

To: **Equity Committee**
Supervisor Ken Carlson, District V, Chair
Supervisor Shanelle Scales-Preston, District IV, Vice Chair

From: **Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB)**
Public Defender Ellen McDonnell, RJOB (Co-Chair)

Subject: **Racial Justice Oversight Body (RJOB) Annual Progress Update**

Date: **December 15, 2025**

Activities and Accomplishments

The full body held an extended full body retreat in February to revisit its purpose, priorities, and goals while onboarding new members, and in August approved a new two-year work plan for 2025–2027, extending the previous one-year planning period and refining its focus by prioritizing seven goals and activities from the prior year’s work plan. In 2025, the full body also filled three (3) vacant Community-based Representative seats, and incorporated new members into the four (4) Alternate Community Representative seats.

Within the Community Engagement and Funding (CEF) subcommittee, the group discussed and prioritized the development of a communication strategy for RJOB, emphasizing increased community engagement and raising public awareness of the body, as well as exploring potential funding opportunities to support equity within the county. The CEF subcommittee is in the process of organizing a series of three community town hall events, planned as a full RJOB collaboration, to take place in January and February 2026.

In the Data subcommittee, members reviewed existing databases from county partners and other public sources, began planning a data walk to formally review all data sources and prepare a summary report for the full body, and reviewed initial Racial Justice Task Force recommendations and the data analysis that shaped RJOB’s priorities and goals. The subcommittee generated momentum in assessing available data across the County’s criminal legal system and worked toward greater alignment around processes for more comprehensive data collection and increased transparency. It also created an initial draft of recommendations for the Sheriff’s Office to consider in enhancing its Quarterly Report.

The Diversion subcommittee initiated planning for a landscape analysis and eligibility criteria for youth diversion programs and catalyzed discussions within RJOB regarding illegal immigration actions taken by the federal government. The subcommittee created two ad-hoc committees to assess the current landscape of youth diversion programming and opportunities available in Contra Costa County, as well as to develop or update eligibility criteria.

Attendance/Representation

Currently, 18 of the 19 regular seats are filled, with the one (1) vacancy being the ex-officio seat for a local law enforcement representative (nominated by the CC County Police Chiefs Association).

- In addition, the four (4) Alternate Community-based Representative seats are filled.

- This brings the total current membership to 22 active members.

Four (4) new members joined in January:

- Dr. Marya Wright (Community-based/Private Licensed/Certified Behavioral Health Clinician/Practitioner)
- Ricky Godfrey (Lived Experience with the Criminal or Juvenile Justice System)
- Anthony Randolph (Community-based Organization Serving Justice-Involved Community)
- Naomi Mauricio-Lewis (Alternate: Community-based Organization Serving Youth)
 - Resigned in June

Three (3) new members joined in February:

- Ayo Lewis (Alternate: Community-based Organization Serving Justice-Involved Youth)
- Maileen Mamaradlo (Alternate: Community-based Organization Serving Youth)
- Sonja Shephard (Alternate: Community-based Organization Serving Justice-Involved Community)

One (1) new member joined in November:

- Dr. Talia Moore (Alternate: Community-based Organization Serving Justice-Involved Community)

The **RJOB full body** held four (4) meetings during the year, all of which achieved quorum.

The **Community Engagement and Funding (CEF) subcommittee** shifted to a monthly meeting schedule beginning in September and held seven meetings overall, three of which proceeded without quorum but were not canceled.

The **Data subcommittee** meets bi-monthly with additional meetings as needed, and held eight meetings, with five occurring without quorum but still proceeding.

- Subcommittee Chair Chala Bonner (Racial Justice Coalition) took a sabbatical from September 2025 through January 2026, during which Patrice Guillory (Probation designee) served as Interim Subcommittee Chair.

The **Diversion subcommittee** meets bi-monthly and held five meetings, all of which achieved quorum.

Work Plan Objectives for 2026

The RJOB full body will develop a proposed budget based on recommendations from each subcommittee and prepare it for submission to the Board of Supervisors as part of the 2027 budget process.

The CEF subcommittee will develop and implement a communication strategy to share information with community members, school sites, service providers, and system partners, and will conduct community town halls, listening sessions, and surveys to understand what is working, what needs improvement, and what is still needed to increase community awareness of and engagement with RJOB.

The Data subcommittee will complete its review of existing county data sets, identify gaps, and propose a plan to improve data collection, data sharing, and overall transparency. It will also assess both individual outcomes and broader systemic impacts, particularly focusing on racial disparities within criminal justice contact.

The Diversion subcommittee will continue socializing its previously recommended definition of diversion to ensure alignment in understanding and application and to guide efforts to expand diversion opportunities. Additionally, it will complete its review of diversion efforts across the county for both youth and adults, identify gaps, and propose plans to strengthen diversion initiatives.