



San Francisco Department of Public Health

Housing Conservatorship Working Group: Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 16, 2020 @ 12:30pm-2:00pm
Virtual Meeting

In virtual attendance:

Chair	Angelica Almeida, PhD. (SFDPH)
Workgroup Members	Kelly Dearman (Seat 1), Rachel Rodriguez (Seat 5), Sara Shortt, (Seat 6), Dr. Mary Leary (Seat 7), Marlo Simmons (Seat 8) Jill Nielsen (Seat 10), 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 Housing Conservatorship evaluation reporting is due to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the Mayor’s office, and the State Legislature in January, 2021.

Implementation Update

Dr. Almeida outlined the continued collaboration occurring across Housing Conservatorship partners, including active engagement and outreach for individuals likely to be conserved. While there has been ongoing notice for individuals with 5 or more WIC §5150 holds in the previous 12 months, no petitions have been processed by the court and thus no one has been conserved yet.

Data Review

In response to the Working Group’s request for more information on racial and ethnic demographics, Dr. Almeida presented a summary of those individuals with 4 or more 5150s in FY18/19 and FY 19/20 in comparison with that of the overall PES population of FY 19/20 and the overall population of San Francisco.

Working Group members inquired about the referral process in place for the Housing Conservatorship pilot. Dr. Almeida shared that cases would need to be triaged through the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program, therefore AOT would be the entry point for referrals.

Dr. Rami Arafah then shared follow-up analysis in response to the Working Group’s request for additional data on the sample of SFPD incident reports reviewed in October 2020. Dr. Arafah explained that the analysis presented at the October Working Group meeting was selected based on the data available and that it was not an exhaustive analysis. Since additional questions were raised by the Working Group, further analysis was conducted based on the feedback and the November Working Group meeting was scheduled. Dr. Arafah started with reviewing the data presented at the previous meeting.

New data presented after feedback from the last Working Group meeting included:

- Among the sample of incident reports, one third of the calls were categorized as suicide attempts based on the coded call type
- Analysis was presented based on the officers’ stated reasons for the WIC §5150 holds:
 - Within those incidents categorized as “danger to self,” most of the cases (78%) involved no harm to anyone and 20% of cases involved a weapon

- Within those incidents categorized as “danger to others,” most of the cases (78%) involved no harm to anyone and 36% of cases involved a weapon
- Within those incidents categorized as “gravely disabled,” all but one case (94%) involved no harm to anyone and no weapons were involved in any of the cases

The Working Group also explored the possibility of digging deeper into the data, to examine for instance, what the call to dispatch entailed. The Working Group also inquired about the training officers receive for these types of calls, and whether certain specialized units are typically dispatched in response to mental health crises. Finally, the group was reminded that these questions are all being explored within a climate of increased reflection on officer involvement in a number of case types, and that there is a direct connection to the reform work being pursued by Mental Health SF.

The Working group was reminded that they would have draft reports circulated to them by Dec. 7 in advance of the Dec. 14 scheduled meeting, well ahead of the January 2021 submission deadline. The January 2021 report to the Mayor’s office and the Board of Supervisors deals with population and individual level data, the latter which there is none. The report to the State Legislature consists entirely of individual level data, so further conversations will determine what that report will look like.

Street Crisis Response Team

Dr. Almeida also presented on the Street Crisis Response Team pilot program, with teams rolling out in the next few weeks. The Working Group expressed some concern about one team responding to all calls and the burden that would place on the team. The Working Group also noted the indirect impact this pilot would likely have on the Housing Conservatorship program and was interested in exploring the connection moving forward.

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, December 14th, 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.

In the meantime, additional information on age and race/ethnicity comparisons for data shared during the evaluation update will be added into the slide deck and shared with the Working Group.