



# CBR

## Community Based Restoration

### WORDS TO DEEDS XII

**Kristin Ochoa, MD, MPH**

Medical Director, Los Angeles County Office of Diversion & Reentry; Associate Clinical Professor, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

**Peter Espinoza**

Director, Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry

**Hon. James Bianco**

Site Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court Mental Health Court



# History

**Memorandum**

To : John K. Van de Kamp  
Attorney General  
Los Angeles

Date: November 23, 1987

File No.:

Telephone: ATSS ( 8 ) 454-5433  
(916 ) 324-5433

From : Brian Taugher  
Office of the Attorney General—Sacramento

Subject: MENTALLY ILL ARRESTEES

... the problem of mentally ill arrestees who may not best be housed in a county jail but end up there for a lack of a better alternative.

**Background**

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the nation moved toward "deinstitutionalization" of the mentally, prodded by widely reported abuses of the mentally ill in state mental hospitals and the film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which was based on events in Atascadero State Hospital in the early 1960s.

Deinstitutionalization was widely touted as the humane thing to do for the mentally ill, as saving tax dollars by closing expensive institutions and as treatment-oriented (on the theory that mental health care is better given at the local level, emphasizing outpatient care.)

In 1963, President Kennedy signed the Community Mental Health Facilities Act and "the vision was clear: the nation's 500,000 mentally ill could leave the cold cinder-block warehouses where they languished, return to their own communities and reside on their own with the assistance of local mental health agencies." (Wall Street Journal, 9/25/87).

In 1967, California enacted a similar law, though some direly predicted that "hordes of dangerously disturbed people would roam the streets and perhaps harm others." (L.A. Times 7/19/87).

THIS IS  
UNACCEPTABLE





**Jackie Lacey**  
**L.A. County District Attorney**

## **MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

District Attorney's Office  
Public Defender's Office  
Alternate Public Defender's Office  
LA City Attorney's Office  
Los Angeles Superior Court  
Department of Mental Health  
Probation Department  
LA County CEO's Office  
LA Fire Department  
LAPD, LASD, CHP, Police Chiefs  
Mental Health Professionals  
Board of Supervisors Staff

# MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD REPORT A BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE



JACKIE LACEY  
District Attorney

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August 4, 2015



April 2015 – Can we do this?

**“THIS IS  
UNACCEPTABLE”**

Highly motivated  
There must be a solution!  
How do we get there?

vs. **“STATUS QUO”**

Hand-wringing  
Uncertainty  
How can we possibly do this?  
Need to study the problem  
Need to amend contracts  
HIPPA!

*“Going to start working on a plan”*



April 2015 – Can we do this?

**“THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE”**

Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department

Mitch Katz/Department of Health Services

SSG – Special Services for Groups

Department of Mental Health

Jail Mental Health Treatment Team

Attorneys – DA, PD, APD

Dave Meyer, Jim Preis

Board of Supervisors – Molly Rysman

NAMI

Mental Health Court Administration

Dr. Kristen Ochoa

# RULES FOR FLIGHT

1. Plane on runway
2. Takeoff
3. Check engine
4. Install landing gear



April 2015 – Can we do this?

August 2015 – Plan (sort of) developed

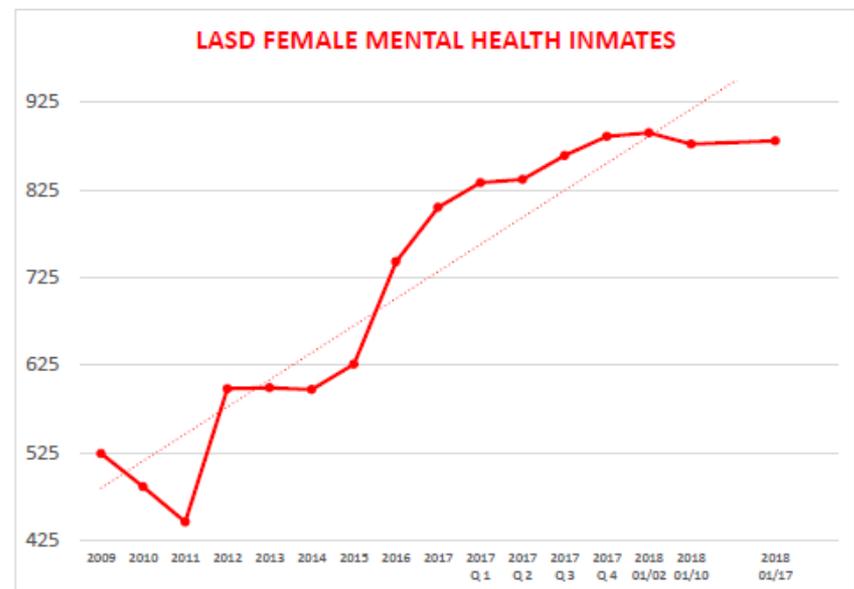
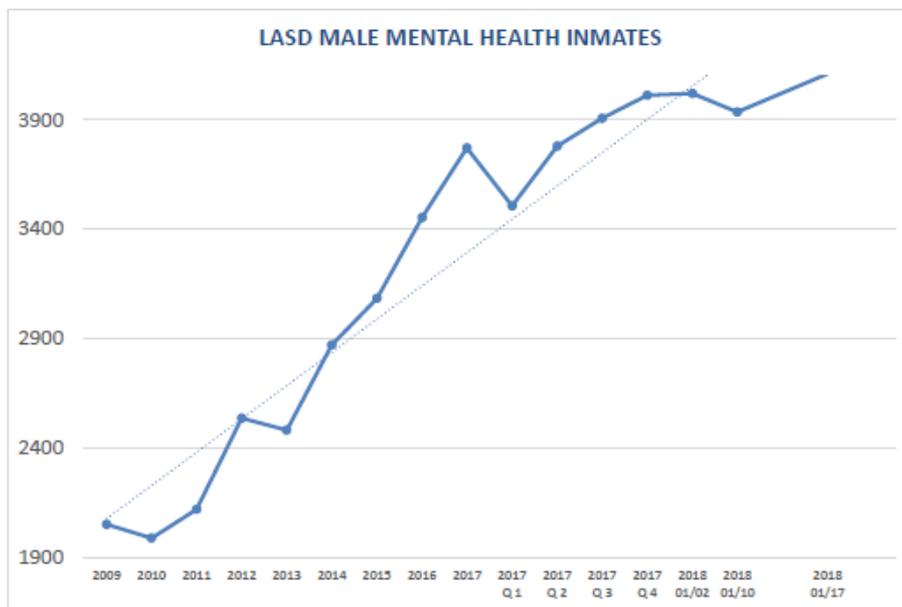
September 2015 – First 10 people released

November 2015 – 20 released, 20 in process

April 2016 – 100 people released

November 2018 – 896 people released

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL NUMBER OF MENTAL HEALTH INMATES 2009-2018



The background is a teal-to-blue gradient with faint circular patterns and dotted lines. A black rectangular box is centered horizontally, containing the text 'OFFICE OF DIVERSION AND REENTRY' in white. The text is arranged in two lines: 'OFFICE OF DIVERSION' on the top line and 'AND REENTRY' on the bottom line. The words 'OFFICE OF' are in a bold, sans-serif font, while 'DIVERSION' and 'AND REENTRY' are in a regular, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed in a white rectangular border that is open on the right side.

**OFFICE OF** DIVERSION  
AND REENTRY