

## IST Working Group 1 Remarks—Oct. 26, 2021 Meeting---Douglas Dunn

### Funding

For Contra Costa County, the Short, and especially Medium and Long-Range Solutions will not work without much more sustained Behavioral Health funding for this population than envisioned in the Governor's and Legislature's historic 2021-2022 signed state budget. Up to now, this county has not used Jail Based Competency Treatment (JBCT) for this population. The county Mental Health Commission recently unanimously voted to exclude JBCT and, instead, utilize community based treatment and housing with Mental Health Diversion (MHD) as much as possible for this population. To do this, at a minimum, Contra Costa must be able to secure its "maximum fair share" of both:

- The \$2.2B in competitive grant funding for either refurbishing or building new community based treatment and service facilities for this population.
- The over \$850M in state funding to expand the behavioral health work force in each county.

### Public Safety / Dangerousness to the Public

In Contra Costa County, there have been attempts to utilize Mental Health Diversion and related programs for persons charged with very serious felony crimes, such as attempted murder and Assault with a Deadly Weapon. In online court hearings with these types of cases, the Deputy District Attorney in charge of Mental Health Litigation has persuasively convinced the presiding Judge to not grant MHD for persons charged with either of these crimes.

This means that in Contra Costa County, if at all possible, some persons in this IST population will need to be in locked Institute of Mental Diseases (IMD) Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHC) facilities, NOT county jail or state prison. This means that, in this county, at least some of the \$2.2B in competitive state facilities refurbishing and building grants and some the \$850M+ in temporarily expanded BH work force funding will need to be reserved for this estimated 15-25 persons in Contra Costa County.

I'm sure other counties around the state are in "the same boat." I am forwarding the written comments to my respective state legislative representatives, ASM Jim Frazier and state Senator Steve Glazer.