

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive

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DATE: May 14, 2019

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

FROM: Martha Wapenski, Deputy County Executive

SUBJECT: Off-Agenda Report on High-Needs Female Inmates

On March 12, 2019, the Board of Supervisors directed that Administration return with options for relating to more appropriate and sustainable placements for high-needs women leaving the County jail. High-needs was defined in the referral as female inmates who have mental health and substance use issues, exhibit violent behaviors in the jail and in the community, and cycle in and out of the jail and prison for years on violent charges. Administration was asked to return with information on the number of high-needs women there are in the County jails, an assessment of current resources, services and programs being offered to these women in the jail and out of custody, an assessment of what would be more appropriate release conditions and placements that are also gender responsive, and an assessment of additional resources that should be considered. The initial referral requested that the Administration return to the Board with options on June 4, 2019.

This off-agenda report is to notify the Board of the need for an extension beyond June 4, 2019. This referral involves the County Executive's Office, Sheriff's Office, Office of Reentry Service, Behavioral Health Services Department, Custody Health Services Department, and the Probation Department. The involved departments examined their internal data in advance of convening a planning meeting to respond to this referral. Once the involved departments met to discuss the definition of high-needs women and the means by which data could be extracted based on that definition, it was determined that there was not enough time to respond to the referral by June 4, 2019. Additional time is also needed to identify the number of high-needs women in the County jails, understand the needs of these individuals, and complete a multi-department analysis of the services provided both in and out of custody. As such, a report is planned for a Board meeting in August or September of 2019 in order to have sufficient time to be responsive to this referral.

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
Eric Pulido, Budget and Public Policy Analyst

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