



April 12, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Los Angeles County
Hall of Administration, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 900012

**Re: Support for Community-Based Services for
Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Individuals**

Dear Esteemed Board of Supervisors:

The ACLU of Southern California, Disability Rights California, Disability Rights Legal Center, Justice LA, Mental Health Advocacy Services, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness-Greater Los Angeles County, respectfully urge the Board to authorize LA County to participate in the Governor's proposed Community Care Demonstration Project for individuals charged with felonies and deemed incompetent to stand trial (CCDP-IST).

We respectfully request that the Board conduct an open and transparent process to consider the County's participation in CCDP-IST. As an immediate step, we ask the Board to obtain a report back from the Office of Diversion and Reentry on the adequacy of funding provided for in the Governor's proposed budget; the availability of both community resources and of clinical services in the jails for those individuals found felony incompetent to stand trial who will not be deemed appropriate for community placement; and the effect that participation in the program would have on the population of people with serious mental illness in the jail, who currently comprise 40% of the total jail population.

We thank you for your continued leadership in moving Los Angeles County to a Care First, Jails Last vision.

Sincerely yours,

Peter J. Eliasberg
ACLU Foundation of Southern California

Eunisses Hernandez
Justice LA

Pamila Lew
Disability Rights California

Brittney Weissman, CEO
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Mark Gale, Criminal Justice Chair
NAMI Greater Los Angeles County

Christopher H. Knauf
Disability Rights Legal Center

Jenny Farrell
Mental Health Advocacy Services

Encl.: ACLU 1.28.21 Letter to Board of Supervisors