

Racial Justice Oversight Body – Diversion Subcommittee Record of Action for August 21, 2025

1026 Escobar Street, Room 1026, Martinez, CA 94553

Attendance

Present:

Stephanie Medley, Ellen McDonnell, Sonja Shepherd, Marya Wright, LaShanda Smith, Cheryl Sudduth

Staff:

Peter Kim, Emaan Ahmed, Kendra Carr

Absent:

Gigi Crowder

Public (Online):

Jill Ray

Meeting convened at 3:03 PM.

1. Roll Call and Introductions

No quorum declared.

2. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comment: None

3. RECEIVE and APPROVE Record of Action for June 12, 2025

Ellen moved to approve; LaShanda seconded. Voted unanimously to approve.

4. UPDATE on RJOB Full Body and Subcommittee Progress

Ellen shared updates on the Statement of Support drafted by the subcommittee. Discussion followed regarding whether policy statements fall under RJOB's purview. Stephanie asked staff to provide bylaws and advisory handbook for clarity. Marya noted the importance of actionable follow-up items rather than symbolic gestures.

Stephanie shared that the CEF Ad Hoc Committee is meeting monthly to plan community gatherings (three in February and March).

The group discussed creating a work group focused on pretrial diversion to map existing efforts and identify data gaps. Ellen, LaShanda, and Cheryl volunteered to lead.

A second work group will review youth diversion eligibility criteria (Ellen, LaShanda, DA representative).

5. DISCUSS Sheriff Department's Presentations (Truth Act Forum and Quarterly Report)

Members discussed the racial disparities in immigration enforcement and data gaps in the Sheriff's reporting.

Ellen referenced other counties (San Mateo, Santa Clara) implementing stronger local protections.

Marya suggested inviting the Sheriff's representative to a future RJOB meeting.

Staff clarified that ordinances cannot compel the Sheriff's Office to act; only BOS directives can apply.

Public Comment:

Jill Ray emphasized clarifying RJOB's role and avoiding conflation between ICE activities and the Sheriff's data report, which only includes booked criminal arrests.

6. Subcommittee Member Updates

No updates shared.

7. REVIEW and ASSIGN Action Items

- Staff will coordinate with Data Subcommittee Chair to form a joint work group reviewing the Sheriff's Report.
- Diversion Subcommittee Working Group (Pretrial Services): Ellen, LaShanda, and Cheryl to meet.
- Youth Diversion Criteria Group: Ellen (or designee), LaShanda, and DA representative (Stephanie to follow up).

Next Meetings

Full Body: November 6, 2025 (Room 1025)

Diversion Subcommittee: October 16, 2025 (Room 1026)

Adjourned: 4:35 PM