

Racial Justice Oversight Body Full Body Meeting

Record of Action DRAFT

May 7, 2026, 1pm - 4pm

Roll Call and Attendance

RJOB Members Attendance: Ellen McDonnell (Public Defender), Chala Bonner (Community Member), DA Diana Becton (District Attorney), Lt. Aldaberto Garibay (Sheriff), Patrice Guillory (Probation), LaShante Smith (School District), Stephanie Medley (CBO Seat), Ronnell Ellis (Community Seat), Dr. Talia Moore (Community Seat), Maileen Maimoradlo (Community Seat), Matt Malone (Courts), Dr. Marya Wright (Community Seat), Pastor Shantell Owens (Community Seat), Elder Gigi Crowder (Community Seat), Police Chief Klawhun (Police Chiefs Association), Melvin Willis (Community Seat), Sonja Shephard (Community Seat)

Introduction of new member, Police Chief Association representative, Chief Klawhun from city of Pinole

Two new members absent/unavailable: Sonia Sutherland (Contra Costa Health), Malachi Gary Scott (Community Member, Lived Experience)

Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice Staff: Peter, Emaan, Kendra, Jessica

Public Comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

No Public Comment

RECEIVE and APPROVE the Record of Action from the February 5th, 2026 meeting of the Racial Justice Oversight Body, with any necessary corrections.

Yes: All

Motion Passes

RECEIVE Subcommittee Updates

Community Engagement and Funding (Stephanie Medley, Ronell Ellis)

- Shared a recap summary of the Town Halls held in January and February 2026
- Key Themes shared:
 - o Transparency and value the opportunity to stay engaged and know what is going on
 - o Importance of having community members with lived experience engaged and a part of decision-making
 - o Barriers to access
- RJOB Discussion
 - o Encourage community-based orgs to bring community members they are in partnership with, instead of sending staff alone to RJOB events

- Encourage discussion with community members incarcerated or in courts; listening sessions can take place with them; Ronnell shared that it's possible
- Trust-building is critical work the body needs to center
- Could have drafted a stronger outreach plan as a body and target neighborhoods that are most impacted (example: door to door canvassing, etc.)
- Programming was strong and a great foundation to build from
- Families brought their kids, which was wonderful
- We had access to live interpretation, Wordly as a service available; must consider specific outreach to communities who prefer a language other than English
- Frequency of showing up in community is important; infrequency can create distrust; community members wonder about their ongoing engagement; suggestion to hold listening sessions twice a year
- Create videos to communicate the purpose and work of RJOB
- Appreciate community partners for stepping up with resources (facilities, food, tech) to ensure RJOB was able to fully engage
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Data Subcommittee

- Shared the data and sources that the subcommittee has gathered, reviewed and analyzed
- Identifying gaps, what was missing and how reliable the sources were
- Jeff Landau shared the framing of the data walk activity; explained that the goal was to review data from 2017-2018 data report from the Racial Justice Taskforce and compared to the most recent data gathered; in analysis the subcommittee discovered that data disparities have either remained the same or increased since the last RJOB report
- Data walk was a strong, robust experience and also overwhelming; easy to get lost in the overwhelming amount of data
- Started with data that is already available from system partners and other adjacent systems
- Capacity is a challenge – staffing is not robust in individual departments to respond to all the data requests/needs
- Data infrastructure – incompatibility of individual system partner data systems with one another; they don't align and communicate well with one another
- RJOB Discussion
 - This is a huge lift for the RJOB body
 - Analyzing what is out there is a great first step, identifying gaps is the big question for RJOB
 - Origins of this body (2016), community was searching for answers to the unfairness in the report; RDA did a baseline report
 - Board of Supervisors and community ask – where are we now? Have things improved? - important to communicate that to the BOS; we may need support through a consultant or outside group to take the RDA findings from 2018 to update with data available today; that could be a budget ask (research capacity) to produce for this group
 - Helpful to find data/additional gaps to focus our work
 - Sheriff data portal is public and available; ease of use
 - District Attorney signed contract for a vendor to implement their data dashboard

- Ensure we consider the ways in which county services encourage community members to maintain their support services – housing, food assistance
- Data subcommittee submitted grant to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for \$50,000 to support orgs/regions to address racial disparities and inequities; Ryse submitted on behalf of data subcommittee

Diversion Subcommittee

- Diversion shared subcommittee activities including their participation and facilitation of town hall meetings with CEF
- Plan to renew focus on youth diversion eligibility criteria and review past work on defining diversion programming, eligibility criteria and service landscape
- RJOB Discussion
 - Should look at the ways in which mental health diversion is available to community members

Public Comment:

- No Public Comment

Discuss Proposed Budget for the 2027 Budget Cycle

The committee began brainstorming and planning potential budget asks for the 2027 budget cycle.

- ORESJ staff described the need to make budget asks early in the budget cycle.
- Chairs of subcommittees are asked to return to August 2026 RJOB full body meeting with proposed scope of work/recommendations and accompanying budget
- Equity Committee will receive this in December 2026
- Early 2027, the Board of Supervisors can hear the budget request ahead of their 2027 budget hearings, discussions and decisions.
- RJOB Discussion
 - Would be helpful to have discussion around the budget asks
 - Could use a consultant to nail in on the data that we are talking about to provide needed context and recommendations
 - Can \$400k from the African American Holistic Wellness and Resource Hub be given to 40 Voices campaign to solve for the crisis facing Black males
 - How can we ensure funds for the African American Wellness hub / Glover Wellness Network funds are given directly to the community with the end of the \$1M grant fund
 - Want to talk about juveniles/youth who have been discussed over the years; how can we think about proactive budgets instead of reactive budgets; think about funding that is preventative in nature; ask for funding for workforce development to keep youth doing something productive; money can be used in a way to help reduce the gap, because as times get harder they might get more desperate but we can offer skills to deal with life; not enough conversation about trainings around training that youth need all around
 - Healing needs to be addressed for the group that is most harmed

- Already seeing criminal charges increase for Black community since October 2025 related to Prop 36; folks are going to lose healthcare and other services; losing services for Public Defenders, where they are barely hanging on
- Are Black youth numbers increasing in criminal legal system in East County? Public Defender said they need to look more closely at the data to confirm.
- Would like to ask for an update on the funding for Glover Wellness Network currently
- We could do a resource fair with the churches to share what we have in place

Public Comment:

- Pastor Ed Harris (Chair of the TCAB) - we are working through the process and come alongside and make suggestions that are positive; TCAB is not slowing things down because that is a fallacy; TCAB is working diligently to move things forward

SHARE General Member or ORESJ Updates

The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice shared administrative updates regarding RJOB.

- New RJOB members have until the end of the month to complete trainings

RJOB Next Meeting: August 6, 2026 is the next meeting date.