



# California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

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[www.calbhbc.org/jails--prisons.html](http://www.calbhbc.org/jails--prisons.html)

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE — Reviewing & advising to reduce incarceration and recidivism.

### ISSUE BRIEF: Criminal Justice

**S**ocial and financial costs are high when a person with serious mental illness (SMI) or Substance Use Disorder (SUD) is incarcerated if they otherwise could be in the community, have treatment, have access to medication, and still be accountable.



### Statistically High Incarceration

**80%** of those incarcerated in CA jails and prisons have SUD (General population percentage in CA is 9.2%) ([CCJBH PP Page 5](#))

**36%** of those incarcerated in CA jails and prisons have a mental illness. General population percentage in CA is 15.9%) ([CCJBH PP Page 5](#))

### Reducing Incarceration: Tools/Best Practices

1. SUD & SMI Prevention/Early Intervention
2. [Triage Programs](#): MH /SUD services in:
  - Shelters
  - Hospitals & Clinics
  - Sobering Centers
  - Schools
  - Crisis Stabilization Services
  - Mobile Crisis Units
  - Peer Respite Services
3. [Crisis Intervention](#) & [DeEscalation](#) Trainings are required for law enforcement personnel.
4. [Mental Health Court](#) | [Drug Court](#) | [Young Adult Court](#) | [Homeless Court](#)
5. [Laura's Law](#)/Assisted Outpatient Therapy
6. [CARE Act](#) (Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment Act)
7. Pre-Release and Post-Release Support: Connection to treatment and social services, including [Medi-Cal](#) 90-day in-reach and [Enhanced Care Management](#).

### Advice/Resources for Reviewing Services & Facilities

**Speakers:** BH Director/Staff/Contractors, District Attorneys and Public Defenders' Offices, Jail Warden/staff, Probation Director/staff

**Topics:** Invite speakers to address:

- Behavioral Health services/programs
- "Warm Hand-Offs" - Access to MH/BH services and social supports (eg. vocational, housing) in preparation and upon release.
- "Sequential Intercept Model" (next page)

### Patients Rights Advocates (PRAs):

Federal disability rights laws mandate equal access to programs, services and activities for all people with disabilities in custody. PRAs are authorized to review the mental health programs in jails. Invite PRAs to participate at monthly meetings.

**Site Visits** (access varies by jurisdiction).

### Board Liaison

Ask one of your local board/commission members to attend the local Community Corrections Partnership (AB 109) Committees and Juvenile Justice (AB 1913) Coordinating Council meetings and report back to your local board/commission.

### Grand Jury Annual Reports

One of the civil grand jury's duties is to look into the quality and management of the county's jails and prisons. [Links to reports.](#)

### Removing Charges for Individuals with SMI Before or After Incarceration

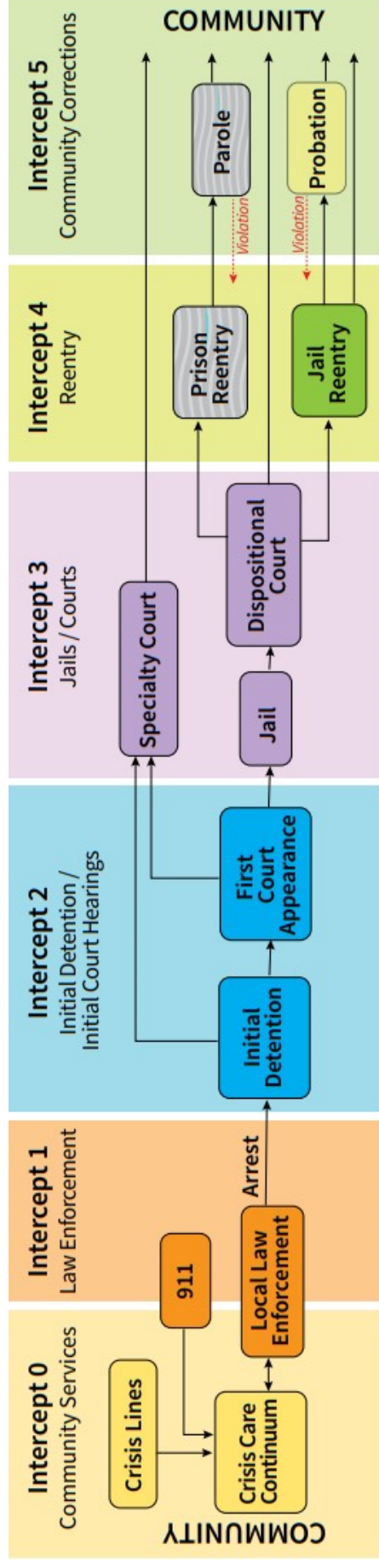
1. Charges dismissed [PC 1001.35 - 36](#)
2. Expungement [PC 1203.4 - .4a](#)

CALBHBC supports the work of California's 59 local mental/behavioral health boards commissions by providing resources, communication and statewide advocacy. [www.calbhbc.org](http://www.calbhbc.org)

## The Sequential Intercept Model

The Sequential Intercept Model is a tool to help counties identify programs and resources and how best to coordinate them. This model was developed in the 1990s in response to the high prevalence of mental illness in people involved in the criminal justice system.<sup>3</sup>

For more information, see “Together We Can—Reducing Criminal Justice Involvement for People with Mental Illness”, Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), 2017— Page 29: [“Together We Can”](#).



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