

Communication from the Office of the ACBH Director -

DATE: February 4, 2021

TO: All ACBH Team Members

FROM: Karyn L. Tribble, PsyD, LCSW, Director 
James Wagner, LMFT, LPCC, Deputy Director, Clinical Operations

**SUBJECT: UPDATE - ACBH FORENSIC SERVICES PLANNING & THE
FORENSIC, DIVERSION, AND RE-ENTRY SERVICES DIRECTOR
POSITION**

Greetings, ACBH Team Members:

As you know, ACBH has been engaging in a process of re-envisioning how the department delivers services and coordinated care across our forensic systems. Additionally, there have been significant changes to ACBH jail mental health services over the past several months. In May of 2020, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors approved an additional 107 positions to support the department's behavioral health services within the jail; increasing our department's Santa Rita jail behavioral health services from roughly 53 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) to approximately 160 FTEs.

This change is driven fundamentally by the number of incarcerated inmates who are diagnosed with a mental health and/or substance abuse condition. It is a well-known challenge across jurisdictions, both Statewide and nationally, that jails have seen populations with severe mental illness drastically increase. As a result, the department will continue to focus on filling these vital positions in order to support this critical area of our forensic system. The hiring of the additional staff will occur over the next three (3) years in a phased hiring plan. The increase in staff will allow ACBH to not only increase our services within Santa Rita jail, and therefore better meet the needs of individuals with a behavioral health challenge, but has also validated the need for the development of an executive level Forensic Reentry and Diversion Services Director position.

The Forensic, Reentry, and Diversion Services Director will report to the ACBH Deputy Director of Clinical Operations and will oversee all of our forensic programs, consolidating forensic services across the age spectrum. Currently forensic services are primarily divided under two systems of care: clients 18 years of age through transitional age youth years; and those over the age of 18. It is anticipated that one forensic system of care across the age spectrum will allow the department to ensure improved care planning, foster more efficient interdepartmental coordination; and strengthen existing relationships with external partners with a single point of accountability to support the prevention, early intervention, and treatment needs for this population.

Please consider this update regarding our planning and provisional recruitment efforts for the new Forensic, Diversion and Re-Entry Services Director. The announcement was released yesterday



(February 3, 2021) through HCSA's weekly internal job posting entitled "*HCSA Employment Opportunities Listing for February 3, 2021*". Qualified internal employee applicants are encouraged to apply. The provisional appointment will serve in the role until there is a permanent recruitment effort completed and a permanent applicant is chosen. The anticipated completion for that recruitment effort is Summer of 2021.

If you have further questions regarding the departmental plans or the role of the Forensic, Diversion and Re-Entry Services Director, please contact James Wagner, Deputy Director of Clinical Operations.

Thank you for your attention to this important update and for your ongoing commitment to the clients we serve.