



SAN FRANCISCO
HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP): Substance Use Screening, Evaluation, and Treatment Initiative

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

Treatment on Demand Hearing | November 9, 2023



CAAP Overview

- Single adults with no children under the age of 18
- Current CAAP clients in Sept 2023: **5,295 (21% homeless, 31% formerly homeless living in HSH Permanent Supportive Housing)**
- About 20% of clients self-disclosed a substance use issue in their initial CAAP interview between 2018-2020.
- Among the 700 accidental overdose deaths in San Francisco between 9/1/22 and 8/31/23, 94 individuals – or **13% of total deaths** - were current or recent CAAP clients.
- Among the 238 persons arrested for controlled substance use in San Francisco between 3/30/23 and 9/30/23, about 49 individuals – or **21% of total arrestees** - were current or recent CAAP clients.

**Permanent Supportive Housing*



Description of Proposed Initiative

- **Purpose:** Engage people addicted to illegal drugs with a range of treatment options to support improved health and life outcomes.
- **Process:** CAAP clients who are reasonably believed to be dependent on illegal drugs would go through further screening, assessment, and intervention counseling –and then treatment, if recommended by a professional evaluator.
- **Program participation requirements:**
 - Most CAAP are required to participate in an activity in order to maintain benefits, such as job training for those able to engage in workforce development activities or applying for federal disability benefits (SSI) if unable to work.
 - For people who need treatment, CAAP would add another activity type (treatment services) to the current list of possible required activities.



Bounds of Proposed Ordinance

- The policy is specific to CAAP, i.e., no impact or implications for other public benefit programs.
- The policy does **NOT** include toxicology drug testing.
- Sobriety will not be required to receive or maintain benefits.
- CAAP would offer multiple opportunities to engage in treatment as part of existing CAAP activity participation policies. Only willful non-participation would trigger immediate discontinuance from CAAP.



Bounds of Proposed Ordinance (Continued)

- Should a client repeatedly not engage in the assessment or treatment, the client would be discontinued from CAAP; SFHSA would directly pay their rent for 30 days (or potentially longer if in danger of eviction).
- Should treatment not be available, the client will not be discontinued from CAAP.
- Should the policy result in fewer people participating in CAAP, general fund "savings" would go into a new "CAAP Treatment Fund."



Implementation Planning

If passed: January 1, 2025 Start Date

1. Further develop program design, policies, and procedures.
1. Identify processes/methods for screening, assessment, intervention counseling, and treatment: potential contract partners, system capacity, potential Medi-Cal revenue to support treatment, client monitoring of progress, etc.
2. Conduct baseline administrative data matches to assess need (DPH SUD diagnoses and treatment among CAAP clients, OME accidental overdose deaths among CAAP clients, etc.).

