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25 *Attorneys for the People of the State of California
26 ex rel. Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California*

27 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

28 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

1 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
2 CALIFORNIA ex rel. ROB BONTA,
3 ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE STATE
4 OF CALIFORNIA,

5 Plaintiff,

6 v.

7 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES; LOS
8 ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S
9 DEPARTMENT; ROBERT G. LUNA, in his
10 official capacity as Los Angeles County
11 Sheriff; LOS ANGELES COUNTY
12 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES,
13 CORRECTIONAL HEALTH SERVICES;
14 DR. TIMOTHY BELAVICH, PH.D., in his
15 official capacity as Director of Correctional
16 Health Services, and DOES 1 to 50, inclusive,

17 Defendants.

18 Case No. **25STCV26152**

19 **COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND
20 DECLARATORY RELIEF**

The People of the State of California (the People or Plaintiff), by and through Rob Bonta, the Attorney General of the State of California, allege the following on information and belief:

INTRODUCTION

1. The People bring this action against Defendants County of Los Angeles (County), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), County Correctional Health Services (CHS), and Sheriff Robert G. Luna and CHS Director Dr. Timothy Belavich, in their official capacities, for continuing deprivations of the rights of incarcerated persons under state and federal law.

2. Defendants are responsible for the safety and well-being of individuals incarcerated in the Los Angeles County jails (jails or LASD jails), individuals who have been subjected for many years to inhumane conditions. The jails are overcrowded and under-resourced. Incarcerated persons are forced to live in filthy cells with broken and overflowing toilets, infestations of rats and roaches, and no clean water for drinking or bathing. They are provided spoiled, moldy, and nutritionally inadequate meals; little to no access to hygiene items, such as soap, toilet paper, and menstrual products; and almost no time outside their cells. Many individuals suffer physical or mental deterioration in these punitive conditions but are unable to access necessary medical or mental health care, contributing to the shocking rate of deaths inside the jails, many of which are caused by preventable circumstances, such as overdoses, suicides, or violence among incarcerated persons. From 2016 to 2025, approximately 37.5 percent of all deaths in the LASD jails were caused by preventable circumstances. Problematic conditions are particularly acute at Men's Central Jail, a facility that has been plagued with uninhabitable conditions and constitutional violations for years. The County has publicly conceded that Men's Central Jail needs to be replaced and voted to close it in 2020, yet it remains in operation without the necessary issues being addressed.

3. Defendants' healthcare system in the LASD jails is grossly inadequate and has led to significant harm, including unnecessary pain and suffering, preventable injury, and numerous deaths. The healthcare failures in the jails are so profound that the Sybil Brand Commission described Defendants' failure to provide medical care as a "humanitarian crisis." Defendants have

1 denied thousands of incarcerated people basic medical care, including denying access to
2 prescribed medications, and failing to respond to medical emergencies and serious medical needs.
3 Incarcerated persons regularly wait weeks or even months before they receive medicine or basic
4 care, if they receive it at all. Defendants have also failed to provide minimally adequate mental
5 health care and have denied persons with serious mental health conditions necessary treatment
6 and medication. Chronic and severe understaffing is a significant problem in the jails. In 2023,
7 there were 4,000 patients on a waitlist to be seen for medical care due in part to limited
8 availability of medical staff, and only seven psychologists were available to serve approximately
9 4,500 patients, a ratio of approximately one psychologist for every 642 patients. On the custody
10 side, deputies were required to work 48 to 64 hours of overtime each month in 2024, due to
11 hundreds of vacancies, putting a strain on operations.

12 4. Defendants' failure to provide a safe, secure, and habitable environment and
13 failure to provide even minimally adequate medical, dental, and mental health care has resulted in
14 and continues to result in high rates of in-custody deaths every year. More than 345 individuals
15 have died inside the jails since 2016, with approximately sixty percent occurring in the last four
16 years. As of the filing of this Complaint, there have been 36 deaths in the Los Angeles County
17 jails in 2025 alone, or approximately one death per week. This puts the County on track to have
18 more in-custody deaths in 2025 than at any time in the past twenty years.

19 5. Defendants have been aware of the unconstitutional conditions in LASD jails for
20 decades. The LASD jails have been under court monitoring since at least 1979 for failing to meet
21 the minimum standards of confinement. Public agencies including the Board of State and
22 Community Corrections (Board of State and Community Corrections), Los Angeles County
23 Office of the Inspector General (Office of the Inspector General), Los Angeles County Sheriff
24 Civilian Oversight Commission (Civilian Oversight Commission), and Sybil Brand Commission
25 for Institutional Inspections (Sybil Brand Commission) have issued public reports throughout that
26 time, identifying unlawful conditions inside the jails ranging from overpopulation to the
27 numerous incidents of excessive force, lax discipline, and the presence of deputy gangs.
28 Defendants are aware of the violations identified by monitors and public agencies, as well as

1 additional deficiencies identified through their own internal review process and other litigation on
2 behalf of persons whose rights have been violated. Sheriff Luna has conceded that “there are
3 some unacceptable conditions” in LASD jails. Similarly, the CHS Director has admitted that “it’s
4 impossible to provide adequate treatment” in the LASD jails and that the healthcare system is
5 “broken.” In their own review of in-custody deaths, LASD officials have acknowledged critical
6 deficiencies, such as the routine failure to conduct the safety checks required by law.
7 Nevertheless, Defendants have failed, over a period of many years, to remedy violations and to
8 meet the minimum standards of confinement, ultimately harming individuals within their custody,
9 in clear violation of state and federal law.

10 6. Instead of addressing root causes or devoting resources to resolving acknowledged
11 violations, Defendants have engaged in a longstanding pattern of resisting oversight and
12 accountability. Defendants have expended millions of dollars in defending and settling litigation
13 about abuses in the jails over the years, without making necessary changes to their operations and
14 policies. Defendants have also repeatedly stymied the work of County entities mandated to
15 provide independent transparency, oversight, accountability, and monitoring of LASD.
16 Additionally, over the course of many years and multiple consent decrees, Defendants have failed
17 to implement agreed-upon reforms designed to address some of the same constitutional violations
18 that continue to persist in the LASD jails.

19 7. In 2021, pursuant to the Attorney General’s constitutional and statutory authority
20 to supervise law enforcement officers and ensure that state and federal laws are uniformly and
21 adequately enforced, the Attorney General’s Office initiated an investigation of LASD and the
22 LASD jails. Despite the various reform measures previously attempted, the investigation, which
23 included jail inspections, witness statements, and review of internal LASD records, as well as
24 publicly available information, revealed significant ongoing constitutional violations in the LASD
25 jails, including a significant increase in in-custody deaths, despite decreases in the jail population
26 size; uninhabitable and overcrowded jail facilities with inadequate plumbing, sanitation, and
27 temperature control, which have contributed to multiple deaths; high rates of assault; and failure
28 to provide adequate healthcare to people inside the jails.

1 8. The investigation further revealed systemic problems in the administration and
2 management of the LASD jails. These include, but are not limited to, ineffective and deficient
3 medical and mental healthcare delivery systems that result in the physical and mental degradation
4 of patients, as well as inadequate, outdated, and deficient policies and systems, particularly
5 related to healthcare. Defendants lack adequate data systems to track medical or mental health
6 history information recorded during prior incarcerations, or physical, mental, or intellectual
7 disabilities and related accommodations. Nor are there effective mechanisms to share information
8 between custody and health staff or between detention facilities at local patrol stations and jail
9 reception centers. Defendants also fail to maintain adequate grievance procedures, withholding
10 grievance forms and disregarding grievances that have been submitted. The investigation also
11 revealed systemic issues relating to the training and management of custody and healthcare staff.
12 Defendants fail to meaningfully train and supervise custody and healthcare staff to prevent
13 violations and fail to discipline misconduct by staff. Defendants do not maintain necessary levels
14 of recruitment, hiring, and retention, allowing hundreds of positions for custody and healthcare
15 staff to remain vacant.

16 9. During the course of the Attorney General's investigation, and up to the filing of
17 this Complaint, the Attorney General has attempted to collaborate with Defendants on addressing
18 the identified violations and finding durable solutions, to no avail. Accordingly, on behalf of the
19 people of the State of California, the Attorney General brings this action to curtail Defendants'
20 longstanding and ongoing pattern and practice of rights violations, seeking injunctive and
21 declaratory relief that would require Defendants to implement overarching remedial measures in
22 the LASD jails including, but not limited to: (1) provide minimally adequate medical, dental, and
23 mental health care to incarcerated persons; (2) protect incarcerated persons from an unreasonable
24 risk of harm; (3) provide habitable, humane, and safe conditions of confinement; (4) respect the
25 dignity and health of incarcerated persons; (5) maintain proper grievance procedures; (6) provide
26 reasonable accommodations and equal access to programs, services, and activities for
27 incarcerated persons with disabilities; and (6) provide access to multi-lingual, interpretation, and
28 translation services for incarcerated persons with limited English proficiency.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Article VI, Section 10 of the California Constitution and Code of Civil Procedure section 393.

11. Venue is proper in this County because Defendants are located in Los Angeles County and the events giving rise to this Complaint occurred in Los Angeles County.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff is the People of the State of California. This civil enforcement action is prosecuted on behalf of the People, by and through Rob Bonta, Attorney General of California. The Attorney General is the chief law officer of the state and has the duty to see that the state's laws are uniformly and adequately enforced for the protection of public rights and interests. (Cal. Const., art. V, § 13.) This action is brought under the Attorney General's broad enforcement powers and pursuant to various provisions of state law including Civil Code section 52.3, which provides that the Attorney General "may bring a civil action in the name of the people . . . to eliminate" a "pattern and practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives any person of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the Constitution or laws of the State of California."

13. Defendant County is a county and political subdivision of the State of California, duly organized under the laws of the State of California. Defendant County funds and operates Defendant LASD, an agency of the County and the County's primary law enforcement agency. The County also funds and operates the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, which includes Defendant CHS, the nation's largest county-run correctional health system.

14. Defendant County funds and, through Defendants LASD and CHS, operates the LASD jails, which houses pretrial detainees and convicted persons in the custody of the County. Defendants County, LASD, and CHS are responsible for the care, custody, security, and rehabilitation of all pretrial detainees and convicted persons housed within LASD jail facilities and for the medical, dental, and mental health care provided to them. The County's jail system includes a series of jails, as well as local detention facilities in patrol stations.

15. Defendant Robert G. Luna is the Sheriff of Los Angeles County and the chief

1 executive officer of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Luna or Sheriff). In his
2 capacity as Sheriff, he is responsible for the management and control of all LASD jails and for
3 the health and welfare of all persons in the custody of Defendant County. As such, Defendant
4 Luna is ultimately responsible for the safekeeping of all incarcerated persons in LASD jails.
5 These responsibilities include the operation and administration of all LASD jails, making and
6 enforcing policies, procedures, customs, supervision, and training related to the confinement of
7 incarcerated persons in the jails, station jails, and other County detention facilities. Defendant
8 Luna is sued in his official capacity only.

9 16. Defendant Dr. Timothy Belavich, Ph.D. is the Director of CHS (CHS Director or
10 Dr. Belavich). In his capacity as CHS Director, he is responsible for management and control of
11 the healthcare services, including medical, dental and mental health services, provided to persons
12 in the custody of Defendant County and housed in the LASD jails. As such, Defendant Dr.
13 Belavich is ultimately responsible for the health and welfare of all incarcerated persons in LASD
14 jails. These responsibilities include the operation and administration of CHS, overseeing the
15 provision of healthcare services, including medical, dental, and mental health care within the
16 LASD jails, and for making and enforcing policies, procedures, customs, supervision, and
17 training related to healthcare services. Defendant Dr. Belavich is sued in his official capacity
18 only.

19 17. Plaintiff is not aware of the true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as
20 DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sues those Defendants by fictitious names. Each
21 fictitiously named Defendant is responsible in some manner for the violations of law alleged in
22 this Complaint. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to add the true names of the fictitiously
23 named Defendants once they are discovered.

24 18. Defendants County, LASD, Sheriff, CHS, CHS Director, and DOES 1 to 50 are
25 referred to collectively as "Defendants" throughout, unless specifically stated otherwise.

26 19. Where this Complaint alleges acts or omissions by one or more Defendants, such
27 allegations shall include the acts and omissions of the officers, deputies, agents, employees,
28 contractors, vendors, affiliates and/or representatives of those Defendants while acting within the

1 course and scope of their employment or agency with the Defendants.

2

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

3

I. LASD JAIL FACILITIES AND DEMOGRAPHICS

4

A. Jail Facilities

5 20. Defendants operate the largest jail system in the United States, with an average
6 daily population that consistently exceeds the rated population capacity of the jail system as a
7 whole and the facilities used to house the majority of the incarcerated population. It consists of
8 eight jails throughout Los Angeles County and twenty-four detention areas at patrol stations
9 (Station Jails), which are collectively referred to in this Complaint as the LASD jails. The
10 majority of persons confined in the LASD jails are pretrial detainees. The LASD jails also house
11 some persons who have been convicted, yet remain in County custody awaiting the adjudication
12 of other charges, on a temporary basis awaiting transfers, or until they complete their sentences.

13 21. Men's Central Jail (Men's Central), which houses individuals in general
14 population, administrative segregation, protective custody, and individuals with mild to moderate
15 medical and mental health needs, is located at 441 Bauchet Street, Los Angeles, California 90012.
16 Men's Central was built in 1963 and expanded in 1976. Due to the dilapidated physical condition
17 of the facility and the numerous instances of violence and death within its walls, the Los Angeles
18 County Board of Supervisors voted to shutter Men's Central on at least two separate occasions,
19 most recently in 2020. Men's Central has a rated population capacity of 3,512, with a 2024
20 average daily population of 3,948 males. As of June 2025, the quarterly average daily population
21 was 3,985.

22 22. Twin Towers Correctional Facility (Twin Towers) is located at 450 Bauchet
23 Street, Los Angeles, California 90012, adjacent to Men's Central. The facility was opened in
24 1997. It consists of two high-rise towers and includes the Correctional Treatment Center (CTC).
25 The CTC is a small in-house hospital facility or medical ward that houses individuals with
26 moderate and severe medical and mental health needs, including individuals requiring an
27 inpatient level of care. The facility may occasionally hold female individuals, although Twin
28 Towers generally houses male individuals. Twin Towers has a rated population capacity of 2,432,

1 with a 2024 average daily population of 2,476. As of June 2025, the quarterly average daily
2 population was 2,595.

3 23. The Inmate Reception Center (Reception Center), located adjacent to Twin Towers
4 with the same address, is a temporary holding space used for intake, classification, processing,
5 transferring, and release of male individuals in the County's custody. Since the Reception Center
6 is designated as a temporary holding facility, it does not have a rated population capacity.

7 24. Century Regional Detention Facility (Century Regional), the only female facility
8 in the LASD jails, houses individuals in general population, as well as those with medical and
9 mental health needs ranging from mild to severe. It is located at 11705 South Alameda Street,
10 Lynwood, California 90262. Century Regional includes its own reception center for female
11 individuals being booked into the jails and houses individuals with mental health needs requiring
12 an outpatient level of care. Century Regional has a rated population capacity of 1,708, with a
13 2024 average daily population of 1,310. As of June 2025, the quarterly average daily population
14 was 1,437.

15 25. North County Correctional Facility (North County), which houses higher-security
16 male individuals in general population, protective custody, and disciplinary housing, is located at
17 29340 The Old Road, Castaic, California 91384. The facility's rated capacity is 2,214, with a
18 2024 average daily population of 2,808. As of June 2025, the quarterly average daily population
19 was 3,063.

20 26. Pitchess Detention Center-North (PDC-North), which houses individuals with
21 mild to moderate mental health needs, is located at 29320 The Old Road, Castaic, California
22 91384. The facility's rated capacity is 830, with a 2024 average daily population of 1,197 males.
23 The facility includes housing for individuals with moderate mental health needs and offers
24 Education Based Incarceration (EBI) programs. As of June 2025, the quarterly average daily
25 population was 1,279.

26 27. Pitchess Detention Center-South (PDC-South), which houses lower-security
27 individuals in general population, is located at 29330 The Old Road in Castaic, California 91384.
28 The facility's rated capacity is 782, with a quarterly average daily population of 507 males as of

1 June 2025.

2 28. Pitchess Detention Center-East (PDC-East) is a low-security camp for inmate
3 firefighters, located at 29310 The Old Road, Castaic, California 91384. The facility's rated
4 capacity is 926, with a quarterly average daily population of 10 males as of June 2025.

5 29. LASD also operates 24 Station Jails, where individuals are temporarily housed
6 before being booked into one of the eight LASD Jails. There is no rated capacity for the Station
7 Jails because they are temporary holding spaces.

8 **B. Jail Population and Capacity**

9 30. During the last five years, from January 2020 through March 2025, the facilities
10 used by the County to house the majority of persons in County custody have consistently
11 exceeded their capacity, as rated by the Board of State and Community Corrections. Specifically:

- 12 • Men's Central held an average daily population of 4,049 individuals, despite a rated
13 capacity of 3,509, with no monthly averages below 3,573 and a high of 4,632;
- 14 • Twin Towers held an average daily population of 2,728 individuals, despite a rated
15 capacity of 2,432, with only eight monthly averages dipping below the rated capacity
16 in the 2,337-2,432 range and a high of 3,231;
- 17 • North County held an average daily population of 3,202 individuals, despite a rated
18 capacity of 2,214, with no monthly averages below 2,604 and a high of 4,008; and
- 19 • PDC-North held an average daily population of 1,222 individuals, despite a rated
20 capacity of 830, with no monthly averages below 930 and a high of 1,430.

21 During Plaintiff's investigation, only Century Regional, housing female incarcerated persons, and
22 the two lower security and smaller facilities, PDC-South and PDC-East, regularly held fewer
23 individuals than their rated capacity. Specifically, from 2020 through March 2025, Century
24 Regional held an average daily population of 1,378 individuals, below the rated capacity of 1,708;
25 PDC-South held an average daily population of 806 individuals, above the rated capacity of 708,
26 but fluctuating significantly between a high of 1,405 and a low of 260; and PDC-East held an
27 average daily population of 25 individuals, below the rated capacity of 849.

28 //

1 **C. Population Demographics**

2 31. During the last five years, the annual average population of incarcerated persons
3 identified as having some mental health need ranged from 40 percent to 44 percent of the total
4 population within LASD's Jails. Most recently, as of August 26, 2025, the daily mental health
5 population includes 5,349 male individuals and 1,011 female individuals for a total of 48 percent
6 of the entire incarcerated population. The percentage for the female incarcerated population alone
7 is 67 percent, meaning two thirds of all women incarcerated in the LA jails require access to
8 mental health services.

9 32. The annual average of incarcerated persons requiring a higher level of medical
10 care beyond medication distribution in the housing units ranged from 469 to 532 during
11 Plaintiff's investigation.

12 33. The annual average of incarcerated persons requiring Americans with Disabilities
13 Act (ADA) Housing ranged from 376 to 476 during the last five years. As of June 2025, the
14 number of incarcerated persons with mobility limitations and/or physical disabilities rose to 561.

15 **II. FEDERAL COURT CONSENT DECREES, OVERSIGHT ENTITIES, AND MONITORING OF**
16 **LASD JAILS**

17 34. The LASD jails have a longstanding history of deplorable conditions and
18 constitutional violations. Multiple oversight and monitoring agencies have issued public reports
19 documenting the constitutional violations and, in many cases, have made recommendations to
20 address the problems that Defendants have failed to implement effectively or long term.
21 Defendants and the LASD jails have also been subject to a series injunctions and consent decrees
22 mandating reforms that have, thus far, failed to stem the rights violations occurring in the jails.

23 35. As far back as 1975, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Foundation of
24 Southern California filed a federal class-action lawsuit, *Rutherford v. Luna* (C.D. Cal. No. 2:75-
25 CV-04111), on behalf of incarcerated persons to address unlawful conditions in the LASD jails.
26 As a result of this matter, the County has been subject to oversight for more than 40 years, since
27 1979. Currently, *Rutherford* involves the issue of overcrowding and the related conditions of
28 confinement in the Reception Center, which is governed by a June 2023 Stipulated Order. The

1 Order is not subject to monitoring by an external party and only applies to the Reception Center.

2 36. In 1996, United States Department of Justice (U.S. DOJ) also found that
3 unconstitutional conditions existed in LASD jails, including deliberate indifference to serious
4 mental health needs of incarcerated persons, and made several remedial recommendations. In
5 2002 and in 2015, the U.S. DOJ and County entered into a Memorandum of Agreement and
6 settlement agreement (U.S. DOJ Settlement) respectively, in *United States v. County of Los*
7 *Angeles* (C.D. Cal., No. 2:15-CV-05903), requiring the County to provide adequate mental health
8 services to incarcerated persons. The County was required to implement several reforms
9 including, but not limited to, providing crisis intervention for those at risk of suicide, training
10 custodial staff on the care of incarcerated persons with mental health disabilities, and
11 implementing appropriate suicide observation. In April 2023, after nearly 10 years of monitoring,
12 a federal district court judge found the County's lack of compliance with the provisions of the
13 U.S. DOJ Settlement necessitating the imposition of more specific remedial action and additional
14 implementation measures.

15 37. Two other class actions address aspects of the LASD jails. *Johnson v. County of*
16 *Los Angeles* (C.D. Cal. No. 2:08-CV-03515) is a federal class-action filed in 2008 by the ACLU,
17 Disability Rights Legal Center, and Disability Rights California, involving discrimination against
18 incarcerated persons with mobility disabilities in the jails. The lawsuit was settled on October 30,
19 2014. The settlement applies to all LASD Jails used to permanently house individuals with
20 mobility disabilities, including Men's Central, Twin Towers, and Century Regional. The Office
21 of the Inspector General serves as the monitor for this matter, and more than a decade later, 11
22 provisions remain subject to monitoring, with the possibility of regression on other terms that had
23 been resolved due, in part, to Defendants' practice of housing a significant number of persons
24 with mobility impairments in non-ADA housing without necessary accommodations.

25 38. *Rosas v. County of Los Angeles* (C.D. Cal. No. 2:12-CV-00428) is a federal class
26 action filed in 2012 by the ACLU of Southern California regarding the use of force inside LASD
27 jails. The parties reached an agreement requiring LASD to adopt a plan to reform departmental
28 policies and practices on use of force. Defendants remain out of compliance with significant

1 provisions of the *Rosas* settlement, including relating to accountability for deputies with use of
2 force violations and supervisors who fail to identify and/or appropriately address those violations.

3 39. In addition to court-appointed monitors and settlement agreements, the County has
4 been subject to monitoring by oversight agencies for many years. In 1992, the Kolts Commission,
5 formed at the behest of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, issued a scathing report
6 documenting widespread abuse of authority by LASD deputies and lax discipline, which resulted
7 in the appointment of Special Counsel to the Board of Supervisors for ongoing oversight of the
8 LASD. Over the course of more than twenty years, Special Counsel issued more than 30 semi-
9 annual reports, which included numerous recommendations for reforms in the jails. In the final
10 report, in 2014, Special Counsel observed that, despite some positive changes over the years,
11 “brutality seemed to have festered in the jails” and LASD would be “in far better shape” if
12 “Special Counsel’s recommendations over the last 20 years in the countless areas that it has
13 studied been swiftly addressed.”

14 40. Currently, three oversight agencies monitor the LASD jails. The Sybil Brand
15 Commission, which was founded in 1959 to address overcrowding and conditions of confinement
16 in the LASD jails, conducts inspections of LASD jails and adult courthouse lockups, as
17 authorized by Chapter 2.82 of the Los Angeles County Code. Each of the ten Commissioners may
18 conduct up to two facility inspections per month, and inspection reports are made available to the
19 public. Additionally, Commissioners may assist with inspections at the request of the Office of
20 the Inspector General or Civilian Oversight Commission.

21 41. The Office of the Inspector General provides independent and comprehensive
22 oversight, monitoring of, and reporting about LASD and serves as the investigation arm of the
23 Civilian Oversight Commission. The Office of the Inspector General has documented numerous
24 problems in LASD jails, not limited to overcrowding, unavailability of menstrual products,
25 excessive commissary prices, in-custody deaths, overdoses, and issues with the handling of
26 grievances filed by incarcerated persons. The Office of the Inspector General has also
27 documented multiple areas of concerns involving in-custody deaths, including the quality and
28 timeliness of Code of Regulations, Title 15 safety checks, lack of policies and procedures to

1 respond to multiple people in distress, failure to search persons in custody prior to being
2 transported to and from Court, pill call procedures, and supervision of trustees.

3 42. The Civilian Oversight Commission also oversees the jails as part of its mission to
4 improve public transparency and accountability with respect to LASD, by: (1) providing robust
5 opportunities for community engagement; (2) ongoing analysis and oversight of LASD's policies,
6 practices, procedures; and (3) advice to the Board of Supervisors, LASD, and the public. Among
7 its duties, the Civilian Oversight Commission has authority to use staff of the Office of the
8 Inspector General or its own members or staff to undertake investigations, inquiries, audits, and
9 monitoring, as well as issue subpoenas.

10 43. These legal actions, settlements, and monitoring reports from oversight agencies
11 made Defendants aware and gave them clear notice of the continuing violations in the LASD jails
12 and the necessity of reforms. Nevertheless, Defendants have, over many years, failed to remedy
13 the various conditions, policies, patterns and practices causing substantial risks to the health and
14 safety of persons in County custody.

15 **III. LASD JAILS HAVE BEEN PLAGUED FOR DECADES BY SEVERE, PERSISTENT, AND**
16 **RAMPANT HARMS, WHICH HAVE CREATED CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT THAT FAIL**
17 **TO MEET THE MOST BASIC LEGAL STANDARDS**

18 44. Defendants have repeatedly failed to provide safe and secure housing; adequate
19 medical, dental, and mental health care; and other basic necessities of life. Defendants are
20 deliberately indifferent to the basic needs of persons confined in LASD jails and the substantial
21 risks to the health and safety of those persons stemming from Defendants' persistent failure to
22 meet their basic needs. Defendants' failures have been obvious, notorious and well-documented
23 over many years. The numerous consent decrees, monitoring reports, investigations, oversight
24 and public reports about deplorable conditions and treatment by entities including, but not limited
25 to, the United States Department of Justice, the Office of Inspector General, the ACLU, and the
26 Sybil Brand Commission, since approximately 1975, repeatedly placed Defendants, including the
27 Sheriff and CHS Director, on notice of the ongoing deficiencies and rights violations. Despite
28 their knowledge, Defendants have failed to take necessary and effective corrective action.

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1 **A. LASD Jail Facilities Are Uninhabitable and Unsafe**

2 45. Defendants fail to maintain habitable and sanitary conditions in LASD jails,
3 creating a substantial risk of harm or death to incarcerated persons in County custody.

4 46. As a result of LASD's and CHS's deficient policies and practices regarding
5 maintaining habitable and safe conditions in the LASD jails and Defendants' creation and/or
6 tolerance of obvious habitability and safety deficiencies, incarcerated persons are subject to an
7 ongoing and substantial risk of serious harm or death. Defendants have over many years failed to
8 ensure that the LASD jails meet and maintain the most basic legal standards with respect to
9 habitable and sanitary conditions. Defendants are aware that the jails are dilapidated, deteriorating
10 in infrastructure and continue to allow severe and prolonged uninhabitable and unsanitary
11 conditions such as feces, vermin, mold, inadequate ventilation and air flow, and fire hazards to
12 proliferate and overwhelm the jails.

13 47. The uninhabitable and unsafe conditions of the jails include, but are not limited to,
14 broken or malfunctioning plumbing, insufficient ventilation, and vermin and insect infestations.
15 These conditions create safety hazards to incarcerated persons and staff and inhibit the provision
16 of healthcare. The longstanding issues regarding uninhabitable and unsafe conditions is the result
17 of absent and inadequate policies and other remediation by Defendants.

18 **B. Extreme Temperatures Lead to Debilitating and Degrading Conditions and
19 Make the Jails Ripe for the Spread of Disease**

20 48. Defendants fail to alleviate extreme heat and cold temperatures in the jails and fail
21 to provide appropriate warm clothing to incarcerated persons during these extreme events.

22 49. County oversight agencies, healthcare staff, and persons incarcerated in LASD
23 jails have all reported both extremely cold and extremely hot temperatures in LASD jail facilities,
24 ongoing issues with air conditioning systems, lack of ventilation, and a lack of appropriate
25 clothing for incarcerated persons. During late 2022 and early 2023, two incarcerated persons died
26 from hypothermia inside their cells.

27 50. In *Rutherford v. Luna*, Case No. 2:75-cv-04000-DDP (C.D. Cal.), declarations
28 filed in February 2023 from 23 incarcerated persons inside various LASD jails said they were

1 freezing without blankets and covering themselves with plastic bags to stay warm. The County’s
2 Office of Inspector General monitors “observed people in custody utilizing plastic garbage bags
3 as blankets and sleeping in plastic garbage bins to shelter from the cold.” Sybil Brand
4 Commission inspectors reported on August 29, 2024, that certain areas of Century Regional did
5 not have air or were stiflingly hot. Similar problems of oppressive heat have been experienced at
6 Men’s Central and North County.

7 51. Defendants’ failure to ensure adequate temperature regulation and ventilation in
8 the jails endangers the health and safety of persons confined in the LASD jails by making them
9 more vulnerable to illness and death.

10 C. **The Severe and Prolonged Absence of Sanitation Measures Exposes
11 Incarcerated Persons to Feces, Vermin and Trash that Endangers their
12 Health and Safety**

13 52. Defendants lack adequate sanitation policies and practices to ensure habitable and
14 sanitary conditions in LASD jails and to avoid compromising the health and safety of
15 incarcerated persons. Defendants also fail to take adequate measures to eradicate vermin from the
jails.

16 53. Persons with serious mental health disabilities who are confined in LASD jails are
17 housed for prolonged periods of time in cells that are unsanitary and that pose a risk of serious
18 harm to their health, for example, because of feces smeared on the walls.

19 54. In October 2023, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that, at Men’s Central,
20 inspectors observed rat traps and rat feces in the showers and some cells, trash throughout the
21 floors and in empty cells, and food or some kind of bodily fluid on the walls. In June 2024, the
22 Sybil Brand Commission reported that multiple dorms at Men’s Central were overcrowded with
23 broken toilets, some containing feces that could not be flushed; a urinal that caused “effluence to
24 emerge through the mid-floor drain” when flushed; and ceilings that had been painted over to
25 cover mold.

26 55. On October 10, 2024, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that unsanitary
27 conditions persist at the Reception Center. The Commissioners spoke with incarcerated persons at
28 the Reception Center, all of whom reported that they had not received a hygiene package since

1 their arrival, some for weeks. They also complained of inadequate provisions of toilet paper. The
2 Commissioners noted that they found it difficult to breathe, with one of the Commissioners
3 suffering breathing difficulties even after exiting the unit. Each of the individuals the
4 Commissioners spoke with also reported suffering from insect bites, and the Commissioners
5 observed cockroaches in the cells. The individuals also complained of rats. For an inspection of
6 Twin Towers on March 6, 2025, the Sybil Brand Commission inspectors reported multiple non-
7 functioning toilets, mattresses without required plastic covers, visible mold on walls, and what
8 appeared to be blood on walls and a mattress. These are the kinds of problems the Commissioners
9 have reported to the Watch Commanders and the Commission on every visit. By those direct
10 reports and the Sybil Brand Commission's public reports, Defendants are on notice of these
11 unsanitary conditions.

12 56. As recently as July 2025, the Sybil Brand Commission reported continued
13 unsanitary conditions at Twin Towers. One Commissioner noted a trail of blood on the floor at
14 Twin Towers, which they were advised had been there for weeks. The Commissioners also noted
15 multiple instances of raw sewage on the floor at Men's Central. In one instance, the
16 Commissioners were denied access to a cell in which incarcerated persons were housed on the
17 grounds that it was unsafe. In another instance, at the Reception Center, the Commissioners had
18 to ask for an inmate to be moved out of a cell where there was sewage on the floor.

19 D. **Inadequate Access to Basic Supplies, Clean Clothing and Linens, and**
20 **Personal Hygiene Products**

21 57. Compounding the sanitation and habitability issues in LASD jails, Defendants
22 inhumanely deprive incarcerated persons of the ability to maintain basic personal hygiene and
23 cleanliness. LASD jails staff regularly fail to provide incarcerated persons with personal hygiene
24 products, menstrual products, showers, hair care services, laundry services, and adequate and
25 clean clothing and bedding. Some incarcerated persons do not have any mattresses, while others
26 have mattresses with mold or mattresses that are degrading in quality.

27 58. Code of Regulations, title 15, section 1265, requires Defendants to provide
28 personal care items, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, soap, combs, and shaving

1 implements, often referred to as an “indigent kit” or “fish kit,” to each person to be held over 24
2 hours who is unable to pay for these personal items because of either indigence or the absence of
3 a canteen. Defendants routinely fail to comply with this regulation by not providing personal
4 hygiene products at the time of initial housing or for months. The Office of the Inspector General
5 and the Sybil Brand Commission have routinely reported on a lack of basic supplies, such as soap
6 and toilet paper.

7 59. Instead of providing the necessary materials to maintain personal hygiene, LASD
8 charges indigent incarcerated persons for hygiene kits from the funds given to incarcerated people
9 by their friends and family for commissary. However, personal hygiene items are frequently out
10 of stock and unavailable to order; when available, they are sold to people in custody at significant
11 markups.

12 60. Persons confined in LASD jails are routinely denied sufficient access to showers.
13 Often, incarcerated persons are not given access to showers for multiple days, weeks, or more,
14 despite requirements in state law and LASD’s policy manual that incarcerated persons be able to
15 shower at least every other day. According to reports, deputies also turn off showers as a form of
16 retaliation.

17 61. Persons confined in LASD jails do not receive sufficient clean clothing, and
18 laundry services for clothing. Persons confined in LASD jails also often lack access to sheets and
19 towels and laundry services for bedding and linens.

20 62. LASD has engaged in a pattern or practice of failing to provide sufficient
21 mattresses. At the Reception Center, incarcerated persons often sleep on the floor for longer than
22 24 hours without blankets or pillows, in cold temperatures. For example, at North County and
23 Twin Towers in 2022, the Sybil Brand Commission observed and received complaints of
24 incarcerated persons not having mattresses. In December 2022, a Sybil Brand Commission
25 member reported that at Men’s Central, which houses incarcerated persons with mental health
26 disabilities in a compressed living space with triple-bunk beds spaced shoulder-width apart, there
27 was a three-day waiting period to receive mattresses.

28 63. Defendants also regularly fail to provide menstrual products, including sanitary

1 napkins, panty liners, and tampons, to persons in custody who need them in the LASD jails.
2 Incarcerated persons have reported that they do not have ready access to menstrual products and
3 have also stated that deputies ration menstrual products, unilaterally deciding whether or not to
4 distribute additional supplies. Despite the enactment of the Reproductive Dignity for Incarcerated
5 People Act in 2024, and Defendants' awareness of their failures in this area, these violations have
6 gone uncorrected.

7 64. Defendants also deprive incarcerated persons with mental health disabilities of
8 hygiene supplies. In March 2023, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that deputies label
9 incarcerated persons who are presumed to have mental health disabilities as "hostile" and then
10 deprive those incarcerated persons of the means to maintain personal hygiene as a form of
11 punishment or discipline for behavior that may be symptomatic of mental health disabilities, all
12 without consulting mental health clinicians.

13 65. Further compounding these issues, LASD does not address grievances regarding
14 the lack of personal hygiene products, clothing, or mattresses.

15 **E. Moldy, Inedible, and Inappropriate Food Results in Preventable Illnesses**

16 66. Defendants have repeatedly subjected incarcerated persons to a substantial risk of
17 serious harm or death by supplying inedible, low nutrition meals to incarcerated persons. LASD
18 routinely fails to meet minimum standards regarding food preparation, nutrition, medical diets,
19 and diets for pregnant persons.

20 67. The food provided in LASD jails has been, variously, expired, moldy, filled with
21 maggots or worms, or otherwise inedible. Even when edible, meals provided by Defendants lack
22 adequate nutritional value, with most meals consisting primarily of highly processed
23 carbohydrates and minimal protein, with very little variation from meal to meal. Numerous
24 individuals in the jails have reported receiving only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches with
25 carrots, chips, and milk for the majority of their meals.

26 68. Defendants also fail to provide appropriate meals to persons on medical diets and
27 pregnant and lactating people. Even when persons with diabetes, HIV, kidney failure, and other
28 chronic conditions are medically pre-approved for special diets, Defendants fail to provide or

1 delay the provision of appropriate special diets for those conditions. The Sybil Brand
2 Commission reported that in addition to instances of dietary restrictions being ignored, persons in
3 LASD jails are required to wait until they arrive at “permanent” housing before receiving a
4 medically approved diet.

5 **F. Incarcerated Persons Are Deprived of Safe Drinking Water**

6 69. Defendants have subjected incarcerated persons to a substantial risk of serious
7 harm or death by failing to supply safe drinking water.

8 70. Drinking fountains, providing potable water, are regularly non-functioning, such
9 that persons confined in LASD jails are forced to drink dirty water straight from the faucet next to
10 their toilets, or other water unsafe for human consumption.

11 71. Many incarcerated persons are also left without any drinking water, as the faucets
12 in their cells are broken or turned off by LASD staff. For example, in July 2022, Sybil Brand
13 Commissioners and leadership from CHS visited Men’s Central and found one dormitory without
14 a single functional, sanitary drinking fountain. They also discovered that there was no open
15 maintenance order to repair the water fountains.

16 72. Incarcerated persons have also reported that the drinking water smells like
17 chlorine, and that there are worms in the sink faucets and showers.

18 **G. Pregnant Incarcerated Persons Are Denied Necessities and Humane
19 Treatment, Putting Their Pregnancies at Risk**

20 73. Defendants have subjected pregnant persons in County custody to a substantial
21 risk of serious harm or death by failing to provide sufficient filtered water, adequately nutritious
22 and filling prenatal diets, and timely and appropriate reproductive health care. For example, in
23 January 2022, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that pregnant persons confined in LASD
24 jails were being shackled to one another while being transported, that they lacked access to
25 sufficient clean water, that the food they received was not consistent with a prenatal diet, that they
26 were given inadequate exercise time, and that education related to pregnancy and birthing was
27 insufficient.

28 74. Code of Regulations, title 15, section 1248 requires local detention facilities to

1 provide pregnant and lactating people with a balanced, nutritious diet approved by a doctor. Yet,
2 pregnant persons in County custody are provided insufficient water and prenatal diets.

3 75. Defendants also fail to provide pregnancy tests upon request or have delayed
4 providing such tests for over a month. They have failed to provide adequate and timely medical
5 care relating to pregnancies and have failed to ensure post-release services for pregnant persons
6 who are released from LASD jails.

7 76. Defendants' treatment of pregnant persons results in serious harm. For example,
8 one pregnant woman at Century Regional complained that she was experiencing pain and
9 requested to see a doctor. LASD personnel and CHS medical staff were made aware of her
10 request, but delayed responding. She was eventually taken to a hospital where her baby died. In
11 another incident, the Los Angeles Times reported on jail surveillance clips that had been made
12 public in June 2023, including a clip of a woman sitting in a wheelchair that had been left in a jail
13 hallway. Upon giving birth, her newborn baby fell onto the floor of the jail hallway. The woman
14 appeared unable to reach down to pick up the child or move her arms because her arms appeared
15 to be affixed to the arms of the wheelchair. Another pregnant woman at Century Regional
16 complained that she was left bleeding for 14 days despite her requests for medical assistance. She
17 also claimed that medical staff pressured her to sign authorization paperwork to terminate her
18 pregnancy.

19 **H. Defendants Limit Access to Out-Of-Cell Time, Education Programs, and
20 Other Services Leading to Excessive Isolation and Mental Deterioration**

21 77. Defendants have engaged in a pattern or practice of failing to give incarcerated
22 persons at least 10 hours of out-of-cell time over a seven-day period, as required by Code of
23 Regulations, title 15, section 1065.

24 78. Even in areas where LASD's policies require more out-of-cell time, such as at
25 Century Regional and in High Observation Housing units, Defendants fail to follow their own
26 policies. For example, incarcerated persons in Moderate Observation Housing at Century
27 Regional are only allowed out of their cells for one hour or one-and-one half hours depending on
28 the deputy on duty in the module, despite LASD's policy requiring two hours of out-of-cell time

1 per day for individuals at Century Regional. Incarcerated persons in the Forensic Inpatient Unit,
2 housing those with the most severe mental health needs, receive no out-of-cell time.

3 79. Defendants have also engaged in a pattern or practice of failing to give
4 incarcerated persons access to educational programs and library services, as required by Code of
5 Regulations, title 15, sections 1061 and 1064, leading to unacceptable levels of isolation and
6 mental deterioration. Incarcerated persons face numerous barriers to accessing educational
7 programming, including security classifications, delays in enrollment, and long waitlists, course
8 accessibility and availability, and deputies withholding access to classes as a form of punishment.
9 Incarcerated persons at Twin Towers and PDC-North have no access to library services. Deputies
10 at Century Regional have been known to limit programming as a form of harassment or
11 retaliation against incarcerated persons. Further, Defendants house incarcerated persons in the
12 dayrooms of the housing modules, making the space unavailable for incarcerated persons to use
13 during out-of-cell time or programming.

14 **I. Defendants Conduct Inadequate and Untimely Safety Checks, Failing to
15 Ensure the Safety of Incarcerated Persons**

16 80. Defendants routinely fail to conduct adequate and timely safety checks of
17 incarcerated persons, as required by Code of Regulations, title 15, section 1027.5. Defendants
18 also fail to adequately respond to incarcerated persons in distress during safety checks. These
19 deficiencies subject incarcerated persons to a substantial risk of harm and death.

20 81. Code of Regulations, title 15 and LASD policy require safety checks to be
21 conducted at least hourly through direct visual observation of all incarcerated persons, to
22 determine the safety and well-being of incarcerated persons. Safety checks are to be conducted
23 more frequently for incarcerated persons in safety cells and sobering cells, for incarcerated
24 persons in restraints, and for incarcerated persons in medical or mental health housing. For
25 incarcerated persons in sobering cells and medical or mental health housing, intermittent direct
26 visual observation shall be conducted no less than every 30 minutes. However, LASD jail
27 personnel routinely fail to conduct safety checks on time, or at all. For example, in 2023, the
28 Board of State and Community Corrections found that a significant number of Safety Check Logs

1 exceeded the 60-minute lapse between safety checks. LASD jail personnel also regularly miss
2 mandatory safety checks. Moreover, LASD does not have a uniform policy regarding safety
3 checks for all Station Jails, leaving each Station Jail to implement their own version of what
4 constitutes a timely and adequate safety check, absent any accountability from LASD leadership.

5 82. Defendants' failure to conduct safety checks at the required intervals has led to
6 tragic, preventable deaths. In one case, LASD deputies failed to conduct adequate safety checks
7 for four hours, for an individual who had previously attempted suicide. Deputies missed five
8 safety checks and were late on the remaining three checks during the four-hour period, allowing
9 the decedent to commit suicide. According to reports, the deputies who were responsible for the
10 safety checks were watching videos on county computers during the missed safety checks.

11 83. LASD jail personnel also fail to conduct safety checks at random or varied
12 intervals, as required by Title 15 and LASD policy. LASD personnel use countdown clocks with
13 set intervals, allowing incarcerated persons to predict the time of the next safety check, resulting
14 in violence and preventable deaths. In one example, an incarcerated person was killed by another
15 incarcerated person in an attack that lasted approximately 15 minutes, the full length of time
16 between the applicable safety checks in that instance.

17 84. Even when LASD personnel conduct safety checks within the requisite timeframe,
18 they are often not of sufficient quality to assess each individual for signs of life. LASD jail staff
19 conducting safety checks routinely walk past cells without stopping or looking inside, focusing
20 only on the scanner used to document safety checks. Defendants also fail to investigate
21 indications of distress or possible emergencies. For example, in several jail deaths from 2022 to
22 2023, video surveillance footage showed that the deputy stopped longer than usual in front of the
23 decedent's cell, but the deputy did not open the door to investigate further, and the incarcerated
24 persons were later found unresponsive during subsequent checks.

25 85. LASD jails personnel also regularly fail to timely respond to violence between
26 incarcerated persons or other emergency situations when conducting safety checks, resulting in
27 injuries, if not serious harm or death.

28 86. For years, Defendants have demonstrated a pattern of untimely, missed, and

1 inadequate safety checks, subjecting persons in County custody to serious harm and death,
2 including, but not limited to at least eleven deaths from 2018 to 2024 involving untimely, missed,
3 and/or inadequate safety checks. For example, two suicides occurred three days apart in
4 December 2022, in a nearly identical manner in the showers at the CTC, due to inadequate safety
5 checks. Despite being well aware of the circumstances of the first death, nothing was done to
6 prevent the second death.

7 87. For years, LASD jails personnel have over relied on predictable and perfunctory
8 safety checks and have regularly failed to maintain the level of safety and security necessary to
9 protect incarcerated persons from violence. For example: (1) In May 2022, an incarcerated person
10 was stabbed inside their cell without any jail personnel noticing until he was found during the
11 following safety check; (2) In January 2022, an incarcerated person was killed by their cellmate at
12 Men's Central; however, his body was not discovered until deputies conducted the next round of
13 safety checks; (3) Similarly, in August 2020, an incarcerated person was killed by their cellmate
14 at Men's Central, but their body was not discovered by deputies until the following safety check;
15 and (4) In August 2018, an incarcerated person was attacked after being placed in a cell with a
16 rival gang member, resulting in a fight that deputies watched from the deputy station for over
17 three minutes.

18 88. Despite notice of these violations, Defendants have failed to provide adequate
19 training, policies, and direction to jail personnel on how to prevent, appropriately respond to, and
20 document violence between incarcerated persons or other emergency situations when conducting
21 safety checks. LASD has admitted that they do not have enough staffing to perform timely and
22 adequate safety checks. Due to inadequate training, policies, and practices, LASD personnel: (1)
23 do not timely respond to violent incidents at the jails; (2) allow security lapses that endanger
24 incarcerated people; (3) fail to appropriately intervene when assaults and security breaches occur;
25 and (4) fail to appropriately monitor the well-being of incarcerated people.

26 89. By failing to perform required safety checks and otherwise engaging in a pattern
27 and practice of deliberate indifference to the substantial risk of serious harm to persons confined
28 in LASD jails, Defendants have failed to maintain the safety and security of persons in their

1 custody, to whom they owe a constitutional duty to protect from both self-harm and violence.

2

3 **J. Defendants Fail to Prevent Dangerous Contraband in LASD Jails Resulting**
in Overdoses and Deaths

4 90. Persons confined in LASD jails face an unreasonable risk of death or serious harm
5 from drug contraband and other dangerous contraband in LASD jails, which Defendants fail to
6 detect and prevent despite a long history of harms resulting from contraband.

7 91. According to data presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in
8 December 2023, from 2018 to 2022, there was an average of 37.8 deaths in the LASD jails each
9 year, and approximately 20 percent of those deaths were due to an overdose.

10 92. Despite this, Defendants have inadequate policies and practices to detect and
11 prevent contraband from entering LASD jails. LASD fails to conduct comprehensive and
12 consistent searches of custody staff and civilians who work inside the jails and fails to adequately
13 train staff how to detect and prevent contraband from entering the jails.

14 93. Defendants also routinely fail to investigate the source of drugs that contribute to
15 overdose deaths in the jails or take corrective actions to prevent the future inflow of drugs into the
16 jails. During in-custody death reviews for suspected or known overdoses, Defendants do not
17 discuss how the contraband entered the jails, describe any investigation regarding the source of
18 contraband, or propose any corrective actions to prevent contraband from entering the jails in the
19 future.

20 94. Defendants' failure to detect and prevent the inflow of contraband in LASD jails
21 results in serious harm and death on an ongoing basis.

22 **IV. OVERCROWDING IN LASD JAILS CREATES AN UNREASONABLE RISK OF SERIOUS HARM**
AND DEATH

24 95. Defendants have failed and continue to fail to take effective measures to address
25 overcrowding in the LASD jails, which contributes to the inhumane conditions in the jails and
26 endangers the health and safety of persons in County custody.

27 96. For many years, LASD jails have exceeded their rated capacity as set forth by the
28 Board of State and Community Corrections. Most recently, the Office of the Inspector General

1 reported on February 26, 2025, that the number of people incarcerated at Men's Central, PDC-
2 North and North County well exceeded the capacity rated by the Board of State and Community
3 Corrections. In a previous 2022 report, the Office of the Inspector General acknowledged the
4 obvious, that "overcrowding in the Los Angeles County Jails continues to jeopardize the ability of
5 the Sheriff's Department to provide humane conditions of confinement as required by the Eighth
6 and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution."

7 97. In September 2021, a report commissioned by the County Board of Supervisors
8 based on a comprehensive analysis of the jail system and population reduction initiatives
9 observed:

10 [T]here is considerable evidence that the current level of crowding is producing a
11 wide array of negative effects for staff and incarcerated persons alike. The LASD
12 and its medical and mental health partners are not meeting minimum levels of
13 mental health care Further the official inmate-on-inmate assault rate is high.
14 ... 17-18% of the current jail population is assaulted within a year of confinement.
This rate is five times the rate for the [California Department of Corrections and
15 Rehabilitation]. ... Collectively these data strongly suggest that the current jail
system is unsafe for staff and incarcerated persons alike, and the population needs
16 to be rapidly reduced to meet 90 percent of the [BSCC] bed capacity levels...

17 98. On a daily basis, Defendants have to move incarcerated persons around the LASD
18 jails to make room for housing, create overflows where none existed before, and stretch existing
19 housing units beyond capacity in order to accommodate the high population numbers. This has
resulted in violence and assaults among incarcerated persons, including numerous homicides in
the LASD jails.

20 99. Additionally, overcrowding in the LASD jails exacerbates deprivations stemming
21 from Defendants' already limited resources. For example, nearly 40 percent of LASD's court
22 transportation buses, which are used to take incarcerated persons to court, medical appointments,
23 and state prison, were out of service as of April 23, 2022. It has been reported that, on some days,
24 only six of LASD's eighty-two court transportation buses are running. The lack of functioning
25 buses has resulted in numerous incarcerated persons missing critical court dates and meetings
26 with their attorneys, causing them to stay in jail longer. As of March 21, 2024, the lack of
27 functional court transportation buses caused up to one-third of people incarcerated in the LASD
28 jails to miss court appearances.

1 100. The overcrowding in the LASD jails disproportionately affects incarcerated
2 persons with mental health and other disabilities.

3 101. To make room for mental health housing, Defendants have relocated Moderate
4 Observation Housing from Twin Towers to general population dorms in Men's Central, which is
5 above maximum capacity and has an increased risk of violence and assaults.

6 102. To accommodate the large population of persons with serious mental health
7 disabilities, LASD resorts to housing people with the highest mental health acuity levels, and
8 many of whom have other co-occurring disabilities, in cramped, locked cells together for
9 sometimes 23 hours a day, seven days a week, without any meaningful opportunity for
10 rehabilitative programming, education, or out-of-cell recreation.

11 103. In July 2023, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that the settings and staff
12 interactions in the mental health dorms at Men's Central are not trauma-informed in accordance
13 with best practices. According to the report, “[p]eople are housed in overcrowded warehouse-like
14 spaces on triple-bunks that are often shrouded in sheets or towels for a modicum of privacy.” The
15 Commissioners routinely found dorms holding up to 87 people, even though state law requires
16 that dormitories house no more than 64 people.

17 104. The lack of available mental health housing in the LASD jails has contributed to
18 the overall overcrowding in the jails and Reception Center and prevents incarcerated persons with
19 mental health disabilities from transferring out of the Reception Center in a timely manner. The
20 main clinic waiting area at Reception Center is often overcrowded with incarcerated persons
21 waiting to be assessed by CHS medical and mental health staff and to be transferred to permanent
22 housing. Additionally, there are often 10 to 15 persons in each of the overflow cells, and many of
23 these persons are in those cells for more than a day without air conditioning. In order to sleep,
24 incarcerated persons have to lay down on the benches and floors with little to no room left
25 between them.

26 105. CHS Director Dr. Belavich, has repeatedly said in public forums, including the
27 September 2022 Sybil Brand Commission meeting, that “[t]he acuity and the sheer number [of
28 people with a mental illness] have made it such that it's impossible to provide adequate treatment

1 in this facility or in the jail system.” Similarly, when discussing the mental health protocols,
2 access to mental health, and delay in mental health services during a meeting with the Sybil
3 Brand Commission in September 2022, the CHS Director described “a broken system.” In one
4 instance in 2023, two medical emergencies occurred within minutes of each other at Men’s
5 Central. CHS blamed low staffing and resources for their inability to adequately respond to both
6 emergencies and had to prioritize one person, resulting in the other person’s death. Defendants
7 have been overwhelmed by the ballooning population, leading to significant delays in, and blatant
8 denial of, necessary care to those with serious medical and mental health needs.

9 106. Overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in the Reception Center create delays in
10 medical and mental health care, which result in the deterioration of the physical and mental health
11 of incarcerated persons. Overcrowding in the Reception Center also delays permanent housing
12 assignments, which further exposes persons to inadequate conditions of confinement and
13 programming. Incarcerated persons are being kept for hours or days in overcrowded conditions
14 with no access to showers or basic hygiene products. For example, on one date in December
15 2022, there were over 100 incarcerated persons waiting in the Reception Center for a medical
16 evaluation and over 70 incarcerated persons waiting for a mental health evaluation. An additional
17 49 individuals were waiting in an overflow module to be assessed. Overcrowding in the
18 Reception Center cells where persons are packed in shoulder-to-shoulder for extended periods of
19 time exposes them to intolerable conditions of confinement, safety risks, and untreated health
20 needs.

21 107. On June 28, 2022, the Board of Supervisors stated:

22 The number of people being processed in the [Reception Center] is increasing to
23 concerning levels that are resulting in people being held at the [Reception Center],
24 a temporary holding area, well over the mandated 20 hours. This is particularly
affecting people with mental health needs who are, depending on their severity,
waist chained to a bench, wearing nothing but a suicide vest.
25 By way of example, on June 7, 2022, a 72-year-old incarcerated person collapsed while waiting
26 for intake at the Reception Center. This individual had been at the Reception Center for two days
27 without being evaluated for housing by a medical provider.

28 108. Contributing further to overcrowding in LASD jails, Defendants have a pattern

1 and practice of holding incarcerated persons in custody beyond their release dates, including
2 those who are entitled to release pursuant to a court order, those for whom charges have not been
3 filed, and those whose charges have been dismissed by the district attorney. Persons deemed
4 incompetent to stand trial often wait for months to be transferred to a state hospital. In a March
5 2024 report, Disability Rights California found that people with mental health disabilities who are
6 in mental health conservatorships are being held in the jails even after their criminal charges are
7 dropped. According to the JFA Institute, length of stay is the major contributor to the County's
8 jail population and is significantly longer than in other jurisdictions.

9 109. Despite longstanding knowledge of overcrowding in LASD jails and the resulting
10 harms and unreasonable risk of harm to the health and safety of persons in County custody,
11 Defendants have not undertaken actions to reduce the population in the jails to 90 percent of the
12 capacity rated by the Board of State and Community Corrections. According to LASD data, 48
13 percent of the jail population has mental health issues. A 2020 study found that at least 61 percent
14 of the mental health population in the jails, adding up to almost 3,900 persons, can be diverted out
15 of the jail. Despite this, the County continually fails to provide sufficient funding and resources to
16 the Office of Diversion and Reentry to generate the community infrastructure that can divert
17 people safely from the jails and create the reentry network necessary to prevent recidivism and
18 provide continuity of medical and mental health treatment.

19 **V. FAILURE TO PROVIDE CONSTITUTIONALLY ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE TO**
20 **INCARCERATED PERSONS**

21 110. Persons confined in LASD jails are entirely dependent on Defendants for their
22 healthcare and treatment of all medical, dental, and mental health conditions. Defendants LASD
23 and CHS are jointly responsible for ensuring access to medical, mental health, and dental care, as
24 acknowledged in their policies. This joint responsibility requires both Defendants LASD and
25 CHS to comply with the statutory guidelines and regulations enacted for the protection of
26 incarcerated persons. However, the custodial healthcare system in the LASD jails is grossly
27 inadequate and subjects all incarcerated persons to a substantial risk of serious harm, including
28 unnecessary pain and suffering, preventable injury, and death.

1 **A. Failure To Adequately Identify and Treat Incarcerated Persons at Intake and**
2 **Initial Screening Results in Physical and Mental Deterioration or Death**

3 111. Defendants have a pattern and practice of failing to adequately identify and treat
4 the medical, dental, and mental health needs of newly arrived incarcerated persons at the Station
5 Jails and during the initial screening and intake process at the reception centers.

6 112. LASD controls 24 different Station Jails across the County where thousands of
7 detainees with serious medical, dental, and mental health needs each year are held post-arrest
8 while awaiting transfer to the jail reception centers. All persons booked into LASD jails enter
9 through one of the two reception centers: the men enter through the Reception Center at Twin
10 Towers, and the women are processed at Century Regional. The Reception Center at Twin
11 Towers processes approximately 120,000 people a year.

12 113. Defendants do not hire and assign medical or mental health professionals to
13 provide care or conduct screenings at Stations Jails. Other than cardiopulmonary resuscitation
14 training, LASD personnel at Station Jails receive no medical or mental health training. Such
15 personnel are unqualified and ill-equipped to identify and monitor detainees with medical or
16 mental health conditions requiring treatment or surveillance. Without medical or mental health
17 training, LASD personnel at Station Jails rely on “visual examinations” to attempt to identify
18 conditions requiring immediate treatment. This perfunctory scan by individuals with no medical
19 training can be the difference between life-saving treatment and death.

20 114. Once an incarcerated person arrives at the LASD jails, Defendants often fail to
21 properly and accurately assess health acuity levels at intake, in violation of Code of Regulations,
22 Title 15, section 1207 requirements for medical receiving screenings. This leads to lapses in
23 ensuring that incarcerated persons receive consistent and necessary healthcare services following
24 intake. For example, an independent monitor appointed by U.S. DOJ to oversee jail conditions
25 expressed “concern” in Fall 2021 that his team “has continued to find patients with urgent or
26 emergent conditions that were likely present at the time of the intake screening that should have
27 been detected during a standard intake process but were not detected.”

28 115. Defendants’ pattern or practice of failing to identify and treat medical and mental

1 health conditions at intake exposes persons in County custody to a serious risk of harm or death,
2 including deaths from alcohol intoxication and drug overdose soon after arrest.

3

4 **B. The Lack of Centralized Access to Medical and Mental Health Records in the
LASD Jails Results in Serious Harm or Death**

5 116. Defendants routinely fail to consider medical or mental health history recorded
6 during prior incarcerations, such that serious but treatable medical and mental health conditions
7 known to Defendants and previously documented by LASD and/or CHS go undetected and
8 unaddressed during decision-making about classification, housing, and other important decisions
9 made at intake. In January 2021, an incarcerated person died by suicide at Men's Central, after
10 having been previously incarcerated approximately seven times from 2019 to 2020. During each
11 of the prior incarcerations, he was housed at Twin Towers due to his extensive history with
12 mental illness and multiple prior suicide attempts, according to his family. Decedent's family
13 filed a lawsuit against the County, which settled for \$2,500,000.

14 117. Defendants also fail to ensure that medical and mental health information is
15 transferred from the Station Jails to the jail reception centers. Incarcerated persons are expected to
16 self-report medical and mental health conditions during the screening at Station Jails, then repeat
17 the same process once they arrive at the reception centers, resulting in haphazard and inconsistent
18 reporting.

19 118. CHS also lacks access to critical LASD custody information relevant to the
20 delivery of medical and mental health care, including the Reception Center waitlist and all
21 electronic databases maintained by custody staff. For example, if a detainee presents behavioral
22 health issues at a Station Jail, LASD personnel complete a Behavioral Observation and Mental
23 Health Referral Form, which is transferred along with the detainee to the appropriate jail
24 reception center and stored in the electronic database. However, CHS does not have access to the
25 same electronic database, meaning medical and mental health staff may be making assessments
26 without relevant information that is already in LASD's possession. Similarly, because CHS lacks
27 access to the Reception Center waitlist, medical and mental health staff do not know how long a
28 newly arrived individual has been waiting for a medical and/or mental health evaluation.

1 **C. Lack of Access to Prescribed Medication at the Reception Center Results in**
2 **Serious Harm or Death**

3 119. Incarcerated persons waiting in the Reception Center have no access to
4 medications they were prescribed prior to arrival at the LASD jails or to medically prescribed
5 diets, which prevents CHS from managing and administrating medically necessary
6 pharmaceuticals. This has led to untimely and preventable near-deaths and injuries. In one tragic
7 instance, jail staff at Men's Central failed to provide an incarcerated person his scheduled
8 medication causing him to suffer a major stroke. In another instance, a man with Alzheimer's and
9 dementia diagnoses was arrested by LASD deputies in June 2022 and died within several days of
10 being taken into custody. LASD received immediate notification from family of the necessity of
11 his daily medication to ensure that he would "know where he was or what was happening," yet
12 the man was neither given his medication nor taken to the hospital. He was housed in general
13 population at Men's Central and then transferred to Twin Towers, where he was found
14 unresponsive in his cell three days after his arrest.

15 120. CHS lacks adequate policies and practices to prevent gaps in medication for
16 persons entering the jails with community-prescribed medications. When a prescription or supply
17 of medication has lapsed, incarcerated persons have waited for months for an appointment with a
18 CHS medical provider or clinician to renew the prescription. Defendants have also failed to create
19 an organized and consistent system for distributing medications, resulting in CHS staff giving out
20 medications that are mislabeled, have no label, are inaccurately measured, or are the wrong
21 medication. Most of the jail facilities have a machine that pre-packages prescribed medications.
22 However, at North County and Pitchess Detention Center, medications are poured by hand by
23 CHS nursing staff, because the facility does not have a machine to pre-package medications. The
24 practice of pouring medications by hand exposes incarcerated persons to increased risk of
25 receiving the wrong medication and experiencing serious harm.

26 **D. Defendants Fail to Identify, Treat, and Monitor Recently Incarcerated**
27 **Persons Under the Influence of Alcohol and Drugs, at Risk of Withdrawal,**
28 **and at Risk of Suicide, Resulting in Serious Harm and Death**

29 121. Defendants have a pattern and practice of failing to provide adequate medical care

1 and monitoring to recently arrested persons who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, who
2 are at risk of experiencing drug or alcohol withdrawal while in custody, or who may attempt
3 suicide, which has directly led to serious harm as well as preventable deaths.

4 122. As a result of deficient policies and training, Defendants place detainees who are
5 presumed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs into sobering cells in Station Jails without
6 performing a medical assessment. In some instances, LASD personnel also fail to recognize when
7 a detainee is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

8 123. LASD personnel fail to perform adequate Code of Regulations, Title 15 safety
9 checks or maintain direct constant observation of detainees in Station Jails who are under the
10 influence or detoxing from alcohol or drugs. The layout of some Station Jails prevents direct
11 observation of detainees in sobering cells, and the sobering cells generally do not have video
12 surveillance.

13 124. Defendants also fail to provide adequate detoxification or withdrawal treatment for
14 recently incarcerated persons and fail to provide adequate treatment and monitoring to persons
15 with substance use disorders (SUDs). The accepted standard of care for treating SUDs is an
16 approach known as Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). Defendants limit access to the MAT
17 program. Although MAT is known to prevent opioid related overdose and deaths and reduce
18 recidivism, CHS has an exceedingly long waitlist and has failed to offer continued maintenance
19 of medication. Persons in custody who have overdosed report not having access to MAT or
20 receiving their initial dose of the medication but then being placed on a waitlist for access to
21 follow-up medication, with a delay possibly causing a relapse and avoidable withdrawal
22 symptoms.

23 125. Furthermore, Defendants have utterly failed at protecting incarcerated persons and
24 custody personnel from exposure to narcotic substances in the jails. On October 29, 2024, there
25 was a mass incident of suspected drug overdose in Dorm 5600 of Men's Central where seven
26 incarcerated people were hospitalized, including one in critical condition. Seven custody deputies
27 were themselves taken to the hospital upon experiencing symptoms related to the suspected
28 overdose incident. This followed an earlier mass overdose incident at the Men's Central Jail on

1 October 8, 2024, where an incarcerated person died and seven others were hospitalized. Just
2 months before that in 2024, at least seven incarcerated people overdosed at Century Regional,
3 requiring all of them to receive emergency medical treatment at a nearby hospital.

4 126. Defendants know that drug overdose incidents endanger the health and safety of
5 incarcerated persons and LASD personnel, yet have made no meaningful efforts to improve
6 tracking for narcotics recovery in the LASD jails or to address the unconscionable mass overdose
7 incidents that are occurring inside the LASD jails.

8 127. Defendants also fail to provide adequate suicide precautions at Station Jails for
9 recently arrested detainees who are deemed to be a suicide risk and who are awaiting transport to
10 a jail reception center. Since there are no mental health professionals at Station Jails, detainees
11 who express suicidal ideation are supposed to be transported to a jail reception center. However,
12 transportation to a jail reception center can potentially take hours or even days depending on the
13 availability of LASD personnel. Meanwhile, LASD personnel place detainees who express
14 suicidal ideation in a cell at the Station Jails, without direct constant observation by LASD
15 personnel or video surveillance inside the cell.

16 128. In one notable death, an arrestee who was booked and placed in a holding cell at
17 Industry Station Jail in November 2018, was given no medical evaluation or attention from the
18 time of his arrest through the time of his death. Arresting officers did not advise station personnel
19 of concerns expressed by the decedent's family that the arrestee required medical attention and
20 should be sent to a hospital. Early the following morning, decedent hung himself in jail, less than
21 nine hours after being arrested. Decedent's family filed a lawsuit against LASD that settled for
22 \$1,900,000.

23 E. **Defendants Fail to Timely and Adequately Respond to Requests for
24 Healthcare, Including for Emergent and Urgent Conditions, Jeopardizing the
25 Health of Incarcerated Persons and Subjecting them to Unnecessary Pain and
26 Suffering**

27 129. Defendants have a pattern and practice of failing to respond to emergent and
28 urgent healthcare needs of persons in LASD jails, and of failing to provide timely and adequate
29 treatment for non-emergent healthcare needs that would prevent unnecessary pain and suffering

1 or the development of more serious problems and medical, dental, or mental health emergencies.
2 Defendants' failure to provide timely treatment—or any treatment—after receiving notice of
3 incarcerated persons' medical, dental, or mental health needs creates a substantial risk of serious
4 harm and death.

5 130. To obtain healthcare, persons confined in LASD jails are required to submit a
6 Health Service Request form (HSR), describing their need for medical, dental, or mental health
7 services. Incarcerated persons face numerous barriers to submitting HSR forms, including the
8 unavailability of HSR forms in the housing units in the jails; LASD personnel refusing to provide
9 HSR forms to incarcerated persons or discouraging incarcerated persons from submitting HSR
10 forms; LASD personnel inquiring into incarcerated persons' confidential healthcare needs; and
11 LASD personnel reading the completed, confidential HSR forms and refusing to submit the forms
12 to CHS healthcare staff. LASD fails to adequately train jail personnel how to appropriately
13 respond to incarcerated persons' requests for medical care.

14 131. Even when LASD personnel forward completed HSR forms to CHS, CHS fails to
15 process the forms and provide treatment in a timely and adequate manner as required by CHS's
16 policy. For example, at North County, HSR forms are not scanned immediately and sit in a filing
17 cabinet, including forms marked "Urgent." In May 2023, CHS had a backlog of 4,000 medical
18 appointments that had not yet been scheduled and a backlog of 700 to 800 dentistry requests.

19 132. Defendants' failure to timely process and respond to HSR forms is compounded
20 by their failure to create an effective tracking system and scheduling system for medical
21 appointments and for incarcerated persons' medical records. CHS has no established timeframes
22 dictating deadlines by which an incarcerated person requesting care must receive an appointment
23 with a medical professional. As a result, CHS nursing staff triage HSR forms based on their own
24 independent judgment and decide which requests should be designated as urgent and scheduled
25 for an examination. Even then, incarcerated persons whose requests have been deemed urgent do
26 not receive medical appointments in a timely manner.

27 133. Defendants also fail to respond to incarcerated persons' medical needs that are
28 reported or apparent during daily "sick calls." According to policy, LASD and CHS are jointly

1 responsible for ensuring “[a]ccess to daily nurse clinic services for incarcerated persons to receive
2 appropriate services for non-emergency or injury.” Yet, Defendants’ process for conducting sick
3 calls is overburdened and fails to account for the increasing population of people with healthcare
4 needs, including persons with serious medical, dental, and mental conditions, and insufficient
5 staff to perform the necessary duties to treat that population. According to data reported to the
6 Board of State and Community Corrections, the average number of incarcerated persons seen at
7 sick call declined by more than half during the five-year period between 2017 and 2022, although
8 the average daily population declined only 14 percent during that time.

9 134. Inspections by Plaintiff and the Sybil Brand Commission indicate that calls for
10 immediate medical attention are ignored, requests for medical attention are not fulfilled, and
11 individuals feel they must submit numerous HSR forms to receive medical care or otherwise
12 burden the judicial system by seeking a motion to compel medical care. In June 2023, the Sybil
13 Brand Commission expressed concern that incarcerated persons cannot get the attention of
14 custody staff and, in particular, concern about what would happen if an incarcerated person had a
15 medical emergency.

16 135. Several of the LASD jails do not have an Urgent Care facility, causing delays in
17 treatment of urgent conditions for persons confined in these facilities. There is no Urgent Care
18 facility at the North County / PDC campus, which houses one-third of the jail population. There is
19 also no Urgent Care facility at Century Regional, which is the only custodial facility that houses
20 incarcerated women. A patient requiring urgent care at the North County / PDC campus or at
21 Century Regional must be transported by ambulance to a local hospital or to the Urgent Care
22 facility at Twin Towers, causing delays for urgent conditions that may become worse or cause
23 unnecessary pain while left untreated.

24 136. Defendants fail to provide timely access to healthcare professionals and treatment
25 even when such access is ordered by courts. For example, an incarcerated person at Men’s
26 Central complained that he had three court orders related to care for dental problems that were
27 causing him pain and difficulty eating, but had still been waiting 10 months for dental care.
28 Another incarcerated person at Men’s Central also had to get a court order for dental work, but

1 even with the court order, he was only given a pain pill for a week and put back on the waitlist. In
2 February 2023, a county public defender submitted a declaration indicating that on multiple
3 occasions after courts ordered the LASD jails to provide mental health evaluations and
4 medication for her clients, Defendants nevertheless failed to provide the ordered evaluations and
5 treatment.

6 137. Delays in treatment and failure to provide treatment in response to HSR forms
7 causes incarcerated persons to experience unnecessary pain and suffering and creates
8 unreasonable risks to their health and safety. Incarcerated persons wait weeks or even months
9 before they are scheduled for an examination with a healthcare professional or before they receive
10 treatment or medicine. Some incarcerated persons never receive a response to their HSR forms.

11 **F. Delays and Failure to Treat Serious Medical Needs at the LASD Jails Have
12 Contributed to Numerous In-Custody Deaths**

13 138. Defendants have a pattern and practice of delaying and denying incarcerated
14 persons access to appropriate, competent, and necessary medical care for serious medical needs
15 and failing to transfer seriously ill patients for inpatient hospitalization. Defendants' deliberate
16 indifference to the serious medical needs, health and welfare of incarcerated people has led to
17 numerous untimely and preventable in-custody deaths and unnecessary pain and suffering.

18 139. Defendants' failure to timely and adequately treat serious medical conditions is a
19 particular problem for incarcerated persons with heart conditions. Premature cardiovascular
20 disease is the leading cause of in-custody deaths in the jails, which includes deaths from
21 arteriosclerotic cardiovascular disease, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary embolism, cardiac arrest,
22 congestive heart failure, and heart disease. Approximately five percent of the decedents with
23 cardiovascular disease are African Americans. Ninety percent of all premature cardiovascular
24 disease deaths are persons under 65 years old, with the average age of 51 years. African
25 Americans make up nine percent of the County population, and 49 percent of all in-custody
26 cardiovascular disease deaths.

27 140. One tragic case of an incarcerated person dying from heart disease occurred at
28 Twin Towers in January 2023. Decedent was sent to the Urgent Care Clinic for "weak

1 appearance” and “lack of mobility” after a Registered Nurse observed him lying naked on a
2 blanket on the floor. Over an hour and a half later, he was still sitting in his cell due to a
3 reallocation of staffing needs to take three patients from Urgent Care to the hospital. Due to an
4 utter lack of care and seemingly forgotten by LASD and CHS personnel, he became
5 unresponsive, and no one stopped to check him for signs of life or to render emergency aid.
6 Defendants did not begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation until 18 minutes after the decedent was
7 found unresponsive, and CHS delayed calling 911.

8 141. Defendants also systematically fail to detect and provide appropriate treatment to
9 persons with Hepatitis C, a viral, blood-borne liver disease, that is very common in carceral
10 settings. Despite the widespread knowledge that the disease is prevalent in jail populations and
11 can cause cirrhosis, liver cancer, heart disease, kidney disease, arthritis and diabetes, Defendants
12 do not screen for Hepatitis C at intake. According to a physician who treated Hepatitis C patients
13 in LASD jails, the number of patients who are being treated are in the dozens in a system where
14 Hepatitis C cases in the jails probably number in the thousands. That physician stated in April
15 2024 that “the system continues to fall woefully short of the sort of concerted effort that could
16 dramatically reduce the toll of the infection within and beyond the jails.” In the last five years,
17 there have been seventeen deaths in LASD jails where decedents tested positive for Hepatitis C.

18 **G. Defendants’ Failure to Implement Effective Protocols and Systems for**
19 **Follow-Up Medical Treatment and Chronic Care Causes Delays and**
Treatment Failures

20 142. Defendants fail to meaningfully maintain and implement a chronic care
21 management program, which would help track the population with chronic illnesses that need
22 medication management or ongoing monitoring, e.g., diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, and
23 stroke.

24 143. The National Commission for Correctional Health Care advises that patients with
25 chronic disease, other significant health conditions that require ongoing treatment, and disabilities
26 receive ongoing multidisciplinary care aligned with evidence-based standards. National standards
27 dictate that providers must follow chronic disease protocols and special needs treatment plans as
28 clinically indicated by monitoring the patient’s condition and determining the frequency of

1 follow-up for medical evaluation and treatment. However, Defendants have no chronic
2 management care system, lack a system to track incarcerated persons who need follow-up
3 medical treatment, and knowingly fail to create such systems. This creates a substantial risk of
4 harm, injury, or death and has led to the preventable deaths of incarcerated persons with chronic
5 conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease.

6 144. The absence of necessary systems for providing regular and follow-up medical
7 care is exacerbated by information deficits. CHS's Chief Medical Officer has no access to data
8 regarding wait times for medical providers or dentists, and therefore, cannot act to remedy
9 excessively long wait times to see a physician. Similarly, CHS does not have access to Automated
10 Justice Information System, which provides current information on the custody status of persons
11 confined in LASD jails, including transfers and court dates, and so that information cannot be
12 taken into account for appointment scheduling.

13 145. Additionally, Defendants have a pattern and practice of accepting appointment
14 refusals from incarcerated persons who may not have the mental capacity to consent to or refuse
15 treatment, which prevents critical medical interventions from taking place.

16 146. Defendants also improperly treat an assumed failure to respond as refusal. For
17 example, an incarcerated person was placed in detox housing when she arrived at Century
18 Regional in September 2022 for alcohol and heroin withdrawal. She allegedly refused detox
19 assessments twice before she died from effects of heroin, methamphetamine, and chronic alcohol
20 use two days after her arrest. However, during LASD's death review, it was revealed that she may
21 not have actually refused the earlier assessments and could have been unresponsive at those
22 times. A custody assistant summoned her for a detox assessment using an intercom in the cell,
23 and someone in the cell responded, although the custody assistant was not sure if the person
24 responding was the decedent or her cellmate. When a nurse subsequently went to the cell to
25 confirm the refusal, the decedent was unresponsive and later pronounced dead. Similarly, in
26 October 2022, an incarcerated person at Men's Central was asleep during pill call, no efforts were
27 made to locate him, and he was not given his medications. Although he did not make a direct
28 refusal to CHS healthcare staff, his failure to show up for pill call was effectively treated as a

1 refusal. He was seen later that day for a meal but was later found unresponsive and died.

2 147. Defendants also accept refusals for medical and mental healthcare from patients
3 who state their refusals to LASD personnel, which violates CHS policy that a refusal may only be
4 made to healthcare staff.

5 148. LASD also fails to document refusals. For example, an incarcerated person was
6 placed in segregation at Men's Central after he allegedly refused a chest screen for tuberculosis.
7 He was then subsequently removed from the detox program after he refused an alcohol
8 withdrawal evaluation. He was a no-show for a chest screen six times, but only one of those no-
9 shows was properly documented as a refusal. He was ultimately found unresponsive in his cell
10 and died. The deputy who discovered him believed he was in withdrawal and pretending to be
11 unresponsive so he did not have to wake up for pill call because he had been refusing everything.

12 149. Compounding these issues, Defendants do not track adverse consequences
13 resulting from refusal of treatment.

14 **VI. FAILURE TO PROVIDE CONSTITUTIONALLY ADEQUATE MENTAL HEALTH CARE**

15 150. Defendants have a pattern and practice of failing to provide timely and adequate
16 mental health care to incarcerated persons in the LASD jails. Defendants also fail to provide the
17 least restrictive environment for incarcerated persons with mental health disabilities and, by
18 failing to provide timely and adequate mental health services, subject these incarcerated persons
19 to unnecessarily restrictive, non-therapeutic, and unsafe housing units. These failures create a
20 substantial risk of further decompensation and harm.

21 **A. Defendants Place Incarcerated Persons with Serious Mental Health
22 Disabilities in Inappropriate and Highly Restrictive Reception Center
Housing That Endangers their Health and Welfare**

23 151. Defendants subject incarcerated persons with mental health disabilities to highly
24 restrictive housing in intake overflow units and fail to ensure timely assessments and any
25 therapeutic interventions for these individuals. If an incarcerated person is deemed in need of a
26 bed in High Observation Housing, which houses individuals with serious mental health
27 disabilities needing an intensive level of observation and care, but one is not available in one of
28 the High Observation Housing intake units, the person is placed in a Reception Center overflow

1 unit that houses individuals waiting to be assessed by Mental Health or Psychiatry. Incarcerated
2 persons in Reception Center overflow are restricted to their cells most of the day, only receiving
3 outside time for showers and phone calls, although many have reported not receiving these
4 privileges daily. Defendants also subject incarcerated persons with serious mental health
5 disabilities to restrictive and isolating conditions in the intake units at Century Regional.

6 152. Defendants fail to ensure regular and timely assessments of incarcerated person in
7 Reception Center overflow who have already been deemed to require high-level psychiatric care,
8 in part by failing to assign responsibility for such assessments between different teams of
9 clinicians.

10 153. The days and weeks following intake to jail are considered a high-risk period as
11 many newly arrived incarcerated persons are experiencing clinical symptoms, intoxicated, or
12 experiencing withdrawal. Defendants' pattern and practice of housing individuals for any period
13 shortly after intake in a high restrictive transitional environment devoid of any therapeutic
14 intervention or clear clinical guidelines is clinically inappropriate, risks exacerbating and
15 prolonging symptoms, and increases the chances of adverse events.

16 **B. High Observation Housing for Incarcerated Persons with Serious Mental
17 Health Disabilities Subjects them to Inhumane, Non-Therapeutic Conditions
18 and Concomitant Harms**

19 154. Defendants house incarcerated persons with serious mental health disabilities in
20 High Observation Housing Lockdown pods ("HOH Lockdown pods"), which subjects them to
21 unnecessarily restrictive, non-therapeutic, and inhumane conditions. As of July 2024, Defendants
22 housed more than 600 incarcerated people in HOH Lockdown pods. The HOH Lockdown pods
23 fail to provide said incarcerated persons with the required out-of-cell time, fail to provide
24 adequate treatment for the serious mental health needs of the persons housed in them, and fail to
25 provide habitable conditions of confinement. These conditions cause grave and known risks to the
26 health and safety of incarcerated persons with serious mental health disabilities, including the risk
of decompensation and death.

27 155. According to CHS Policy, High Observation Housing is "for clients that require an
28 intensive level of observation and care and/or safety precautions but do not require

1 hospitalization.”

2 156. Incarcerated persons in HOH Lockdown pods spend up to 22 hours in their cells
3 most days, in violation of Code of Regulations, title 15, section 1065 and LASD’s policies, in
4 what is essentially solitary confinement. When taken out of their cells, these individuals are
5 restrained and chained to the tables in the common area with no ability to move around the area
6 freely.

7 157. Defendants have failed to comply with CHS policy that incarcerated persons in
8 High Observation Housing are to receive 10 hours per week of therapeutic activities. Very few
9 incarcerated persons in HOH Lockdown pods receive some therapeutically appropriate group
10 therapy; often they are not allowed out of their cells and only a fraction of patients are taken out
11 of their cells to meet with CHS clinicians.

12 158. Incarcerated persons in HOH Lockdown pods do not receive intensive psychiatric
13 treatment services and are housed in filthy, inhumane environments, in violation of CHS Policy
14 and National Commission on Correctional Health Care standards, which establish that acute care
15 residential units should have continuous mental health coverage and a safe and therapeutic
16 environment conducive to symptom stabilization and maintenance of good personal hygiene.

17 159. Jail inspections have uncovered HOH Lockdown pods with feces smeared on the
18 walls, trash piled up in cells, and toilets that are clogged and overflowing. CHS clinicians have
19 reported the persons are rarely taken out for showers, and only come out of their cells for showers
20 once every 10 days.

21 160. CHS clinicians are supposed to see HOH Lockdown patients weekly but have
22 reported that given their workload they can only visit patients biweekly at most. Most of the
23 interactions with clinical staff occur at the cell side rather than outside of the cells, which does not
24 allow for privacy or in-depth clinical, therapeutic interventions.

25 161. Further, Defendants fail to provide safe housing for incarcerated persons with
26 serious mental health disabilities, since they double-bunk individuals in High Observation
27 Housing without consulting medical or mental health personnel. Double bunking in High
28 Observation Housing has resulted in homicides, serious incidents of violence, and other incidents

1 with the potential for violence. For example, two individuals killed their cellmates in High
2 Observation Housing in less than six months between September 2022 and May 2023. One of the
3 individuals who was killed was strangled to death by his cellmate. The cellmate had expressed
4 homicidal intent 10 days before the incident but was cleared to be housed with a cellmate.
5 Another person in High Observation Housing was severely injured by separate cellmates on two
6 different occasions.

7 **C. Moderate Observation Housing for Incarcerated Persons with Serious Mental**
8 **Health Disabilities Is Non-Therapeutic and Fails to Provide Timely and**
Adequate Mental Health Treatment

9 162. In Moderate Observation Housing used for individuals with serious mental health
10 disabilities, Defendants have engaged in a pattern or practice of subjecting incarcerated
11 individuals to non-therapeutic housing with inadequate mental health care, despite the known
12 risks that this poses to the health and safety of incarcerated persons with serious mental health
13 conditions, including the risk of decompensation.

14 163. The American Psychiatric Association and National Commission on Correctional
15 Health Care standards establish that residential units or residential level of care be provided for
16 individuals with serious mental illness and for individuals who are experiencing situational
17 stresses who do not require acute care but may not function adequately in general population and
18 need enhanced services. Defendants fail to comply with these standards and fail to ensure that all
19 Moderate Observation Housing units at the jails are therapeutic.

20 164. CHS Policy states that treatment should be provided in “mental health dormitory
21 areas for clients with a broad range of diagnoses and functioning, whose mental health needs can
22 be cared for in a less intense and more open setting than the high observation areas but preclude
23 their tolerating general population housing.” The policy further states that in these units, “clients
24 are to be offered group activities, including weekly community meetings, and are to be seen
25 monthly by a clinician and as needed by a psychiatrist.” Although not specific to Moderate
26 Observation Housing, this policy also states that on-site services include, at a minimum,
27 “integrated treatment for co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders, including but
28 not limited to motivational interviewing, education and behavioral therapies, shall be provided on

1 a regular basis depending on clients' individualized needs and treatment plans." However, the
2 Moderate Observation Housing units in Men's Central and PDC-North cannot be considered a
3 therapeutic environment. The manager of the Men's Mental Health Program admitted that the
4 physical configuration of Men's Central is not appropriate for Moderate Observation Housing.
5 Moreover, many individuals in the Moderate Observation Housing units at Men's Central and
6 PDC-North have reported not seeing clinicians for months at a time.

7 165. Due to ongoing CHS and LASD staffing shortages, clinicians cannot provide
8 monthly treatment visits for individuals in Moderate Observation Housing. Although clinicians
9 are required to see mental health clients every 30 days, the actual frequency is nowhere near that.
10 The lack of sufficient clinicians for the Moderate Observation Housing population at Men's
11 Central does not allow for monthly clinical encounters or therapeutic group activities. There is
12 also a lack of adequate mental health clinical staff for the Moderate Observation Housing
13 population at PDC-North.

14 **D. Defendants Fail To Identify and Provide Appropriate Treatment for
15 Incarcerated Persons with Serious Mental Disabilities Who Experience
16 Mental Health Emergencies or Require an Inpatient Level of Care**

17 166. Defendants have a pattern or practice of failing to accurately identify incarcerated
18 persons who would qualify for a Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150 psychiatric
19 admission to a psychiatric emergency room or an inpatient unit. This has resulted in persons who
20 have grave mental health disabilities being placed in housing in LASD jails that is not compatible
21 with their clinical needs and has led to a deterioration of their mental health conditions and
significant risks to their health and safety.

22 167. CHS's policies and standards fail to draw clear and appropriate distinctions
23 between persons assigned to High Observation Housing, designated as P3, and persons admitted
24 for a hospital-level of care, designated as P4. The criteria for P3, according to policy and practice,
25 matches the criteria that would be used in the community to recommend transport to a psychiatric
26 emergency room or inpatient unit, as confirmed by several CHS clinicians who reported that
27 when they assess incarcerated persons for discharge, many of those deemed P3 would be referred
28 for a Welfare and Institutions Code section 5150, rather than released into the community. There

1 are many incarcerated persons in LASD jails who are classified as P3, but in need of acute
2 psychiatric hospitalization, yet they are not classified as P4. CHS has a pattern and practice of
3 failing to refer these individuals for inpatient treatment, despite their need for higher levels of
4 mental health treatment, and instead keeping them in High Observation Housing.

5 168. Defendants improperly restrict inpatient mental health treatment based on an
6 unreasonably strict rule for medication refusal (at least three refusals over a seven-day period)
7 that is unrelated to the level of care needed by the patient. Persons who are classified as P3 who,
8 by all other clinical criteria should be classified as P4 and referred for inpatient treatment, are
9 excluded from the P4 designation due to only having, e.g., two medication refusals per week.
10 This means that many incarcerated persons who are psychotic, including, e.g., those for whom the
11 medication they take is ineffective, are not referred by CHS for inpatient treatment until their
12 symptoms and risk level become severely acute.

13 169. There are more P4 patients than there are available in-patient psychiatric beds in
14 the jails. This discourages CHS clinicians from classifying incarcerated persons as P4, rather than
15 P3, even where they require a hospital level of care, because the unavailability of housing in the
16 Forensic Inpatient Unit only allows for the most extreme cases of psychiatric need.

17 170. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care in 2015 established that
18 incarcerated persons with mental illness should have access to necessary inpatient psychiatric
19 hospitalization. Individuals misclassified as P3, and thus not eligible for the Forensic Inpatient
20 Unit, constitute an under-representation of the actual number of individuals incarcerated in the
21 jails who require inpatient level of care and, instead, spend most time locked in cells without
22 receiving proper mental health services.

23 **E. Defendants Systemically Fail To Provide Timely Access to Mental Health
24 Care and Treatment**

25 171. Defendants fail to timely respond to incarcerated persons requesting mental health
26 care and are deliberately indifferent to the risk of harm that results from this systemic failure. To
27 request mental health care, incarcerated persons may submit a Health Service Request form,
28 describing their need for mental health services. Incarcerated persons face numerous barriers and

1 delays to submitting Health Service Request forms as previously described in relation to
2 incarcerated persons with medical needs.

3 172. Defendants fail to adequately train personnel and to provide adequate resources to
4 timely address and respond to incarcerated person's requests for mental health care, such that
5 incarcerated persons needing mental health treatment must wait long periods, even months before
6 seeing a mental health clinician or receiving their prescribed medication. Incarcerated persons are
7 not informed of the resolution to their Health Service Request forms.

8 173. Defendants also fail to evaluate incarcerated persons who present as "gravely
9 disabled," as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 5350, due to a mental health
10 disability, at intake or within 24 hours, which is a violation of Code of Regulations, title 15.
11 Incarcerated persons who present as gravely disabled are sent to High Observation Housing
12 intake, where they do not see a clinician until 72 hours after admission.

13 **F. Defendants Use Non-Therapeutic and Overly Restrictive Measures that
14 Increase Risk for Suicidal Individuals Instead of Appropriate Mental Health
15 Interventions and Treatment**

16 174. Defendants routinely subject incarcerated persons at risk of suicide to overly
17 harsh, restrictive, and isolated housing conditions that can exacerbate symptoms of their mental
18 health disabilities and increase the risk of harm.

19 175. In a study released by the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics for jail mortality rates
20 for the years 2009 to 2018, Los Angeles County had an average suicide rate of 25.8 percent. In
21 2018, the suicide rate was 30.3 percent as compared to the 6 percent rate in 2015. Data from the
22 LA County Medical Examiner-Coroner indicates that 2021 marked the highest number of deaths
23 by suicide inside Twin Towers and Men's Central in eight years. In 2021, the suicide rate at Twin
24 Towers and Men's Central was about one per every 1,000 people, more than 10 times the suicide
25 rate for Los Angeles County in 2020.

26 176. The National Commission on Correctional Health Care and the American
27 Psychiatric Association, as well as general best practice standards on the management of suicidal
28 individuals, state that isolation should be avoided for persons at risk of suicide. The removal of
29 personal belongings, including clothing, the use of physical restraints, and the removal of routine

1 privileges should be avoided or used as a last resort if an individual is actively engaging in self-
2 harming behavior. According to the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, ongoing
3 effective suicide risk assessment for individuals under Suicide Precaution should be conducted in
4 a private and confidential setting, and not through the cell door. Defendants fail to meet these
5 standards in the LASD jails.

6 177. Individuals at risk of suicide are placed on suicide precautions in Supplemental
7 Assessment Team housing units, with limited and unclear standards for out-of-cell time and
8 length of stay. Individuals are locked in their cells for at least 22 hours and many for 24 hours per
9 day. Although these units are supposed to be temporary, the reality is that many individuals
10 remain in Supplemental Assessment Team housing units for days and weeks.

11 178. Defendants overuse suicide gowns for incarcerated persons under suicide
12 precautions in the LASD jails. Suicide gowns are often uncomfortable and ill-fitting and provide
13 little warmth. The inability to place individuals at risk of suicide under appropriate levels of
14 supervision likely contributes to the overuse of suicide gowns. The gowns and other restrictions
15 used by Defendants for suicide precautions create non-therapeutic and detrimental environments
16 for incarcerated persons who are already experiencing acute mental health crises. Additionally,
17 persons at risk of suicide may hide their suicidal ideation to avoid the extreme discomforts and
18 restrictions of suicide precautions, leaving their risk of self-harm totally untreated.

19 179. Defendants also fail to provide therapeutic or rehabilitative interventions to
20 persons deemed at risk of suicide. Clinical encounters are provided through cells doors, making it
21 difficult to conduct a thorough assessment of suicide risk or the mental status of an individual if
22 they are not cooperative due to their mental status or concerns about the lack of privacy in these
23 encounters. These practices deprive individuals with acute mental health needs of appropriate
24 evaluation and treatment, despite their obvious and acknowledged risk of self-harm.

25 180. The overly restrictive, anti-therapeutic, and seemingly punitive conditions in the
26 jails for individuals at risk of suicide are counterproductive as they can exacerbate suicidal
27 behaviors and discourage individuals from any further disclosure of suicidal thoughts. Placing
28 individuals who are suicidal under these extremely restrictive conditions, devoid of any

1 therapeutic interventions, and not properly regulated by clinical policies is unsafe and dangerous
2 and increases the risk of adverse events.

3 **G. Lack of Adequate Policies Addressing Involuntary Administration of
4 Psychotropic Medications Puts Incarcerated Individuals at Risk of
5 Traumatizing and Inappropriate Mental Health Treatment**

6 181. Defendants administer involuntary psychotropic medication without proper
7 safeguards and without adequately monitoring individuals for possible negative reactions
8 following the administration. For some individuals confined in LASD jails, the involuntary
9 administration of medication is not occurring in an appropriate space provided by mental health,
10 in deliberate indifference to the safety and welfare of incarcerated persons with serious mental
health disabilities.

11 182. Defendants' policies and practices regarding the involuntary administration of
12 psychotropic medications fail to provide clear guidance to LASD and CHS staff on appropriate
13 standards for how involuntary psychotropic medication is to be administered. CHS's written
14 policies and personnel have provided conflicting information, with some sources indicating that
15 incarcerated persons are taken to the Forensic Inpatient Unit for involuntary administration;
16 others stating that the administration occurs by removing the individual from their cell on a
17 gurney; and others stating that the administration takes place in the cell. CHS policies also fail to
18 indicate how long the individual is to be monitored following the involuntary administration of
19 medication. As a result, persons confined in LASD jails who are involuntarily medicated are
20 subjected to arbitrary, inconsistent, and inappropriate practices that fail to meet appropriate
21 medical and mental health treatment standards. For example, at Century Regional, LASD
22 personnel have assisted with the involuntary administration of medication by going into a cell late
23 at night or early morning while an individual is sleeping and before they are fully awake to avoid
24 resistance and holding down the individual's arms with a control hold, while a CHS nurse injects
25 the individual with the medication.

26 **VII. DEFENDANTS' HEALTHCARE DELIVERY SYSTEM IS A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS
27 PERPETUATED BY MASSIVE UNDERSTAFFING AND FAILURE TO EXAMINE AND REMEDY
28 ADVERSE OUTCOMES**

183. Defendants have consistently failed to provide timely access to adequate

1 healthcare, intervention, treatment, follow-up, and attention to injured, ill or unwell incarcerated
2 persons, which results in serious injury or loss of life, needless suffering, worsening of existing
3 medical conditions, and life-threatening consequences. The failures of healthcare in the jails are
4 so profound that the Sybil Brand Commission, in a July 2023 report, denounced the healthcare
5 delivery system in the LASD jails, calling it a “humanitarian crisis.” For years, the healthcare
6 provided by Defendants in the LASD jails has fallen short of minimum constitutional
7 requirements and failed to meet prisoners’ basic health needs. Critically ill prisoners have begged
8 LASD and CHS for treatment, only to be ignored or disregarded. Defendants’ own employees,
9 scores of incarcerated persons, concerned family members, and advocates have repeatedly
10 sounded the alarm about the risk of serious injury and death to incarcerated persons in the jails,
11 yet the problems and rights violations persist.

12 **A. Defendants’ Deficient Staffing for Medical, Dental, and Mental Health Care
13 Guarantees Delays in Treatment and Failure to Provide Adequate Treatment,
14 with Substantial Risk of Serious Harm to Persons Confined in the LASD Jails**

15 184. Defendants lack adequate staffing to address the healthcare needs of incarcerated
16 persons housed within the jails, and have failed to remedy these inadequacies for years, despite
17 being aware of critical levels of understaffing, all to the detriment of those incarcerated patients.

18 185. Defendants are aware that they have failed to hire, train, supervise, and retain
19 adequate medical, dental, and mental health staff, whether by hiring additional staff, retaining
20 existing staff, or contracting with third-party providers or academic institutions to make up for the
21 shortfall in staffing numbers. CHS continues to be understaffed and consequently, unable to
22 provide timely and proper medical care for incarcerated persons in the jails. CHS administrators
23 and officials are aware that the deficiencies in staffing of necessary healthcare professionals
24 directly results in gross delays and deficiencies in the services that are provided to persons
25 confined in the LASD jails, endangering their health and putting them at risk of serious harm and
death.

26 186. In October 2023, the jails had only 12 full-time employed psychiatrists, despite
27 having 43 approved positions. According to the CHS Director, CHS needed at least double the
28 number of psychiatrists, four nurse practitioners, four social workers, and between 15 to 17

1 psychiatric technicians to adequately address the mental health needs of the incarcerated patients
2 in their care. CHS would need at least four psychiatrists and at least three additional nurse
3 practitioners just to adequately meet the needs of the patients in the Forensic Inpatient unit alone.

4 187. In October 2023, there were only seven psychologists on CHS staff, serving
5 approximately 4,500 patients, a ratio of approximately one psychologist for every 642 patients.
6 The CHS Men's Program had 16 psychiatric social worker positions and one psychologist
7 position vacant. In the Women's Mental Health Program, vacancies for mental health staff were
8 estimated to be around 40 to 50 percent. These enormous vacancies drastically reduce the level
9 and quality of rehabilitative programming and therapeutic services that incarcerated people with
10 mental health disabilities receive in the jails, leading to greater isolation and heightened risk of
11 psychological deterioration.

12 188. CHS fails to maintain sufficient numbers of clinicians in the Reception Center to
13 conduct intake evaluations of incarcerated persons within the 24-hour timeframe required by the
14 *Rutherford* consent decree or timely evaluate persons who are referred for other reasons, such as
15 release evaluations, evaluations of patients referred for disruptive behaviors, and assessments for
16 potential contraindications for disciplinary segregation.

17 189. In 2015, the County Board of Supervisors voted to create CHS to administer
18 mental health care in LASD jails under the Department of Healthcare Services; previously, the
19 Department of Mental Health was responsible for such care. This decision, a significant structural
20 change, pulled multiple mental health provider positions, including psychiatrists, from the jails,
21 and replaced them with mental health social workers, who are not medical doctors and do not
22 have the power to prescribe medication.

23 190. Importantly, the realignment also eliminated the Chief Psychiatrist position at
24 CHS, as the position did not exist within the Department of Healthcare Services. This means the
25 Chief Medical Health Psychiatrist now reports to the Chief Medical Officer, a medical doctor,
26 and not to someone in mental health care. CHS's organizational structure leads to a breakdown in
27 communication between mental health staff who prescribe psychotropic medications and
28 clinicians who conduct screenings, assessments, and counseling, and does not allow staff to share

1 goals for the patients they treat.

2 191. Defendants also fail to maintain sufficient numbers of medical and dental care
3 professionals to provide minimally adequate care to the more than 13,000 incarcerated persons in
4 the jails. As of May 2023, there were 4,000 patients on a waitlist to be seen for a medical issue. In
5 December 2023, CHS listed 543 vacancies across all series and classifications.

6 192. In 2023, the CHS Medical Director estimated that there were 12 to 15 physicians
7 employed by CHS for the entire jail population, with 25 vacancies. At that time and according to
8 the CHS Medical Director, CHS needed at least an additional three physicians, ten nurses, and
9 three to five physician assistants to adequately address the medical needs of incarcerated patients
10 in their care.

11 193. CHS only employs eight dentists to run seven different dentistry clinics. In May
12 2023, there was a waitlist of 700 patients for dentistry appointments to be scheduled. That means
13 there is a wait time of 75 days for a patient to be seen; in private practice, the average wait time
14 might be seven days.

15 194. Nursing staff serve as the backbone of the medical care delivery system in the
16 jails. As of December 2023, there were 274 vacancies for nursing staff, with one in three
17 positions vacant. Without sufficient nursing staff, the jails lack critical staff to timely triage and
18 respond to incarcerated people's requests for medical care, to adequately screen, monitor, and
19 provide follow-up care to incarcerated people who have serious and chronic illnesses, or to treat
20 incarcerated people when medical emergencies occur. Nurses report that they are overextended in
21 a jail system that is horrendously overcrowded, often being responsible for up to 175 patients at a
22 time with little or no assistance.

23 195. The Forensic Inpatient Unit is the inpatient mental health unit for male
24 incarcerated people with the most serious mental health needs; unlike other patients in other units,
25 patients in the Forensic Inpatient Unit are seen twice a week. CHS has been cited for inadequate
26 staffing levels in the Forensic Inpatient Unit, and CHS's reassignment of nurses to the unit
27 directly led to overloading of the other units to a dangerous level.

28 196. On two separate occasions, CHS administrators proposed to the County Board of

1 Supervisors that the LASD jails should move from an “episodic care” model to a “primary care”
2 model of healthcare. The primary care model is considered best practices in the provision of
3 healthcare and had been discussed as a goal for several years within CHS and the Department of
4 Health Services. A move to a primary care model would mean hiring additional nursing staff,
5 nursing assistants, and possibly physicians. With the existing staff at CHS, it would be
6 “impossible to get closer to that model.”

7 197. Defendants fail to train, supervise, and instruct nurses, physician assistants,
8 physicians, and other agents to ensure they do not violate the rights of incarcerated persons. For
9 example, CHS employees have reported that CHS administrators train them to “assume that
10 patients are lying” when patients state that they have a serious medical issue and need to go to the
11 emergency room.

12 198. Defendants fail to discipline staff who commit acts of abuse, act in a manner
13 adverse to a patient’s best interests, or otherwise provide care in a way that puts the health and
14 safety of incarcerated persons at risk. CHS fails to establish procedures to correct known and
15 observed deficiencies in treatment, including where it violates the rights of incarcerated persons
16 and to prevent future occurrences. CHS also fails to provide continuing and periodic training for
17 medical staff on understanding, recognizing, reporting and responding to issues of incarcerated
18 persons’ health care and treatment.

19 199. Worsening the situation, CHS management retaliates against staff who advocate
20 for better patient care and raise concerns about substandard patient care. CHS reprimands,
21 threatens, intimidates, demotes and fires employees and personnel who courageously reported
22 acts of wrongdoing by other employees and personnel. CHS employees have explained that
23 management “acts like a mafia,” awarding promotions not based on merit, but on nepotism and
24 personal relationships. This has been a problem for many years at CHS. In some instances, CHS
25 covered up acts of misconduct and abuse by CHS employees and personnel and sanctioned a code
26 of silence by and among employees, personnel, and management.

27 200. Defendants also fail to provide adequate supervision of medical, dental, and
28 mental health staff creating an undue risk of adverse clinical outcomes. Defendants fail to

1 maintain an adequate and clear organizational structure that allows for appropriate support and
2 adequate supervision of healthcare professionals in the LASD jails and for communications
3 between healthcare staff. This lack of an adequate and clear organizational structure creates an
4 undue risk of negative clinical outcomes and harm to incarcerated persons.

5 **B. Defendants' Deficient Custody Staffing Impedes the Provision of Timely and**
6 **Adequate Healthcare to Incarcerated Persons**

7 201. LASD custody personnel are responsible for ensuring that incarcerated persons are
8 safely monitored and transported to clinics and medical facilities for treatment. Custody personnel
9 assist CHS healthcare professionals by providing security when necessary, among other duties.

10 202. As of November 5, 2023, there were 110 vacancies of sworn personnel, and 333
11 vacancies of non-sworn personnel assigned to custody in LASD jails. As of February 2025,
12 LASD had over 2,300 unfilled sworn positions and 1,900 unfilled professional staff positions,
13 between vacancies and impairments, accounting for almost 25% of LASD's total budgeted staff.
14 Because of insufficient staffing, custody personnel have long been required to work mandatory
15 overtime hours. Over 30 percent of all sworn and professional personnel, which amounts to 1,259
16 employees per month, completed back-to-back double shifts in custody during the 2023 year, to
17 the detriment of staff health and morale. Mandatory overtime increases staff burnout and
18 exhaustion because staff are overworked and stretched too thin, causing delays or no responses to
19 emergency calls for help.

203. Defendant LASD's Access to Care Bureau acts as a liaison between CHS and
21 LASD generally. The Access to Care Bureau assists clinicians at Twin Towers and Century
22 Regional, but not at the PDC facilities, due to staffing shortages. Staffing is the biggest challenge
23 for the Access to Care Bureau, and the lack of adequate staffing taxes all employees, directly
24 affecting patient care due to delays and failure to transport patients for urgent care or clinic
25 appointments.

26 204. LASD has failed to recruit and retain staff members for custody positions in the
27 LASD jails. One issue affecting turnover is that custody assignments are not perceived as
28 desirable by recruits, and "no one wants to make custody a career." The perception that custody is

1 not a desirable assignment also makes it less likely that officers will accept promotions into the
2 LASD jails, as it is perceived to be a “waste of time,” “dead time,” and “going backwards” in
3 one’s career. Defendants have made little effort to incentivize sworn and unsworn personnel to
4 work long-term in custody, thus perpetuating a culture that treats the custody setting as
5 professionally inferior.

6 205. LASD has not been operating with sufficient staff to: (1) carry out the overall
7 facility operations and programming, (2) provide for safety and security of incarcerated people
8 and staff, and (3) meet established standards and regulations. Neither LASD nor the County has
9 implemented a systematic plan to respond to staff shortages, and the shortages are ongoing.

10 206. LASD custody personnel receive no formal training on responding to mental
11 health crises, medical emergencies, and other critical incidents in the jails. All training, such as it
12 is, is informal, “on the job” mentorship only. LASD Academy training focuses on training patrol
13 deputies, not custody personnel, and does not reflect the distinct duties and responsibilities related
14 to the custodial setting. LASD custody personnel have not received adequate training and re-
15 training on necessary topics for the custody setting.

16 **C. Defendants Conduct Superficial In-Custody Death Reviews that Fail To
17 Remedy Obvious and Critical Failures in Defendants’ Operations that
18 Endanger the Health and Safety of Incarcerated Persons**

19 207. Following the death of a person confined in the LASD jails, Defendants conduct
20 an in-custody death review. Defendants’ in-custody death review process does not effectively
21 operate to identify and remedy systemic problems in the LASD jails, involving custody and
22 healthcare staff, that contribute to in-custody deaths and present significant risks to other
23 incarcerated persons in the future. On average, LASD and CHS spend less than 90 minutes total
24 discussing each death. The majority of that time is spent reading a written summary of each
25 decedent’s history in custody, including the decedent’s medical and mental health history. LASD
26 and CHS routinely fail to discuss the potential or contributing causes and any factors that may
27 have contributed to each death. In several death reviews, the cause of death was only mentioned
28 after the Office of the Inspector General specifically inquired about the circumstances
surrounding particular deaths. CHS fails to conduct its own death review or morbidity-and-

1 mortality review process.

2

3 **D. Defendants Impose Disciplinary Segregation on Incarcerated Persons with**
3 **Serious Mental Illness, Persons with Intellectual and Developmental**
3 **Disabilities, and Pregnant Persons Even When It Is Contraindicated Because**
4 **It Would Pose an Undue Risk Their Health and Safety**

5 208. Defendants have a practice of placing incarcerated persons, including but not
6 limited to those with serious mental illness, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and
7 pregnancies, in isolated disciplinary segregation, when that disciplinary segregation is
8 contraindicated for their health and safety, and of failing to remove incarcerated persons from
9 disciplinary segregation upon a determination that the incarcerated person has a serious mental
10 illness or intellectual or developmental disability. Defendants also lack sufficient policies and
11 practices to ensure that incarcerated persons who have medical and mental health circumstances
12 that are incompatible disciplinary segregation are not placed there. As a result, Defendants subject
13 incarcerated persons to a substantial risk of serious harm or death.

14 209. Incarcerated persons in restrictive disciplinary segregation in LASD jails are
15 isolated and lack opportunities for sensory stimulation or social interaction.

16 210. Defendants place incarcerated persons with serious mental illnesses in disciplinary
17 segregation in conditions that lead to decompensation and substantial harm. The environment in
18 the jails exacerbates existing mental health disabilities and can create mental health disabilities in
19 people who entered lockup without preexisting serious mental health disabilities, especially for
20 individuals housed in solitary confinement. For example, LASD maintains a disciplinary unit at
21 Men's Central for incarcerated persons taking psychotropic medications. The unit is dirty; many
22 cells have broken wall telephones; and it lacks natural light.

23 211. Defendants lack clear policies and practices for determining whether individuals
24 with serious mental illness should be placed in disciplinary housing. This creates an undue risk of
25 decompensation and harm to these individuals. Additionally, LASD disciplines incarcerated
26 persons for behavior that is related to their mental health disabilities. Incarcerated persons with
27 serious mental health disabilities who are classified with a mental health designation of P3 serve
28 their discipline in High Observation Housing under extremely restrictive and isolating conditions

1 that place them at risk of further decompensation and harm. Many incarcerated persons classified
2 as P3 not only have serious mental illnesses, but they are experiencing acute symptoms. Some
3 appear suitable for a P4 level and in need of inpatient treatment. While serving discipline, these
4 individuals are not taken out of their cell for programming and privileges, such as visitation and
5 phone calls, are removed. As a result, they only leave their cells for showers, and then only if they
6 are considered stable. An individual with serious mental illness serving discipline in High
7 Observation Housing spends 24 hours isolated in their cells most days during their disciplinary
8 period.

9 212. Defendants also house incarcerated persons with mental health disabilities in the
10 disciplinary row at PDC-North even if they are not being disciplined. Even though individuals
11 housed in these cells are not serving a disciplinary term, they are essentially in discipline because
12 they do not have access to outdoor yard or programming.

13 213. Although LASD policy prohibits the housing of a pregnant person in an isolated
14 cell, pregnant persons continue to be housed alone in disciplinary segregation for long periods of
15 time, with no evidence that custody staff has collaborated with medical staff to ensure they are
16 placed in an appropriate housing location that is conducive to their access to necessary prenatal
17 and/or medical care.

18 **VIII. DEFENDANTS FAIL TO APPROPRIATELY HOUSE AND TREAT LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL,
19 TRANSGENDER, QUEER, AND INTERSEX (LGBTQ+) PERSONS AND VICTIMS OF SEXUAL
VIOLENCE**

20 214. Defendants have a pattern or practice of failing to ensure safe and appropriate
21 housing for LGBTQ+ incarcerated persons in the jails, leading to a substantial risk of serious
22 harm or death. LASD deputies also subject LGBTQ+ incarcerated persons to humiliation and
23 retaliation. Incarcerated LGBTQ+ persons at Men's Central have reported that deputies make
24 threats to dehumanize them, and subject them to humiliating and excessive strip searches.
25 Defendants also fail to provide training for LASD and CHS staff on how to address transgender
26 and gender non-conforming incarcerated persons to prevent discrimination, harassment, and
27 dignitary harms.

28 215. Although LASD has a policy requiring individualized determinations for the

1 classification and housing of LGBTQ+ and gender non-conforming incarcerated persons, LASD
2 has a regular practice of automatically transferring incarcerated persons with male genitalia to the
3 Reception Center and housing them at a men's facility even if they identify as a woman. This
4 practice violates Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) regulations prohibiting the housing of
5 transgender and intersex incarcerated persons based exclusively on external genital anatomy and
6 directly contradicts representations made by LASD about their policy.

7 216. Defendants fail to ensure that incarcerated persons are safe from sexual abuse and
8 victimization. For example, the Sybil Brand Commission reported that an incarcerated person at
9 Twin Towers filed a PREA complaint and yet LASD continued to house him in a cell overseen by
10 his accused assailant. LASD staff also retaliate against incarcerated persons who make PREA
11 complaints, which is a violation of PREA and LASD policies, and Defendants fail to take
12 reasonable and necessary steps to prevent and eliminate both sexual abuse and victimization of
13 incarcerated persons and retaliation against incarcerated persons who make PREA complaints. As
14 of August 2024, the Office of the Inspector General reported that none of the Station Jails have
15 achieved full compliance with the PREA Standards, that corrective action identified many years
16 earlier had yet to be implemented, and that LASD had focused compliance efforts on Station
17 Jails, despite the vast majority of PREA-related allegations arising in custody jail facilities. The
18 same issues remained in a May 2025 report by the Civilian Oversight Commission.

19 217. LASD engages in a pattern and practice of excessive, invasive, humiliating,
20 unwarranted, and frequent group strip searches and visual body cavity searches, including as
21 punishment and retaliation. LASD's strip search and visual body cavity search policies continue
22 to be degrading and humiliating. For example, incarcerated persons at Twin Towers who had a
23 mental health acuity level of P2, indicating mental health disabilities, were forced to undergo
24 visual body cavity searches in large groups upon transfer from one intake housing area to a
25 permanent housing area. They were asked to pull their underwear down to their ankles, bend,
26 cough, and spread their buttocks, as LASD deputies shined a flashlight between the cheeks of
27 their buttocks. Deputies conducted this strip search in the area right before entering the housing
28 modules and in front of the elevator. The location was directly in an open area where deputies and

1 other incarcerated people could view the naked bodies of those being searched. Incarcerated
2 persons reported feeling humiliated and degraded by this invasive and dehumanizing search.

3 **IX. DEFENDANTS HAVE A PATTERN AND PRACTICE OF IMPEDING THE FILING OF
4 GRIEVANCES AND DISREGARDING GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

5 218. Defendants County and LASD fail to maintain a proper grievance procedure for
6 incarcerated persons, thereby preventing them from exhausting administrative remedies. LASD
7 fails to make grievance forms readily available to incarcerated persons in violation of LASD
8 policy, and custody personnel refuse to provide the forms when requested. The Sybil Brand
9 Commission also received reports that incarcerated persons are being restricted to “one
10 ‘grievance’ per form.”

11 219. LASD is violating its own policy on grievance processes by failing to issue a
12 written response to grievances and by failing to respond to grievances at all. For years, the Office
13 of the Inspector General has raised concerns about the quality of Defendants’ grievance
14 investigations and responses. Plaintiff spoke with numerous incarcerated persons who had
15 submitted multiple grievances but had received no response. Some incarcerated persons reported
16 as many as 20 and 30 grievances that had been unanswered.

17 220. In addition to being necessary for incarcerated persons to satisfy legally mandated
18 exhaustion requirements, grievance forms constitute the established procedure for incarcerated
19 persons to report problems, including problems that create a substantial risk of serious harm, to
20 Defendants. Defendants’ pattern and practice of failing to make grievance forms available to
21 incarcerated persons and failing to respond to grievances demonstrates deliberate indifference to
22 ongoing rights violations.

23 **X. DEFENDANTS DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AND FAIL TO ACCOMMODATE INCARCERATED
24 PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN VIOLATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL LAW**

25 221. LASD jails house significant numbers of individuals with disabilities. By policy
26 and practice, Defendants discriminate against incarcerated persons with disabilities through their
27 failure to provide meaningful access to programs, services and activities; failure to provide
28 reasonable accommodations; and failure to provide effective communication. These actions and

1 inactions are unlawful. They also significantly increase the risk of substantial harm to
2 incarcerated persons with disabilities.

A. Defendants Lack Policies and Practices Necessary for Identifying and Tracking Incarcerated Persons with Disabilities

5 222. Defendants do not maintain an effective central tracking system for, or adequate
6 information about, incarcerated persons with disabilities and the accommodations they require,
7 either in custody records or in CHS records. Defendants also lack necessary and comprehensive
8 policies on reasonable accommodations, particularly for non-mobility disabilities. The absence of
9 policy and lack of adequate information gathering and tracking exposes incarcerated persons with
10 disabilities to discrimination, failures to lawfully accommodate, and the risk of substantial
11 injuries.

12 223. Defendants' jail intake questionnaire is inadequate to document if a person has a
13 disability and their disability needs, including necessary accommodations. Defendants also do not
14 adequately train LASD jails personnel to collect or maintain information about an incarcerated
15 person's disabilities and related accommodations. To the extent that Defendants maintain
16 information about a person's disabilities in any form, LASD and CHS staff do not have timely
17 access to the information to inform them of the person's disabilities and appropriate
18 accommodations.

19 224. The main method of identification of persons with disabilities is limited to
20 wristband codes: D for deaf; I for blind; U for prosthetics, crutches, walker, and canes; and W for
21 wheelchair. Defendants have a general inmate information system or Automated Jail Information
22 System (AJIS), where wristband disability codes are entered, along with other classification
23 information. However, to access information about persons with disabilities, this system requires
24 a query to be submitted to Custody Support Services, a data team that runs complex programming
25 queries. The query will generate a report that supplies an incarcerated person's cell location, last
26 name, and the matching classification code. This report is only generated on an ad hoc basis.
27 Defendants do not have a system that allows for personnel to run a contemporaneous report that
28 tracks where persons with disabilities are housed at any time.

1 225. Defendants also do not have a system that tracks persons with disabilities who
2 have been previously housed in the LASD jails. This effectively means that any person with
3 disabilities who re-enters the LASD jails faces a renewed risk of discrimination and failure to
4 accommodate, despite Defendants' previous knowledge of their disabilities and needed
5 accommodations.

6 226. Absent an adequate tracking system, custody, medical, and mental health staff and
7 contractors have no easily accessible means to determine whether a person has a disability, and
8 what, if any, accommodations that person requires. On an ongoing basis, this deprives persons
9 with disabilities of meaningful access, reasonable accommodations, and effective communication
10 mandated by Government Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation
11 Act of 1973 (Section 504). The failure to provide reasonable accommodations exposes
12 incarcerated persons with disabilities to discrimination, exploitation, and substantial risk of
13 serious harm or death.

14 **B. Defendants Fail to Accommodate Persons with Hearing, Speech, and Vision
15 Disabilities**

16 227. Incarcerated people with hearing, speech, and other communication disabilities
17 have difficulty effectively communicating with jail staff and require accommodations, both to
18 enable effective communication, and to effectuate equal access to programs and services offered
19 by the LASD jails. Defendants regularly fail to provide reasonable accommodations to
20 individuals with hearing, speech, and other communication disabilities and fail to adequately train
21 staff how and when to provide such accommodations, in violation of Government Code section
22 11135, the ADA, and Section 504.

23 228. Defendants do not provide sign language interpreters, hearing aids, or other
24 auxiliary aids during the booking and intake process. This failure to accommodate incarcerated
25 persons with hearing and speech disabilities prevents them from communicating effectively with
26 staff about specific concerns, including during the medical and mental health screening process.
27 This increases the risk that medical or mental health disabilities will be undiagnosed or
28 misdiagnosed, potentially causing serious harm.

1 229. LASD distributes an Assistive Device Leaflet to persons with mobility disabilities,
2 but there are no leaflets or other informational materials for persons with auditory, sensory, and
3 other disabilities. Incarcerated persons at the Reception Center can wait nearly 24 hours for a pair
4 of hearing aids.

5 230. Defendants fail to provide equal access to telephone services to incarcerated
6 people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Incarcerated people without disabilities generally have
7 access to standard telephones when they are in the common area of their housing unit. By policy
8 and practice, an incarcerated person may make unlimited telephone calls, unless restrictions are
9 necessary to preserve safety and security. In contrast, Defendants fail to provide anything close to
10 the same level of access to incarcerated people who are hard of hearing or have other disabilities
11 impacting communication, who cannot freely use functioning video relay service, or video remote
12 interpreting, or even the now-outmoded Telecommunications Device for the Deaf phones.

13 231. Defendants use “Purple” machines for video relay service/video remote
14 interpreting, which provides real-time access to an American Sign Language interpreter, but only
15 have one stationary Purple machine in Twin Towers and four mobile units across Twin Towers,
16 Reception Center, Century Regional, and Men’s Central for the entire LASD jail population.
17 Although Purple is widely available through a computer application and is low-cost, there is not a
18 single Purple machine in any of LASD’s dozens of Station Jails. Additionally, LASD jail staff are
19 not adequately trained on how to use the Purple machine and overly rely on calls to the LASD’s
20 former ADA Coordinator, who is fluent in American Sign Language, to interpret in person.

21 232. Defendants fail to provide incarcerated persons who are blind or have low-vision
22 with auxiliary aids to permit participation in programs and services at the jails, including but not
23 limited to inmate request forms not being made available in Braille or large print; grievance forms
24 not being made available in Braille or large print; and notices and signs posted throughout the
25 jails that are not available in Braille or large print, in violation of Government Code section
26 11135; the ADA; 28 Code of Federal Regulations sections 35.152, subdivision (b)(1) and 35.130,
27 subdivision (b)(1)(vii); and Section 504.

28 //

C. Defendants Fail to Accommodate Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

233. Defendants do not track persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If such disabilities are identified at intake, Defendants do not have a classification code and have no way to track where persons with developmental disabilities or intellectual disabilities are housed within the jail system and what reasonable accommodations these persons may need or have requested. Defendants also fail to adequately train staff how to track whether reasonable accommodations have been provided to individuals with developmental or intellectual disabilities.

234. Defendants' failure to accommodate incarcerated persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities, either by failing to identify the disabilities and reasonable accommodations in the first instance, or by failing to track and consistently provide accommodations, impairs their ability to communicate effectively with staff and exposes them to an increased risk that medical or mental health issues will be undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

235. Defendants' failure to identify, and the lack of an adequate disability and accommodation tracking system for persons with developmental or intellectual disabilities results in denial of equal access to programs and services, discrimination, failure to lawfully accommodate, and substantial risk of serious harm, in violation of Government Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section 504.

D. Defendants Fail to Accommodate Persons with Physical Disabilities and Persons Who Need Assistive Devices

236. Defendants fail to ensure that incarcerated persons with disabilities are provided with and allowed to retain assistive devices, including, but not limited to, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, eyeglasses, magnifiers, screen readers, canes, braces, tapping canes, hearing aids, and pocket talkers, in violation of Government Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section 504. Defendants fail to consider the specific needs and abilities of persons with disabilities in assigning assistive devices, to the detriment of their overall health and safety.

237. LASD's policy on incarcerated persons with disabilities also violates the ADA

1 implementing regulations' requirement that public entities give primary consideration to the
2 preferred auxiliary aids and services used by a person with a disability. (28 C.F.R. § 35.160.)
3 Neither CHS nor LASD define "auxiliary aid" or "assistive device"; CHS only offers a list of
4 such devices. Staff using these policies, especially those who are not well-trained and not familiar
5 with the range of assistive devices a person with disabilities might require, improperly and
6 without cause decline to provide incarcerated people with their requested assistive devices, in
7 violation of Government Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section 504.

8 238. By policy and practice, CHS improperly applies an "appropriate accommodations"
9 standard to determine whether to provide assistive devices to incarcerated people. Specifically,
10 CHS policy states that "patients with verified mobility impairments will receive appropriate
11 accommodations for their specific mobility impairment." CHS's policy of an "appropriate
12 accommodations" standard is narrower than the ADA's reasonable accommodation requirement
13 that a public entity provide assistive devices or other accommodations as necessary to ensure
14 meaningful access to programs, services, and activities, provided that doing so is reasonable.
15 Because of CHS's improper standard, people with disabilities do not receive needed assistive
16 devices and cannot access the programs and services offered at LASD jails.

17 239. Defendants fail to ensure that persons with disabilities are housed in units and
18 assigned to beds that are accessible and safe. Each of the LASD jails contains multiple housing
19 units, which differ in their design, and importantly, in their accessibility to people with
20 disabilities. By policy and practice, LASD custody staff make decisions about where to house a
21 particular person without considering the person's disability-related needs. Due to LASD's failure
22 to identify and track people with disabilities, custody staff decide where to house a person
23 without essential information regarding the person's needs, significantly increasing the risk that
24 the person will be assigned to a housing unit that is not accessible, because, for example, it lacks
25 adequate toilets, grab bars in the shower, flat shower entrances, shower benches, or sufficient
26 space for a wheelchair.

27 240. Defendants' ongoing placement of incarcerated persons who require mobility
28 accommodations in non-ADA housing areas of Men's Central and Twin Towers significantly

1 increases the risk of injuries. Additionally, incarcerated persons who have prescriptions for
2 mobility assistive devices are not provided their prescribed mobility assistive device.

3 241. Defendants lack adequate policies, practices, and training for ensuring that people
4 who require lower bunk bed assignments actually receive lower bunk bed assignments and are
5 able to sleep in lower bunks. As a result, people who require lower bunk assignments as
6 accommodations for their disabilities are at times forced to sleep on upper bunks, which subjects
7 them to a risk of harm.

8 242. By policy and practice, patient access to the physical therapy facility in the LASD
9 jails is “contingent on the patient’s security status and the safety of others.” Because of CHS’s
10 improper standard, people with disabilities who need physical therapy do not receive it and
11 cannot access programs and services at LASD jails.

12 243. Defendants’ written policies permit staff to remove devices based on security
13 concerns without adequate safeguards for ensuring that the removal of assisted devices is justified
14 and for providing alternative accommodations that do not implicate any identified safety
15 concerns.

16 **E. Defendants Fail to Provide Equal Access to Programs, Services, and the
17 Grievance System**

18 244. Defendants have a pattern or practice of being deliberately indifferent to the health
19 and safety of incarcerated persons with disabilities and fail to provide equal access to programs,
20 services and activities, in violation of Government Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section
21 504. Defendants do not consistently provide notification of monthly town hall meetings at all jails
22 to apprise incarcerated persons of all available programming as required by their policy.

23 245. Defendants house many people with mobility disabilities at Twin Towers, which
24 consists of seven floors, and persons with mobility disabilities are housed on the highest floor.
25 Some programs at Twin Towers, including recreation, health appointments, social visits, and
26 attorney visits, are on bottom floors separate from the housing units and are accessible only via
27 stairs or the elevator. However, the elevators are routinely broken and malfunctioning. These
28 practices effectively prevent people with mobility disabilities from accessing programs and

1 services at the jails, including, but not limited to recreation, health appointments, social visits, and
2 professional visits. Likewise, at Century Regional, which houses female inmates including those
3 with mobility disabilities, out-of-service elevators create difficulties for persons with mobility
4 issues when traveling to and from their housing locations.

5 246. Defendants do not maintain a sufficient number of accessible vehicles for persons
6 with disabilities or provide reasonable accommodations during transportation to ensure
7 individuals with disabilities are transported safely and securely.

8 247. Defendants do not have an emergency preparedness plan that accommodates
9 individuals with mobility disabilities, intellectual or developmental disabilities, hearing and visual
10 disabilities, or mental health disabilities.

11 248. Defendants do not have a functional or effective grievance system to be used by
12 incarcerated persons with disabilities, in violation of Government Code section 11135, the ADA,
13 and Section 504. Incarcerated persons with disabilities must use the general Inmate Request form
14 or grievance procedure, which lacks any field for an incarcerated person to note that the grievance
15 concerns disability accommodations.

16 249. Defendants also fail to ensure that grievance bins have adequate supplies of forms
17 available for submitting a grievance, custody request or Health Service Request form, including
18 for purposes of requesting disability accommodations or submitting ADA-related grievances.
19 When incarcerated persons request such forms, they are often advised that forms are not available
20 or that staff will return with a form, which rarely occurs.

21 250. Defendants utilize a categorization system within the Custody Inmate Grievance
22 Application (CIGA) to designate grievances. LASD resolves ADA-related custody grievances
23 and CHS resolves ADA-related medical grievances. In reviewing grievances, Defendants are not
24 categorizing ADA-related grievances properly and sometimes designate them as other categories,
25 which directly impacts the ability to identify, track, and address all ADA-related issues within a
26 grievance.

27 //
28 //

F. Men's Central is not ADA Compliant

251. Men's Central is so antiquated and dilapidated that it cannot comply with basic requirements of the ADA and Section 504. The structural design of Men's Central renders it impossible to comply with the ADA. LASD's own former ADA Coordinator has insisted that the facility should have been closed before the ADA went into effect.

252. The Medical Outpatient Security Housing (MOSH) in Men's Central does not have a single cell that is ADA compliant. This housing area is set aside for persons with disabilities and increased medical needs but does not have grab bars of the right length, at the right height, or in the right position vis-a-vis the toilet; anti-suicide plating to make sure the person cannot tie a ligature; or beds of appropriate height. All the beds in the medical cells are critically high and impossible for a person in a wheelchair to get in. The same collection of defects is also present for all other cells at Men's Central.

253. Defendants have been on notice of the lack of safe, accessible, and ADA-compliant housing at Men's Central. For example, in 2022, the former ADA Coordinator for the LASD jails wrote a report summarizing his findings that not a single cell in Men's Central was ADA compliant and delivered it to his LASD chain of command. He received no response, and no changes were made as a result of the report.

254. Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1 and 2 state requirements for adult local detention facilities. Men's Central and other LASD jails do not meet Title 24 standards regarding fire safety, temporary holding cells, sobering cells, housing cells, day rooms and activity areas for mobility impaired, and generally areas impacting the health and safety of persons in the jails.

XI. DEFENDANTS FAIL TO PROVIDE MULTILINGUAL ACCESS TO PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS

255. Defendants fail to provide adequate language interpretation and translation services to incarcerated persons, despite knowing what constitutes meaningful language access services in the correctional context. Defendants' failure to provide incarcerated persons who have limited English proficiency with the necessary language access services means that these incarcerated persons are denied the services that are made available to English-speaking

1 incarcerated persons.

2 256. Los Angeles County is a racially and ethnically diverse county, with one in three
3 people who identify as being born outside of the United States. According to the United States
4 Census Bureau's American Community Survey from 2022, 37.7 percent of the population of Los
5 Angeles County speak a language other than English at home. Substantial numbers of persons
6 who live and work in Los Angeles County and interact with the LASD jail system are unable,
7 either because they do not speak or write English, or because their primary language is other than
8 English, to effectively communicate with LASD and CHS staff.

9 257. LASD and CHS manage and/or administer programs and/or activities that receive
10 direct and indirect federal financial assistance from the United States Department of Justice,
11 which means that under Code of Regulations, Title 6, section 610, Defendants are prohibited from
12 discriminating against or otherwise excluding individuals on the basis of race, color, or national
13 origin in any program or activity.

14 258. Defendants have failed to develop and implement a language access plan in the
15 jails, which disproportionately impacts limited English proficient populations and leads to
16 capricious and discriminatory decisions that unlawfully deny full and equal access to programs,
17 services, and healthcare in the jails based on limited English proficiency and national origin.

18 259. Defendants' booking and intake process does not include solicitation or
19 documentation of an arrestee's spoken language, language preference, or language needs. None of
20 the booking documents contain categories for this information.

21 260. Defendants do not translate vital documents into the languages frequently spoken
22 by persons with limited English proficiency who are confined in the LASD jails and languages
23 common among residents of Los Angeles County who have limited English proficiency.

24 261. Defendants fail to provide adequate language interpretation and translation
25 services as a general matter; to secure qualified interpreters for non-medical purposes, including
26 non-English speaking deputies at intake; and to ensure that language interpreters other than
27 custody deputies are available to facilitate access to healthcare in all facilities and interpret
28 sensitive medical information.

262. Defendants fail to train LASD and CHS personnel to handle circumstances requiring interaction and communication with incarcerated persons who have limited English proficiency.

263. These deficiencies result in the failure to provide meaningful access to programs and services. Additionally, CHS's deficient policies and practices regarding incarcerated persons with medical, dental, and mental health needs who require language assistance leads to said incarcerated persons being subjected to an unreasonable risk of death or serious harm due to being unable to effectively communicate with healthcare professionals in the jails.

264. Monolingual persons and persons with limited English proficiency in LASD jails routinely suffer avoidable harm because of their inability to speak English. This harm is due to Defendants' routine failure to provide necessary language access services, in violation of their statutory mandates to do so.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Pattern or Practice of Conduct that Deprives Incarcerated Persons of the Rights, Privileges, or Immunities Secured or Protected by the Constitution or Laws of the United States or the Constitution or Laws of the State of California in Violation of Civil Code section 52.3

Plaintiff Against Defendants County, LASD, Sheriff, and Does 1 to 50

265. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference all the allegations in all the preceding paragraphs of this complaint as though they were fully set forth herein.

266. Civil Code section 52.3, subdivision (a) prohibits governmental authorities, an agent of a governmental authority, and persons acting on behalf of governmental authorities, from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct by law enforcement officers that deprives any person of rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the Constitution or laws of the State of California. (Civ. Code, § 52.3, subd. (a).)

267. Through the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices, and customs described in this Complaint, Defendants County, LASD, Sheriff, and Does 1-50 cause persons incarcerated in the LASD jails to be deprived of rights, privileges, or immunities secured and protected by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; Article I,

1 Sections 7 and 17 of the California Constitution; Code of Regulations, Titles 15 and 24; the
2 Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.); the Prison Rape Elimination Act (34
3 U.S.C. § 30301 et seq.); Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794);
4 Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Gov. Code § 7290 et seq.); Government Code section
5 11135; and federal and state laws guaranteeing due process, equal protection, and equal access to
6 benefits, activities, and programs, as set forth more fully in subsequent causes of action, which
7 are incorporated herein by reference.

8 268. Defendants' violations are continuing and ongoing. Unless restrained by the Court,
9 Defendants will continue to engage in the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices,
10 and customs that deprive persons confined in the LASD jails of their rights, privileges, or
11 immunities under state and federal law and cause significant and irreparable harm. Accordingly,
12 the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of California, seeks declaratory and
13 injunctive relief to remedy these pervasive violations.

14 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

15 **Punitive Conditions of Confinement and Deliberate Indifference to the Health, Safety, and
16 Welfare of Pretrial Detainees and Other Persons Who Have Not Been Convicted in
17 Violation of Article I, Section 7 of the California Constitution and the Fourteenth
Amendment to the United States Constitution**

18 **Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

19 269. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference all the allegations
20 in all the preceding paragraphs of this complaint as though they were fully set forth herein.

21 270. Article I, Section 7 of the California Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment
22 to the United States Constitution prohibit the deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due
23 process of law. Pretrial detainees and other persons confined in LASD jails who have not been
24 convicted are entitled to the protections of the due process clauses of the California and United
25 States Constitutions.

26 271. Under these provisions, pretrial detainees and other persons confined in LASD
27 jails who have not been convicted must be provided with humane conditions of confinement and
28 the basic necessities of life, including but not limited to: adequate food, water, clothing, shelter,

1 sanitation, personal hygiene, exercise, safety, and healthcare. These constitutional provisions also
2 protect persons who have not been convicted from punishment, including intentional punishment
3 and conditions and practices of pretrial detention that are punitive and not reasonably related to a
4 legitimate governmental objective. Officials violate the rights secured by these constitutional
5 provisions where they act with deliberate indifference to the health, safety, and welfare of pretrial
6 detainees and other person who have not been convicted, subject them to a substantial risk of
7 serious harm, and/or recklessly disregard their serious medical, dental, and mental health needs.

8 272. Through the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices, and customs
9 alleged in this complaint, Defendants have repeatedly violated the rights, privileges, and
10 immunities of pretrial detainees and other persons in the LASD jails who have not been convicted
11 that are secured or protected by Article I, Section 7 of the California Constitution and the
12 Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. These violations include, without
13 limitation: the failure to provide potable water, minimally adequate nutrition, exercise, out-of-cell
14 time, adequate and clean bedding, adequate and clean clothing, necessary personal hygiene
15 supplies, and environments free of vermin, insects, filth, extreme temperatures, and breathable
16 air; the imposition of excessive administrative or disciplinary segregation; the failure to provide
17 minimally adequate healthcare services; and deliberately indifferent delays in and denials of
18 treatment for serious medical, dental, and mental health conditions, causing pain, suffering,
19 irreparable harm, and death.

20 273. These violations and the conditions, patterns, policies, practices, and customs that
21 deprive incarcerated persons of the basic necessities of life and cause a substantial risk of serious
22 harm to the health, safety, and welfare of incarcerated persons, are open and obvious. Defendants
23 have long been aware of these conditions and/or have been given notice of these conditions by
24 prior investigations, lawsuits, consent decrees, public reports, and oversight, yet have failed to
25 take reasonable and necessary corrective action.

26 274. Defendants' violations are continuing and ongoing. Unless restrained by the Court,
27 Defendants will continue to engage in the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices,
28 and customs that deprive convicted persons of their rights, privileges, or immunities under these

provisions of the California and United States Constitutions and cause significant and irreparable harm. Accordingly, the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of California, seeks injunctive and declaratory relief to remedy these pervasive violations.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Cruel and Unusual Conditions of Confinement and Deliberate Indifference to the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Convicted Persons in Violation of Article I, Section 17 of the California Constitution and the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution

Plaintiff Against All Defendants

275. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference all the allegations in all the preceding paragraphs of this complaint as though they were fully set forth herein.

276. Article I, Section 17 of the California Constitution and the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibit the imposition of cruel and unusual punishment on persons who have been convicted.

277. Under these provisions, convicted persons in the LASD jails must be provided with humane conditions of confinement and the basic necessities of life, including but not limited to: adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, sanitation, personal hygiene, exercise, safety, and healthcare. These constitutional provisions also protect convicted persons from the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain, humiliation, and treatment that is antithetical to human dignity. Officials violate the rights secured by these constitutional provisions where they act with deliberate indifference to the health, safety, and welfare of incarcerated persons, subject them to a substantial risk of serious harm, and/or recklessly disregard their serious medical, dental, and mental health needs.

278. Through the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices, and customs alleged in this complaint, Defendants have repeatedly violated the rights, privileges, and immunities of convicted persons in the LASD jails that are secured or protected by Article I, Section 17 of the California Constitution and the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. These violations include, without limitation: the failure to provide potable water, minimally adequate nutrition, exercise, out-of-cell time, adequate and clean bedding, adequate and clean clothing, necessary personal hygiene supplies, and environments free of vermin,

1 insects, filth, extreme temperatures, and breathable air; the imposition of excessive administrative
2 or disciplinary segregation; the failure to provide minimally adequate healthcare services; and
3 deliberately indifferent delays in and denials of treatment for serious medical, dental, and mental
4 health conditions, causing pain, suffering, irreparable harm, and death.

5 279. These violations and the conditions, patterns, policies, practices, and customs that
6 deprive incarcerated persons of the basic necessities of life and cause a substantial risk of serious
7 harm to the health, safety, and welfare of incarcerated persons, are open and obvious. Defendants
8 have long been aware of these conditions and/or have been given notice of these conditions by
9 prior investigations, lawsuits, consent decrees, public reports, and oversight, yet have failed to
10 take reasonable and necessary corrective action.

11 280. Defendants' violations are continuing and ongoing. Unless restrained by the Court,
12 Defendants will continue to engage in the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices,
13 and customs that deprive convicted persons of their rights, privileges, or immunities under these
14 provisions of the California and United States Constitutions and cause significant and irreparable
15 harm. Accordingly, the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of California, seeks
16 injunctive and declaratory relief to remedy these pervasive violations.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **Failure To Meet Minimum Standards and Requirements for Local Detention Facilities in
19 Violation of Code of Regulations, Title 15 and Title 24**

20 **Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

21 281. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference all the allegations
22 in all the preceding paragraphs of this complaint as though they were fully set forth herein.

23 282. Code of Regulations, Title 15 sets minimum standards for custodial facilities,
24 including local detention facilities like the LASD jails. (Code Regs., tit. 15, §§ 1004 et seq.)
25 Under a variety of sections, including but not limited to sections 1027, 1027.5, 1030, 1055, 1056,
26 1058, 1061, 1064, 1065, 1083, 1200, 1203, 1206, 1207, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1213, 1215, 1216,
27 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1245, 1246, 1248, 1260, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1270,
28 1271, 1272, and 1280, local detention facilities must comply with statutory requirements for, inter

1 alia: (1) training, personnel, and management; (2) safety checks; (3) suicide prevention programs;
2 (4) use of safety and sobering cells; (5) classification and separation; (6) programs and services;
3 (7) disciplinary actions; (8) medical/mental health services; (9) food; (10) clothing and personal
4 hygiene; (11) bedding and linens; and (12) facility sanitation and safety.

5 283. Code of Regulations, Title 24 establishes various physical, design, and capacity
6 requirements for local detention facilities, including requirements for, inter alia, fire safety,
7 holding cells, housing cells, dormitories, safety cells, sobering cells, dayrooms, exercise areas,
8 medical examination rooms, dining facilities, furnishings, fixtures, and equipment. (Code Regs.,
9 tit. 24, §§ 13-102, 1231, et seq.) The regulations also limit the number of people that can be kept
10 in the various holding areas of a jail facility.

11 284. Through the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices, and customs
12 alleged in this complaint, Defendants have repeatedly and regularly violated the minimum
13 standards and facility requirements set forth in the Code of Regulations, including without
14 limitation by: failing to have sufficient staff; performing inadequate and untimely safety checks;
15 failing to implement sufficient suicide precautions; misuse and inadequate supervision of safety
16 and sobering cells; engaging in prohibited and inappropriate discipline; failing to provide
17 minimally adequate medical, dental, and mental health services; employing or utilizing
18 underqualified care providers; conducting untimely and inadequate intake screenings; providing
19 deficient nutrition and inadequate meals; failing to provide clean bedding and clothing; failing to
20 provide hygiene kits and menstrual supplies; impermissibly limiting showering; depriving
21 persons of sufficient exercise and out of cell time; failing to comply with visiting requirements;
22 having out-of-date and inadequate policies and procedures; leaving maintenance and sanitation
23 issues uncorrected; permitting and failing to remedy overcrowding; allowing necessary fixtures
24 and facilities to fall into disrepair; housing persons in inappropriate and non-compliant cells; and
25 allowing vermin, mold, and other health and safety hazards to exist.

26 285. These violations of the Code of Regulations are open and obvious, and Defendants
27 have long been aware of their failure to comply with the statutory standards for local detention
28 facilities in California and/or have been given notice of their failure to comply with statutory

1 standards by prior investigations, lawsuits, consent decrees, public reports, and oversight, yet
2 have failed to take reasonable and necessary corrective action.

3 286. Defendants' violations are continuing and ongoing. Unless restrained by the Court,
4 Defendants will continue to engage in the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices,
5 and customs that violate Titles 15 and 24 of the Code of Regulations and cause significant and
6 irreparable harm. Accordingly, the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of
7 California, seeks injunctive and declaratory relief to remedy these pervasive violations.

8 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **Failure to Accommodate and Discrimination Against Qualified Individuals with Disabilities
10 and Discrimination Against Other Protected Classes in Violation of Government Code
11 Section 11135, the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act (Government Code Section 7290
et seq.), the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq.), and Section 504 of
the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794)**

12 **Plaintiff Against All Defendants**

13 287. Plaintiff repeats, realleges, and incorporates herein by reference all the allegations
14 in all the preceding paragraphs of this complaint as though they were fully set forth herein.

15 288. Under Government Code section 11135, a person may not be denied, on account
16 of "mental disability, physical disability, [or] medical condition," "full and equal access to the
17 benefits of, or be unlawfully subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is . . .
18 funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state." Defendants
19 receive financial assistance from the State of California through various statutes and funding
20 mechanisms. Violations of the ADA also constitute violations of Government Code section
21 11135. (Gov. Code, § 11135, subd. (b).)

22 289. The ADA prohibits Defendants from denying a "qualified individual with a
23 disability . . . the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of a public entity, or [causing
24 such an individual to] be subjected to discrimination by any such entity" because of the
25 individual's disability. (42 U.S.C. § 12132; see also 28 C.F.R. § 35.130, subds. (a) & (b)(1).)
26 Under the ADA, Defendants must provide reasonable accommodations to incarcerated persons
27 with disabilities and modifications so they can avail themselves of and participate in all programs
28 and activities offered by Defendants. (28 C.F.R. §§ 35.133, subd. (a); 35.152, subd. (b).)

1 290. The ADA defines “a qualified individual with a disability” as a person who has a
2 “physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities,”
3 including, but not limited to, “caring for oneself, performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing,
4 eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading,
5 concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working.” (42 U.S.C. § 12102, subds. (1)(A),
6 (2)(A).) The ADA Amendments Act of 2008 expanded the definition of “major life activities” to
7 also include: “the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of
8 the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain,
9 respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.”

10 291. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 provides in pertinent part: “[N]o
11 otherwise qualified individual with a disability … shall, solely by reason of her or his disability,
12 be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination
13 under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance....” (29 U.S.C. § 794.) The
14 Rehabilitation Act requires all state and local governments receiving federal funds to reasonably
15 accommodate individuals with disabilities in their facilities, program activities, and services, and
16 to provide a grievance procedure. (29 U.S.C. § 794.) The Act further requires such entities to
17 modify their facilities, services, and programs as necessary to accomplish the Act’s purpose.
18 Defendants are recipients of federal funding within the meaning of the Rehabilitation Act. Any
19 “qualified individual with a disability” under the ADA is considered an “individual with a
20 disability” for purposes of the provision of services under the Rehabilitation Act. (29 U.S.C.
21 § 705, subd. (20)(B).)

22 292. During all relevant times and on an ongoing basis, qualified individuals with
23 disabilities are confined in LASD jails. They are otherwise qualified to participate in the services,
24 programs, or activities that are provided to persons confined in the LASD jails, including but not
25 limited to: sleeping; eating; showering; toileting; communicating with those outside the jail by
26 mail and telephone; exercising; entertainment; safety and security; the jail’s administrative,
27 disciplinary, and classification proceedings; medical, dental, and mental health services; the
28 library; educational, vocational, substance use, and anger management classes; and discharge

1 services. These programs, services, and activities are covered by the state and federal anti-
2 discrimination and accommodation laws.

3 293. Through the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices, and customs
4 alleged in this complaint, Defendants have repeatedly discriminated against and failed to
5 accommodate persons with disabilities confined in the LASD jails, in violation of Government
6 Code section 11135, the ADA, and Section 504. Defendants exclude and deny qualified
7 individuals with disabilities the benefit of and/or participation in the services, programs, and
8 activities offered in the LASD jails by, without limitation, failing to: identify persons with
9 disabilities and needed accommodations during the intake process; reasonably accommodate
10 hearing, speech, vision, developmental, intellectual, and physical disabilities; ensure accessibility
11 for those with mobility disabilities; ensure effective communication; and provide a functional and
12 effective grievance system for individuals with disabilities.

13 294. California's Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual Services Act, Government Code § 7290
14 et seq., requires state and local agencies to explain or translate information and services into any
15 language spoken by a substantial number of non-English speaking people. During all relevant
16 times and on an ongoing basis, persons of limited English proficiency are confined in LASD jails
17 in substantial numbers and are denied access to programs, activities, and services in the jails due
18 to Defendants failure to provide necessary and appropriate translation and interpretation services.

19 295. These violations and the conditions, patterns, policies, practices, and customs that
20 deprive individuals of equal access to programs, services, and activities in the LASD jails under
21 state and federal law are open and obvious. Defendants have long been aware of these conditions
22 and/or have been given notice of these conditions by prior investigations, lawsuits, consent
23 decrees, public reports, and oversight, yet have failed to take reasonable and necessary corrective
24 action.

25 296. Defendants' violations are continuing and ongoing. Unless restrained by the Court,
26 Defendants will continue to engage in the conduct, acts, omissions, policies, patterns, practices,
27 and customs that cause violations of Government Code section 11135, the Dymally-Alatorre
28 Bilingual Services Act, Government Code § 7290 et seq., the ADA, and Section 504.

1 Accordingly, the Attorney General, on behalf of the People of the State of California, seeks
2 injunctive and declaratory relief to remedy these pervasive violations.

3 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for the Court to enter judgment and for relief as
5 follows:

6 1. Declare that the conditions, acts, omissions, patterns, policies, and practices of
7 Defendants and their agents, officials, and employees are in violation of the Eighth and
8 Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; Article I, Sections 7 and 17 of the
9 California Constitution; Code of Regulations, Titles 15 and 24; the Americans with Disabilities
10 Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101 et seq.); the Prison Rape Elimination Act (34 U.S.C. § 30301 et seq.);
11 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 794); the Dymally-Alatorre Bilingual
12 Services Act (Gov. Code § 7290 et seq.); Government Code section 11135; and federal and state
13 laws guaranteeing due process, equal protection, and equal access to benefits, activities, and
14 programs;

15 2. Order Defendants, their agents, officials, employees, and all persons acting in
16 concert with them, under color of state law or otherwise, to provide minimally adequate medical,
17 dental, and mental health care to incarcerated persons; to protect incarcerated persons from an
18 unreasonable risk of harm; to provide incarcerated persons with minimally adequate habitable,
19 humane, and safe conditions of confinement; to ensure adequate environmental health and safety
20 conditions consistent with modern public health standards; to respect the dignity and health of
21 incarcerated persons; to maintain an effective and accessible grievance procedure for incarcerated
22 persons; to cease discriminating against and provide reasonable accommodations for incarcerated
23 persons with disabilities, to ensure equal access to programs, services, and activities for
24 incarcerated persons with disabilities; and to provide access to multi-lingual, interpretation, and
25 translation services for incarcerated persons with limited English proficiency;

26 3. Enjoin Defendants, their agents, officials, employees, and all persons acting in
27 concert with them, under color of state law or otherwise, from continuing the unlawful conditions,
28 acts, omissions, patterns, policies, and practices described in this Complaint, and from failing to

1 provide minimally adequate mental, dental, and mental health care to incarcerated persons; failing
2 to protect incarcerated persons from an unreasonable risk of harm; failing to provide incarcerated
3 persons with minimally adequate habitable, humane, and safe conditions of confinement; failing
4 to ensure adequate environmental health and safety conditions consistent with modern public
5 health standards; failing to respect the dignity and health of incarcerated persons; failing to
6 maintain an effective and accessible grievance procedure for incarcerated persons; discriminating
7 against and failing to provide reasonable accommodations for incarcerated persons with
8 disabilities and failing to ensure equal access to programs, services, and activities for incarcerated
9 persons with disabilities; and failing to provide access to multi-lingual, interpretation, and
10 translation services for incarcerated persons with limited English proficiency;

11 4. Exercise continuing jurisdiction over this action until Defendants have fully
12 complied with the orders of this Court and there is a reasonable assurance that Defendants will
13 continue to comply in the future absent continuing jurisdiction;

14 || 5. Award costs and attorneys' fees; and

15 ||| 6. Award any other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: September 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

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