

Proposed RJOB Report Structure (working draft)

For Discussion & Refinement by the Community Engagement Committee

Section 1: Why We Engaged

Purpose of the Town Halls

The RJOB hosted community town halls to better understand community experiences of the local criminal legal system and gather input on priorities related to racial equity, diversion, transparency, and accountability.

Engagement Overview

- Total participants: *[insert final count]*
- Locations: East County, West County, Virtual
- Engagement methods: in-person town halls and virtual session
- Approach: facilitated listening sessions designed to center lived experience and community dialogue

Section 2: What We Heard

Themes reflect consistent input across town halls and align with ongoing RJOB subcommittee discussions (CEF, Diversion, Data).

Community Voice & Participation

Community members emphasized the need for:

- More consistent opportunities to engage with RJOB and County systems
- Stronger inclusion of youth voice
- Greater representation of justice-impacted individuals in decision-making spaces

Transparency & Trust

Community members raised concerns about:

- Limited transparency in County processes and decision-making
- Lack of accessible information on funding, programs, and outcomes
- Need for clearer accountability structures and communication loops

Access & Equity (re RJOB or County meetings)

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Key barriers included:

- Transportation challenges impacting attendance and participation
- Language access and interpretation needs
- Information not being consistently accessible or widely distributed

Diversion & System Navigation

Community members identified:

- Limited awareness of available diversion programs and services
- Transportation challenges impacting attendance and participation
- Barriers to accessing programs and inconsistent referral pathways
- Need for stronger navigation supports and follow-up services

Data & Accountability

Community members expressed:

- Desire for clearer, more accessible justice system data
- Concerns about consistency, quality, and transparency of data shared publicly
- Need for data to be understandable and usable for community accountability

Section 3: Key Findings

1. Strengthen Community Engagement & Communications

There is a consistent demand for ongoing, meaningful engagement beyond one-time events. Community members want:

- Continuous engagement opportunities
- Shared decision-making structures
- Clear and consistent feedback loops

2. Improve Transparency & Public Access to Information

Trust in systems is directly tied to transparency. Findings show:

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- Persistent concerns about access to information and decision-making processes
- Need for more consistent public-facing communication about County systems, funding, and outcomes
- Desire for accessible, centralized information sources

3. Expand Access & Awareness of Diversion and Support Services

Community members identified gaps in:

- Awareness of existing diversion and support programs
- Equitable access across geography and populations
- Navigation supports for justice-involved individuals and families

4. Strengthen Data Collection & Accountability

Community members want:

- Reliable, consistent, and understandable justice system data
- Greater transparency in how data is collected and shared
- Confidence that data reflects lived experience and real outcomes

Section 4: RJOB Recommendations

Recommendation 1: Strengthen Community Engagement & Communications

Develop sustainable infrastructure for engagement, including:

- Community Engagement & Communications Framework (CEF-led)
- Regular engagement opportunities beyond town halls
- Public education and outreach strategy
- Structured feedback loops
- Centralized public-facing information hub

Recommendation 2: Increase Transparency & Public Access to Information

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Develop a countywide transparency strategy that includes:

- Public-facing dashboards and reporting tools (across agencies)
- Improved coordination between existing data systems
- Community-friendly reporting standards (accessible language, ADA compliant)
- Centralized access point for criminal legal system information
- Regular public updates on progress and outcomes

Recommendation 3: Improve Data Practices

Strengthen countywide data systems through:

- Standardized data collection and reporting practices
- Inter-agency data sharing and consistency
- Community-informed metrics that include lived experience
- Improved validation and accessibility of data outputs

Recommendation 4: Expand Access & Equity

Improve equitable access to programs and participation by:

- Expanding diversion awareness and outreach
- Strengthening resource navigation tools and referral pathways
- Improving transportation and language access supports
- Centering youth voice and justice-impacted leadership
- Addressing geographic and demographic disparities in access

Section 5: Sustaining the Work (Implementation & Investment)

Implementation of these recommendations requires sustained investment in:

- Community engagement infrastructure (not just event-based, ongoing)
- Interpretation, language access, and accessibility supports

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- Childcare and basic participation supports for community members
- Technical assistance for evaluation and data systems
- Coordination support across County agencies and partners

Town halls demonstrated that meaningful engagement requires:

- Welcoming, accessible spaces
- Consistent community presence
- Investment in trust-building infrastructure
- Capacity for ongoing, not episodic, engagement

Technical Assistance (TA) & Capacity Building

To ensure fidelity, consistency, and continued refinement of RJOB's work, dedicated funding is needed for technical assistance (TA). This includes:

- External facilitation support for complex engagement and synthesis processes
- Support for data analysis, reporting design, and visualization of findings
- Ongoing refinement of tools, templates, and engagement infrastructure as the work evolves

Section 6: Looking Forward

RJOB commits to:

- Advancing a Community Engagement Framework
- Strengthening partnerships with County agencies and community-based organizations
- Improving transparency and data access in collaboration with County partners
- Continuing to refine recommendations based on community input
- Clarifying pathways for implementation and accountability moving forward