



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Housing Conservatorship Workgroup: Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 13, 2020 @ 1:00pm-2:30pm
Virtual Webex Meeting

In virtual attendance:

Chair	Angelica Almeida, Ph.D. (SFDPH)
Workgroup Members	Kelly Dearman (Seat 1), Jessica Lehman (Seat 2), Simon Pang (Seat 3), Jennifer Esteen (Seat 4), Rachel Rodriguez (Seat 5), Marlo Simmons (Seat 8), Jose Orbeta (Seat 9), Jill Nielsen (Seat 10), Dara Papo (Seat 11), Sgt. Kelly Kruger (Seat 12)
Evaluation Team	Rami Arafah (Harder+Company Community Research), Tsuyoshi Onda (Harder+Company Community Research)

Welcome and Agenda Review

Dr. Angelica Almeida, PhD provided an overview of the purpose of the workgroup, and a reminder that the preliminary report was submitted on January 21, 2020 with the next report due in January 2021. The workgroup also welcomed Marlo Simmons who replaces Dr. Irene Sung in Seat 8.

Implementation Update

COVID-19 has greatly impacted the City’s organization and capacity. Paperwork still needs to be finalized with the City courts in order to begin conservatorship of individuals under the Housing Conservatorship program, but City resources have been largely redirected to essential activities. Therefore, no individuals have been conserved to date under the pilot program. The workgroup members discussed several items related to the impact of COVID on conservatorship:

- The LPS conservatorship calendar is moving forward and considered essential. The City courts are reining in the scope of what they are currently doing, so they are not moving on any new conservatorships unless a pressing health or safety factor is imminent.
- New LPS conservatorship cases are declining, and Housing Conservatorship cases could still be months away.
- In response to COVID-19, many facilities have been closed to visitors and the City has been coming up with innovative ways to connect individuals
- The extent to which information is available to the public on what happens when an individual under the care of a health system tests positive for COVID-19.

Moving forward, the workgroup will have monthly access to a list that shows how many individuals are at risk of Conservatorship, with four or more WIC §5150 holds over the last 12 months. This will provide ways to identify and connect vulnerable individuals and offer services and housing options for those in need. The latest report available shows 112 individuals with four or more WIC §5150 holds over the 12-month period from February 2019 to February 2020. Concerns were raised by the workgroup related to the feasibility of connecting people to the services they need given the lack of resources at the City’s disposal.

Evaluation Update

Limitations around data collection on WIC §5150 holds continue, including data gathered through outreach from the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California. These limitations are mostly due to challenges with matching data at the patient level.

In response to workgroup members' request for more detailed information on when and why peace officers are involved in placing individuals on WIC §5150 holds, Harder+Company will analyze qualitative data from SFPD. The evaluation team is securing an MOU to receive incident reports resulting in WIC §5150 holds over seven randomly selected days in Fiscal Year 2019-20. Harder+Company will aggregate the information and the workgroup will then assess overall trends in the appropriateness of the peace officer involvement.

Other evaluation updates involved ongoing work, including:

- SFDPH is working closely with PES social workers to better understand the process by which individuals under Housing Conservatorship will be offered voluntary services and housing at initial engagement
- The workgroup will continue to closely examine the high proportion of African Americans among those individuals eligible for conservation by the City and ensure that the Housing Conservatorship pilot does not bring unintentional impacts by furthering racial disparities.

Given the impact of COVID-19, the evaluation timeline has not moved forward as efficiently as expected, but the hope is that the August 2020 workgroup meeting can be used to review individual data from the 2019-20 Fiscal Year, if available. The December 2020 meeting will then be used to review a draft of the evaluation report that will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors and Mayor's office in January 2021.

Public Comments

There were no public comments made at this meeting.

Closing and Next Steps

The next meeting of the Housing Conservatorship Working group is scheduled for Monday, August 17th, 1:00-2:30 pm at 25 Van Ness, Room 610. If an in-person gathering is not possible, the meeting will once again be held virtually.