

FY 22-23 Budget Committee Question Log and Tracking

#	Date of Meeting	Committee Member asking the Question	Department / Respondent	Description	Date Sent to Dept./Budget Contact	Date Response Rcvd. From Dept./Budget Contact	Date Distributed to Committee - Hardcopy	Answer/Response Received
1	5/5/2022	Commissioner Farr	H&HS BH	Can you direct the Committee to more information on how mandated forensic programs have a budgeting impact on other essential but not mandated services?	05/05/22	5/9/2022	5/10/2022	The mandated forensic programs create challenges for providing other essential services in a few ways: Increasing the acuity of the overall population, contributing to provider burnout, fewer dollars available to expand non-mandated services, excess liability when mandated to coordinate care for clients who may become a danger in the community without adequate financial or staffing supports, and lack of bandwidth to partner with other programs like CHC, mobile outreach services, or permanent supportive housing facilities.
2	5/5/2022	Commissioner Farr	SO	Regarding Medicaid and inmates, can you inspire the Budget Committee to fully back you in the effort?	05/05/22	5/10/2022	5/10/2022	<p>Currently inmates Medicaid Insurance Coverage stops when they are lodged within a correctional facility. This creates problems in multiple aspects of our system. First, people are losing benefits prior to a conviction of a crime. Second, if the person happens to be released turning the benefits back on for them is not seamless. This has an issue with our criminal justice system because we are having people lodged who we are required to provide them community standard care and they are losing their medical benefits, pushing the cost of providing this care solely on the county or correctional facility they are being lodged in. If there was a rule change allowing people who have been lodged into a correctional facility to maintain their medical benefits, correctional facilities could potentially bill Medicare for the medical care they are receiving while in custody (or at least a portion of). Many of the conditions people are being treated for have nothing to do with the reason they are in custody and the Medicare system would have had no issue being billed for, for not the fact they were placed in custody.</p> <p>If there were rule changes to Medicare there could be a cost savings for the medical care we are required and should be providing to those individuals who are in our custody. This is important because costs will continue to go up with inflation and health care cost continue to rise. The current Public Safety Levy is already operating at its cap and controlling costs, to include medical costs, needs to occur to insure its continue support from the community. The Public Safety Levy is bringing in about 20 million dollars a year and if it is not renewed the entire Public Safety System which as seen some improvements over the last few years will literally crumble. We will go back to making Capacity Based Releases to many violent offenders who would have never been released by the courts or otherwise. Prior to the passing of the Public Safety Levy, our jail was literally releasing people who were lodged for bludgeoning and killing because of capacity issues at the jail.</p>
3	5/5/2022	Commissioner Farr	DA	It is reported that there are 125 pre-trial (Measure 11) releases, are there numbers regarding repeat offenders in these individuals? What is the duration of pre-trial release?	05/05/22	5/6/2022	5/10/2022	<p>The 125 number was from the court a couple of weeks ago. Those releases were of people charged with M11 crimes who the court released on conditions set by the court after review by the court's pre-trial release office. The list did not include names, so I don't have a way to check prior criminal history. If I had a list of names, it would take a pretty significant amount of time to check each of them. Pre-trial services, the part of the court that sets release conditions, might be able to provide that.</p> <p>Pre-trial release lasts until the case is resolved or the release is revoked for failure to comply with the terms of release. For example, we had a case set for trial (a child sex abuse case) and the defendant cut his ankle monitor the morning of trial and fled. That defendant was located, rearrested and held until trial. He is not counted in the 125 as his case had concluded.</p>