



December 28, 2020

The City and County of San Francisco has consistently been a leader in identifying and implementing new interventions to serve our most vulnerable community members with complex service needs. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with State leaders, namely Senator Wiener, who have worked to develop new pathways to support individuals, as well as the ability to collaborate with the Working Group as this first report to evaluate the effectiveness of the legislation is shared with the State Legislature.

At this time, San Francisco is the only jurisdiction that has moved towards implementation of this pilot program. The Department of Public Health (DPH) and Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) have been the leads in the implementation of this innovative program and this multidepartmental team has been working closely to move forward. Prior to implementation, the complexities of the law required significant work by our city attorney's office to develop the necessary legal forms and protocols. Additionally, in preparation of launching the program, DAS and DPH have been training stakeholders and local hospitals. We have also used this opportunity to identify and conduct significant outreach with individuals who are at risk and may benefit from a Housing Conservatorship.

As we diligently continue with our efforts to implement this new conservatorship, we want to highlight an early area of concern for the State. To date, the pilot program has not yielded any petitions to the court for conservatorship. While San Francisco's COVID-19 response initially delayed our ability to move forward, the pilot program was implemented six months ago. In addition to concerns shared by the Working Group in this and our local annual report, the lack of conservatorships over this span of time suggests that the eligibility criteria for the program may be overly restrictive. It is worth noting that both the State and local legislative processes narrowed eligibility criteria, which may have unintentionally curtailed the legislation's overall utility.

We will continue to monitor and partner with the Working Group, as well as our City and State leaders to provide data driven and client centered recommendations that can help to evaluate the effectiveness of this pilot program. Thank you for the opportunity to share our experiences. We look forward to ongoing conversations as we identify new ways to partner across the State to support individuals on their journey towards recovery and wellness.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our experiences around implementation and for the opportunity for the Working Group to submit their annual report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angelica M. Almeida, Ph.D.".

Angelica M. Almeida, Ph.D.

Director of Forensic and Justice Involved Behavioral Health Services
San Francisco Department of Public Health

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jill Nielsen, LCSW".

Jill Nielsen, LCSW

Deputy Director of Programs
San Francisco Department of Disability and Aging Service