1. Every defendant should receive a mental health as well as a co-occurring substance abuse screen at the time of booking and those screened as mentally ill should be assessed immediately to determine a course of treatment that may begin in the jail, including medications, and discharge planning should start at the time of booking.

2. An experienced District Attorney and Public Defender with authority should be assigned to be present each day to review the cases of each defendant screened as mentally ill at booking to eliminate those cases that will not be filed (defendant to be released), or for those defendants in situations where a complaint is likely to be filed, review as to conditions for release pre-trial into treatment and services for a recommendation to the Judge at or before the time of arraignment. The attorneys would work with a team from Behavioral Health in formulating recommendations.

3. Create a triage center (can be called a sobering station) for 23 hours of stabilization as an alternative to booking into jail, appropriately staffed by Behavioral Health to further assess the defendant and place the defendant in a community treatment program (funding may come from many sources including the MHSA, new funding made available by the Governor and Legislature in this year’s budget for Infrastructure and pre-trial release),