

Written Comments for  
**Public Comment Section**  
- **Non-Agenda Items**  
- **Regular Agenda Items**

# Non-Agenda Items

## CEO\_ICACFeedback

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**From:** Nancy Goodban <nancy.goodban@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024, 10:25 AM  
**To:** CEO\_ICACFeedback  
**Cc:** mdurazo@icacommissioner.org; mfisher@icacommissioner.org; wmcclure@icacommissioner.org; smelnicoe@icacommissioner.org; ksalahuddin@icacommissioner.org; rsilano@icacommissioner.org; jsimmons@icacommissioner.org; rcarabez@icacommissioner.org; alewis@icacommissioner.org  
**Subject:** ICAC agenda 9-4-2024, Item 2, General public comment

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I am writing to call your attention to five areas where ICAC can make a positive contribution to support the Sheriff's Office and a safer community for all by providing transparency and accountability.

1. We taxpayers have paid out more than \$13.4 M due to Sheriff Office misconduct in the past 2 years, most recently a settlement of \$8M for sexual harassment and assault of a SWAT team member by her superior, with other higherups ignoring it. The next highest payout was \$4.5 Million for the family of Chinedu Okobi. **I hope ICAC can look at how to prevent future incidents to reduce the risks and liabilities to taxpayers, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.**
2. We need a confidential place to make complaints that is independent of the Sheriff's Office. **I hope ICAC can set this up.**
3. We need an independent review of the deaths in the jail with an eye to preventing future deaths. The County needs to look at why we are using our jail as a mental hospital, health clinic, and drug detox; this is not their job. **I hope ICAC can bring in speakers from NAMI and the SMC Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) to talk about diversion options, including the BHC recommendation for a 24-hour crisis stabilization center, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.**
4. People in jail aren't allowed to receive birthday cards and drawings from their children, or any other personal mail. This is just not right. Other counties like Santa Clara, LA and SF allow people to get mail, we should be able to do that here. But we don't. **I hope ICAC can bring in speakers from these other counties to see how they manage personal mail in a way that is secure and allows people to receive physical mail, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.**
5. Thank you for discussing voter reg last meeting. This is urgent. The jail needs to bring in trusted messengers, including people from Legal Services for Prisoners With Children who have also been incarcerated, to do voter education and registration and ensure people both register and vote. According to Elections, only 9 people from the jail voted in the March primary though others may have used their home address to vote - and I believe they said only about 80 people in our jails were registered compared to about 600 in SF jails, which are of a similar size. **I hope ICAC can get specific information from the Sheriff's Office about the of voter education, by whom, and the results.**

Thank you for your attention.

Nancy

## CEO\_ICACFeedback

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**From:** Elsa Schafer <elsaschafer@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 2:08 AM  
**To:** CEO\_ICACFeedback; mdurazo@icacommissioner.org; mfisher@icacommissioner.org; wmclure@icacommissioner.org; smelnicoe@icacommissioner.org; ksalahuddin@icacommissioner.org; rsilano@icacommissioner.org; jsimmons@icacommissioner.org; rcarabez@icacommissioner.org; alewis@icacommissioner.org  
**Subject:** September 4th ICAC Meeting Public Comment, re Mental Health in the Jails

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Dear Commissioners,

I am grateful you have signed on to this important Commission, and look forward to fascinating, helpful, important work you all will do ~ creating outcomes that make San Mateo County a fair, vibrant, comfortable place for all who live here, not primarily for people who look like Caucasian me, and live where I do. Many thanks for your willingness to serve!

One crucial issue in front of us is the percentage of mentally ill incarcerated people in the jails, a place not intended to have become the largest mental health institution in the United States - yet true in every area of the U.S. - not just SMC. The Board of Supervisors has done so much in our County to build and staff resources for mental health care - why not have a facility that could be the place Sheriff Deputies take those having mental health crises, rather than to the jail?

1. The jail is not set up to be a mental health clinic, yet has a great percentage of residents who are there primarily for mental health conditions. That's not good for either them or us, and often treatment is limited given all the other things the jails are also supposed to do.

2. Our County has taken impressive steps to address the needs for mental health - and could repurpose, or build anew, a facility that could be the first port of call for a Deputy who was called in to help a mentally ill person in trouble - rather than immediately take that person to jail - which is not set up to handle such crises.

3. The Board of Supervisors has the ability to arrange such a facility, and is already concerned about the number of suicides in the jails, some of which could be precluded by such an alternative arrangement. That alternate facility would be staffed with mental health professionals. Their sole purpose would be the care for the mental health aspects of a person, not also to incarcerate them in a jail. No jail is set up to have medically trained Staff whose sole purpose is to recognize mental health distress, know how to de-escalate the situation, expert and able to treat each different person correctly to engender improvement. Jails do not have the resources to devote to the often intense care needed initially for that person - nor should they be expected to have the kind and degree of staffing needed.

Please take this issue up with the Board of Supervisors as soon as possible, which should not take any training to know how to do. It can be one of your first recommendations, while you are in the training period, delivering

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a helpful, greatly needed, logical solution to an immediate problem which only can get worse with time. The jail is the wrong place for people with such conditions, putting an undue burden on the jail Staff, unjustly incarcerating a mentally ill person in an institution not designed to medically help take care of them ~ guiding them to a healthier future track.

Thank you for your consideration. Many of us sincerely hope you can drive this to happen, now!

Best regards,

Elsa

Elsa Schafer

Vice Chair, SMC

Democracy for America

Member, Coalition for a

Safer SMC

# Regular Agenda Items

## CEO\_ICACFeedback

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**From:** Nancy Goodban <nancy.goodban@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 2, 2024, 11:13 AM  
**To:** CEO\_ICACFeedback  
**Cc:** mdurazo@icacommissioner.org; mfisher@icacommissioner.org; wmclure@icacommissioner.org; smelnicoe@icacommissioner.org; ksalahuddin@icacommissioner.org; rsilano@icacommissioner.org; jsimmons@icacommissioner.org; rcarabez@icacommissioner.org; alewis@icacommissioner.org  
**Subject:** ICAC agenda 9-4-2024, Item 3, Sheriff Data Dashboard

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Thank you for putting this on the agenda, and many thanks to the Sheriff's Office for expanding the data portal. It is very useful.

I have three suggestions which would help ICAC better understand current and past data trends:

1. **Please make past data available** - right now you only see the most recent three months so it is not possible to compare trends year by year.

2. **Please include additional info on Complaints/IA:**

- The type of complaints and the outcome
- The type of IA investigations and the outcome

3. **Please include additional info on Corrections:**

- How many are booked based on outstanding warrants from other counties, and how many of them are misdemeanors, how many felonies.
- Of those who aren't booked on an outstanding warrant, how many are booked on a misdemeanor, how many a felony
- The number of incarcerated people booked and awaiting trial
- How many are released within 24 hours of booking.
- How many are released on their own recognizance after booking, based on the release policy.
- How many people are being treated on a regular basis for a mental health condition.
- How many people are receiving treatment for a substance abuse condition

Thank you for considering.

Nancy