departments or programs, serving victims of crime or traumatic events. Given the Trauma Recovery Center model's critical focus on assertive outreach to engage survivors and coordinated care, stakeholder engagement will include a focus on communities with barriers to accessing traditional services,

through a process that is trauma-informed and employs an equity lens. The stakeholder engagement process may include key informant interviews, focus groups, and community forums to ensure that the scope, focus, location(s), and other components of the Trauma Recovery Center meet the needs of the community and foster inclusive access to services. This outreach will be multi-lingual and include accessibility options to allow full participation by community members with disabilities.

The Administration and DAO will return to the Board with additional updates regarding stakeholder engagement and planning for the Trauma Recovery Center in the coming months, and anticipate providing a budget proposal for the Trauma Recovery Center as part of the FY22-23 budget process in May 2022.

CC: Chief Board Aides
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James Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Acting Clerk of the Board
Sherri Terao, Director, Behavioral Health Services Department
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