

1. I am Jim Lasher – a member of the Citizens Involvement Committee and the Chair of the Central Citizens Budget Advisory Committee.
2. The CCBAC is made up of the CBAC chairs or a designated member from the CBAC. You have received our report, and that of the different CBACs.
3. I am going to use the same word that we have used over the last two years: Collaboration. We are very pleased and encouraged that the county departments have done an excellent job in working together. We also noted that this collaboration has spread to the county working with its cities and the neighboring counties. This working together helps achieve goals, with a reduced expenditure to the county residents.
4. The CCBAC realized that many of the dollars spent, were on Mental Health. These dollars are not just out of one county department, but affect many departments, such as Health and also all of the Justice system. We were pleased to see that the various departments are working together to address the issue.
5. Suicides in the Jails are not just limited to those with Mental Health issues. People jailed also cannot cope with a long sentence facing them, and with charges being brought forth. Suicide Watches are necessary, but at a cost to the county. We recommend consideration of another job classification to continue the watches – which are absolutely necessary. We are pleased that the County Board continues to fund the watches. Reduction of the watches can result in a suicide, and possible civil lawsuits. Although there have been attempts at suicide, the watches have prevented deaths over the last few years.

6. We have discussed HB3194, and support that the county allow the state monies to follow the population as they reenter our community. Proper supervision cannot be made without this funding.
7. Reading the newspapers, many employees under PERS are deciding to retire. The county must continue to address this issue, and encourage succession planning, so valuable knowledge is not lost. We noted that the county is proactive in this area.

Lastly, I want to thank the CBAC members for their work, and also the CCBAC members, for their double efforts and input. To the Citizen Involvement staff, who keeps us afloat during the budget process, a Thank You. To you, the members of the County Board, a big thank you for your allowing us to give you input on programs and budget issues. It has been a pleasure to work with Chair Madrigal. Madam Chairman – Thank You.