



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO 18 ~ SEPTEMBER 2026

a committee of **Faith in Action East Bay**
www.icjjalamedacounty.org

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Member Congregations

Congregation Netivot Shalom, Berkeley
First Church Berkeley, UCC
First Unitarian Church, Oakland
Interfaith Council of Alameda County
Kehilla Community Synagogue, Piedmont
Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church, Oakland
Lighthouse Mosque, Oakland
Montclair Presbyterian Church, Oakland
Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Oakland
Plymouth Jazz & Justice UCC, Oakland
St. Columba Catholic Church, Oakland
Skyline Community Church, UCC, Oakland
Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church, Hayward

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Mission Statement: The ICJJ seeks to reduce incarceration as a response to social problems in Alameda County, California, and to decrease harmful conditions in the jail. We advocate to decrease the number of those imprisoned and close the revolving door to jail – especially for those with mental health or housing needs. The jail must be safe, humane, and supportive of successful reentry into our communities.

Save Our Pretrial Services Program!

Pretrial Services help people stay out of jail, improving their lives and saving taxpayer dollars.

Why is Alameda County poised to end its promising new Pretrial Expansion Program after less than a year? How can we get the County leadership to change their minds?

Since February of this year, the Berkeley-based non-profit **Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency** (BOSS) has been operating a Pretrial Expansion Program (PEP) in partnership with Alameda County Superior Court's Office of Pretrial Services. County funding for the program is set to end on December 31, 2026.

PEP serves the "pretrial population" – people who have been arrested, charged, and released from jail pending resolution of the case against them. California's Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutional right of pretrial release for anyone charged with a misdemeanor or a nonviolent or nonsexual felony. [See: [Humphry ruling](#), and [Kowalczyk ruling](#)]

Under these rulings, Alameda County's pretrial population – now around 3,000 people – is expected to grow rapidly. [[PEP press release](#)].

PEP is designed to serve people the Court identifies as moderately likely to re-offend during the pretrial period. BOSS program staff provide case-management and service connections (housing support, mental health and substance use services, etc.) aimed at improving lives and reducing re-arrests and further system involvement.

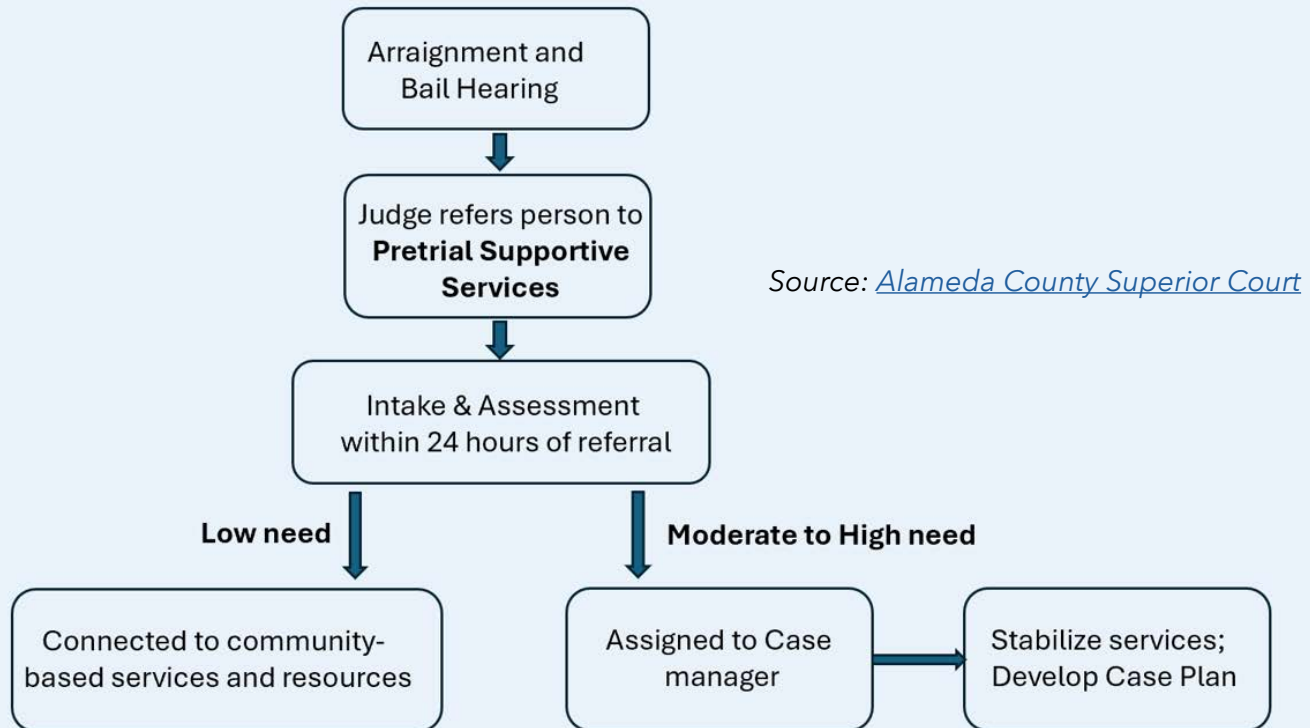
PEP's early results were impressive enough to attract the attention of local press. (See the article link in the box below.) While highlighting findings like a 24% reduction in re-arrest and failure-to-appear rates, press accounts reported concerns about the County's commitment to seeing PEP continue.

Expanded pretrial services helped more people stay out of jail in Alameda County, court data shows. [Oaklandside article](#), July 13, 2026, by [Roselyn Romero](#)

"The program appears to be successful based on the early statistics that we have for the past five months. Pulling the plug after less than a year would be a real tragedy."

Presiding Judge Michael Markman, quoted in [Oaklandside article](#), July 13, 2026

Pretrial Program Referral Process



Source: Alameda County Superior Court

The County's Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) also sounded the alarm in its [July 2026 Care First, Jails Last Implementation Report](#). Presenting to a committee of the Board of Supervisors, BHAB Chair, Brian Bloom, appealed for action to continue the BOSS PEP program when its current funding and contract expire in December.

Six-Month Statistics

Participants served and connected to services during the first 6 months of program implementation.

789

Total program participants

312

Connected to outpatient substance abuse treatment

208

Connected to housing

Of the 789 participants served, 40% were connected to substance abuse treatment and 26% were connected to emergency, temporary, and transition housing placements during the first 6 months.

Participating Supervisors Marquez and Tam expressed support but made no commitment to relay the BHAB's funding appeal to the full Board for action.

"When a person walks out of jail, they are not just walking through a door—they are stepping into one of the most vulnerable and critical moments of their life. Reentry begins in that very moment.

Having a trained, dedicated case manager there to see them, hear them, and help them navigate what comes next is more than providing a service—it is creating a real opportunity for successful reintegration and can make the difference between returning to the system and successfully returning to the community."

Dr. Nichole Pettway, [BOSS](#) Deputy Director

Since then, BHAB and ICJJ have learned that some County Agencies have withdrawn their critical support for the PEP, and the Probation Department is proposing to take over the program on a rushed timeline that threatens the continuity of care for hundreds of people now being served. From the few details available, the replacement program will not meet the current need, let alone those of an expanding pretrial population.

The County is poised to end its contract with BOSS despite the successful preliminary data and despite having funds available. Alameda Co. Superior Court, which supervises BOSS's contract, is pushing back forcefully (see [here](#)). We support the Court's position.

ICJJ and allies in the BHAB-CFJL Ad Hoc Committee and the Care First Community Coalition strongly

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oppose closing the PEP program before a 1-year evaluation and cost accounting can be completed and made public. Those data should shape whatever comes next, whether that's a continuation of the BOSS program or a Probation Department-run replacement.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to commit a full year of bridge funding (through December 2027) to enable BOSS's PEP to continue operating while these steps unfold and there's a clear and acceptable path forward.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Please call or email your Supervisor to urge them to extend the Pretrial Extension Program with BOSS through 2027. Send copies to their staff.



SAMPLE EMAIL

Dear Supervisor, I am deeply concerned by reports that your Board may prematurely pull the plug on the new and promising Pretrial Expansion Program. By all accounts, it's meeting every measure of success, including lowering re-arrest rates and giving people real second chances. Please extend BOSS's contract through 2027! Let their 1-year evaluation, not county politics, determine what comes next.

Click Link: [FIND YOUR DISTRICT](#)

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STOP DEATHS AND HARM WORKING GROUP REPORT

The Stop Deaths and Harm group has worked for several years to improve the tragically inadequate medical care at Santa Rita jail. With ICJJ and many others, Stop Deaths and Harm successfully advocated for the County to seek a new medical contractor. This process requires the County to issue a formal Request for Proposals (RFP) to receive bids from medical service providers to organize, assign staff, and provide medical services in the jail.

Several months ago, the Sheriff's department said the RFP would be issued by July 1. We are still waiting. We will check it out as soon as it is released to see if it adequately precludes bidders that have egregious records such as Wellpath, the current provider.

This year there have been two deaths of detainees who were in the County jail and were hospitalized in a nearby community hospital. They both died shortly after their return to Santa Rita Jail. We are concerned that seriously ill people might have been released from the hospital too soon or did not receive adequate medical monitoring and care once they were back in the jail. We have written letters asking for the status of the Sheriff's Office investigation into their deaths – addressing our inquiries to the Sheriff's



Office, all members of the Board Of Supervisors, and the County Public Health Officer. We also filed a request for an investigation with the Alameda County Civil Grand Jury.

These deaths are indicative of a much larger problem: Why are such seriously ill people admitted to the jail in the first place? Were they identified as being seriously ill? Why were they not diverted to healthcare facilities?