

# HSA/DPH RESPONSE TO *BLA REVIEW OF LPS CONSERVATORSHIPS IN SAN FRANCISCO*

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November 8, 2019  
Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



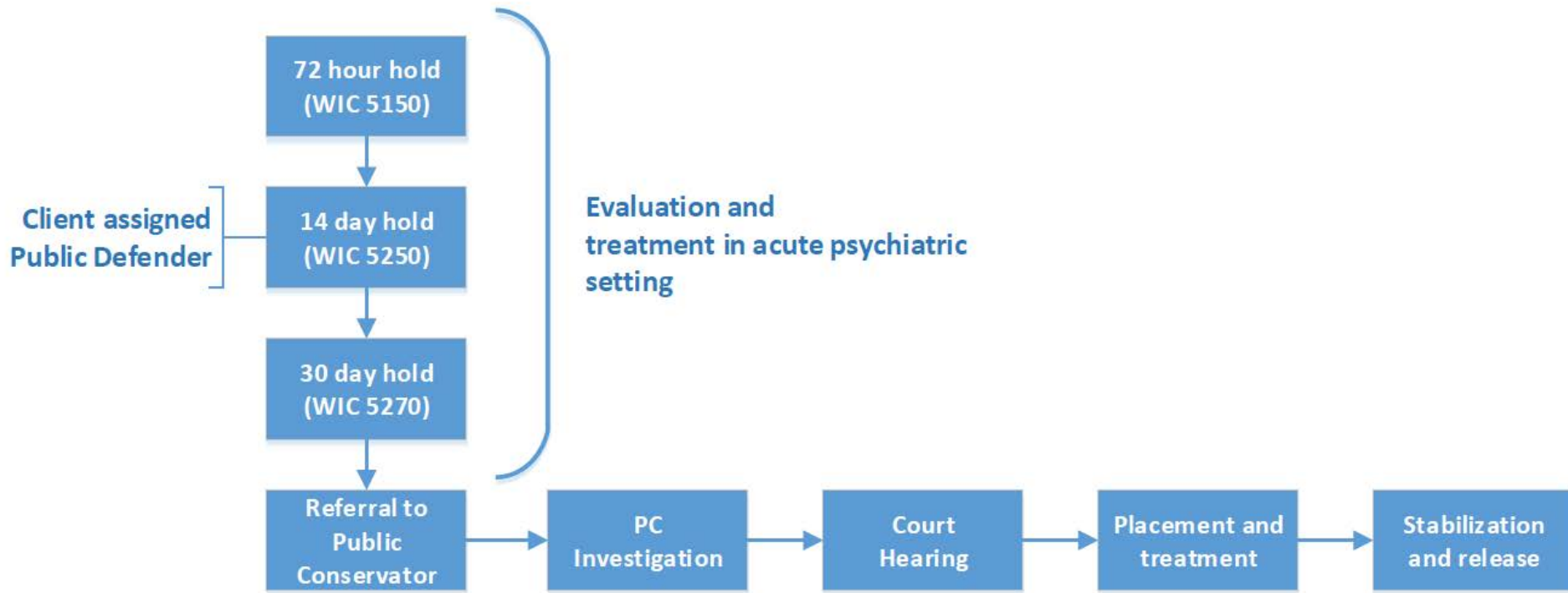
San Francisco  
Health Network

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

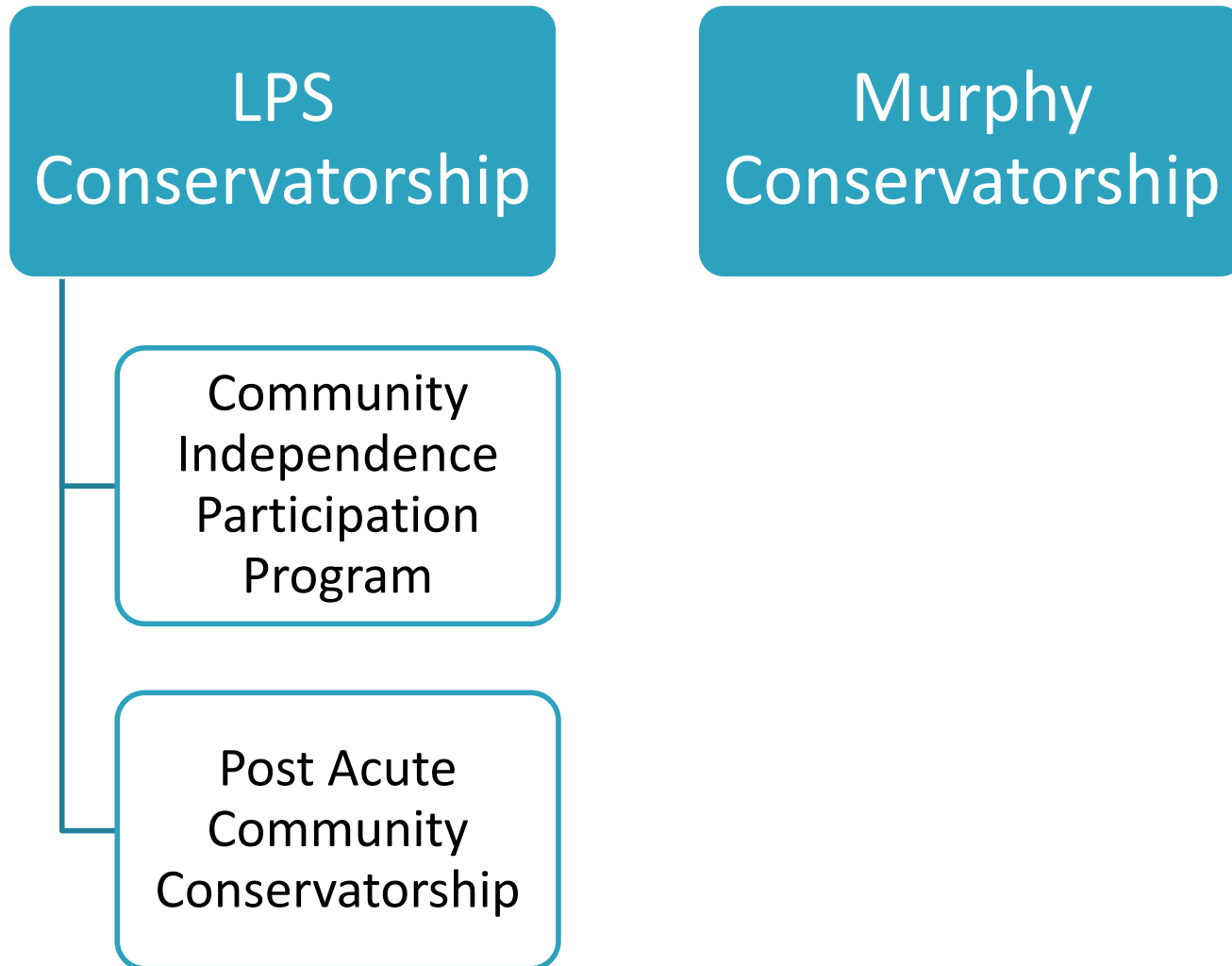
The **Office of the Public Conservator** is responsible for overseeing the psychiatric care of San Francisco residents who are *gravely disabled* due to mental illness and who have been found by the court unable or unwilling to accept voluntary treatment.

*Grave Disability* is the legal basis for involuntary commitment and refers to the inability of an adult to provide for their basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) due to impairment by mental illness or chronic alcoholism.

# LPS Conservatorship Process



# Mental Health Conservatorship Programs



# RECENT TRENDS

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# Referrals for LPS Conservatorship

- Overall referrals for LPS conservatorship from Zuckerberg San Francisco General and other psychiatric hospitals have fallen since FY12-13
- The primary driver for this trend was the City's implementation of the 30-day hold in 2014 (Welfare and Institutions Code 5270)
- By providing individuals an opportunity to recover for up to 47 days, the need for conservatorship may be avoided

# Permanent Conservatorships Have Been Increasing Since FY13-14

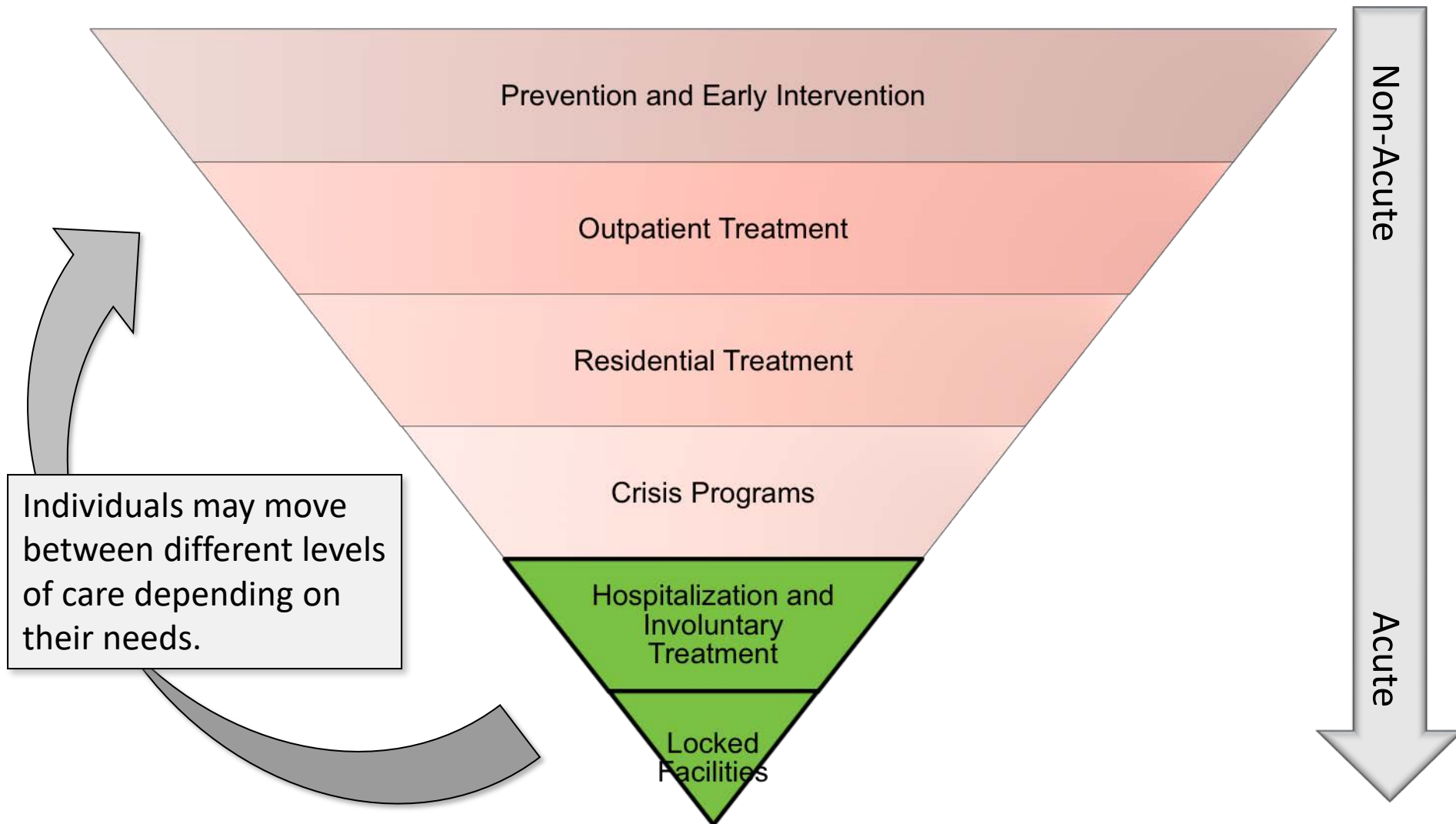
	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19
Permanent	74	40	43	48	50	77	92
Temporary only	190	170	136	85	78	64	57
Declined	20	31	1	0	0	0	0
All referrals	284	241	180	133	128	141	149

# Community-Based Service and Care Options Have Increased

- Increased emphasis and investment in community-based and less restrictive interventions
- Innovative programs and collaborations:
  - Assisted Outpatient Treatment (launched 2015)
  - Coordination with Office of Conservatorship Services
  - Mobile therapy van
  - Engagement specialists



# Behavioral Health Services



# How does San Francisco's LPS caseload compare to other counties?

- Limited statewide data sources regarding conservatorships
- *DHCS Involuntary Detentions Report* data from FY16-17 for San Francisco is not correct
- Departments are working to ensure that correct data is reported moving forward

# San Francisco's LPS Caseload: Larger than Comparable Counties

County	Population	LPS Caseload <i>(July 2019)</i>	Per 10,000
San Mateo	770,000	400	5.2
San Francisco	880,000	600	6.8
Contra Costa	1,150,000	250	2.2
Alameda	1,650,000	380	2.3
Santa Clara	1,920,000	600	3.1

# Staffing and the Public Conservator

- PC staffing levels have not impacted referral acceptance historically
- PC accepts and investigates all appropriate referrals

– Current staffing allows for caseload growth

Position	Total Staff
Deputy Conservators	15 FTEs
Supervisors	3 FTEs
Manager	1 FTE

**BLA**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

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# Mental Health Services Evaluation

**Recommendation:** The role of LPS Conservatorships needs to be part of a broader evaluation of the City's mental health services.

- Proposals to expand behavioral health services
- Current inter-departmental project under way to review outcomes for individuals who were previously under conservatorship
- Project will evaluate health, emergency service use and behavioral health service connections

# Memorandum of Understanding

**Recommendation:** The Department of Public Health and Human Services Agency/Public Conservator need an updated Memorandum of Understanding.

- Current process already well under way
- Representatives from Public Conservator, SF Health Network, Behavioral Health Services, ZSFG, Transitions, and City Attorney's Office participating
- MOU will outline department and program roles and responsibilities, and provide a data-sharing agreement

**MOVING FORWARD**

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# Moving Forward

- Public Conservator creating a specialized ***Community-Based Conservatorship Unit***
- Actively working to expedite the implementation of the **Housing Conservatorship pilot program**
- DPH and the Public Conservator continuing to **collaborate** on a daily basis to protect vulnerable individuals

# Questions?

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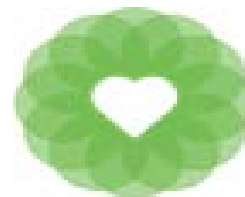
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