



From County Practice to State Priorities:

A Behavioral Health and Public Safety Roadmap
for California's Next Administration

2026 Convening Program

October 8-9, 2026
Oakland, CA



W2D Leadership Group

Our Mission

The leaders in criminal justice and behavioral health participating in this effort strive to end the criminalization of individuals with mental illness by supporting proven strategies that promote early intervention, access to effective treatments, a planned reentry, and the preservation of public safety.

Our Vision

A true shift in the paradigm between criminal justice and behavioral health will embody an effective jail diversion system that fosters a successful and ongoing exchange of information among courts, criminal justice agencies, mental health professions, governmental agencies, and nongovernmental organizations, to achieve a substantial positive change in the way individuals with mental illness are treated within our communities.

2026 Leadership Group

Deanna Adams – Senior Analyst, Judicial Council of California, Criminal Justice Services, Operations and Programs Division

Jenny Bayardo – Executive Officer, California Behavioral Health Council

Oscar Benitez – Managing Director of Diversion & Reentry, Third Sector

Ashley Breth – Assistant Deputy Director, Community Forensic Partnerships Division, Department of State Hospitals

Bill Brown – Sheriff-Coroner, Santa Barbara County

Michelle Doty Cabrera – Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California

Cathy Coyne – Government Affairs Liaison (Retired), California State Sheriffs' Association

Hallie Fader-Towe – Director of Justice & Health Initiatives, Behavioral Health, Council on State Governments Justice Center

Grace Ferguson – Executive Associate, Urban Counties of California

Marcus Galeste – Research Scientist, Commission for Behavioral Health

Brenda Grealish – Executive Director, Commission for Behavioral Health

Carmen Green – Executive Director, California State Sheriffs' Association

Nicole Green – Chair, Contra Costa County AB109 Community Advisory Board and Chair, Contra Costa County Council on Homelessness

Kathryn Jett – Senior Policy Consultant, Shatterproof

Karen Larsen – Chief Executive Officer, The Steinberg Institute

Stephen V. Manley – Superior Court Judge, Santa Clara County

W2D Leadership Group (continued)

Lahela Mattox – Chief Operations Officer, San Diego Regional Task Force on the Homeless

Rosie McCool – Deputy Director, Chief Probation Officers of California

David Meyer – Clinical Professor, Institute of Psychiatry, Law and Behavioral Sciences, USC Keck School of Medicine

Ryan Morimune – Legislative Advocate, Administration of Justice, California State Association of Counties

Kevin O'Connell – Research Consultant, O'Connell Research

Jolie Onodera – Senior Legislative Advocate, Health and Behavioral Health, California State Association of Counties

Mike Radford – Bureau Chief, Training Program Services Bureau, Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training

Stephanie Regular – Assistant Public Defender, Office of the Public Defender, Alameda County

Will Rhett – Managing Director of Behavioral Health, Third Sector

Tyler Rinde – Director of Government Affairs, California Psychological Association

Kiran Sahota – President, Concepts Forward Consulting

Albert M. Senella – President, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives; President and Chief Executive Officer, Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.

Adrienne Shilton – Director of Public Policy and Strategy, The California Alliance of Child and Family Services

Jessica Headley Ternes – Behavioral Health Director, Third Sector

Linda Tomasello – Consultant, Crisis Intervention Training

Molly Willenbring – Consultant, Leadership Benefiting Nonprofit Organizations

Helene Zentner – Field Representative, California Board of State and Community Corrections

Carrie Zoller – Supervising Attorney, Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts



Words to Deeds is a statewide collaborative and California's premier forum for cross-sector leaders working at the intersection of criminal justice and behavioral health.

For more information on the annual convening, reports, and other resources, please visit www.wordstodeeds.org

