



# San Francisco Department of Public Health

## Housing Conservatorship Working Group: Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 14, 2020 @ 1:00pm-2:30pm  
Virtual Meeting

In virtual attendance:

<b>Chair</b>	Angelica Almeida, PhD. (SFDPH)
<b>Workgroup Members</b>	Kelly Dearman (Seat 1), Jessica Lehman (Seat 2), Simon Pang (Seat 3), Jennifer Esteen (Seat 4), Rachel Rodriguez (Seat 5), Sara Shortt, (Seat 6), Dr. Mark Leary (Seat 7), Jill Nielsen (Seat 10), Sgt. Kelly Kruger (Seat 12)
<b>Evaluation Team</b>	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 Working Group, 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.

### Evaluation Updates

Dr. Rami Arafah, from Harder+Company Community Research, explained to the Working Group that feedback from this meeting would be incorporated into the state and local reports, and then outlined the two report drafts. The preliminary report to the State Legislature, due on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, only calls for data on individuals conserved through the Housing Conservatorship program. Since there have not yet been any individuals conserved, the report will predominantly consist of background data in addition to a section that outlines next steps. The local annual report to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the Mayor’s office, due on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021, serves as a follow-up to the preliminary report submitted one year ago. The report for FY2019-20 is more robust and includes updated citywide counts of WIC §5150 holds and a detailed breakdown of the San Francisco Police Department incident report analysis discussed at previous workgroup meetings.

The Working Group provided the following feedback on the State Legislature preliminary report draft:

- An inquiry into whether the report should include demographic information on individuals with multiple WIC §5150 holds in addition to information on barriers to housing access.
- A suggestion that the state report include a link to the local annual report, which can provide additional contextual and background information on the Housing Conservatorship evaluation to date.

Discussion on the local annual report due to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor’s office included the following topics:

- While the report does not currently include individual-level data, Working Group members reiterated the importance of including the voice and input of conserved individuals in future reporting cycles.
- A broad overview of the number of individuals linked to voluntary services and housing is included in the report, and additional data can be pulled from the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) report to the level that it is appropriate to include.

- Data on the number of individuals with 4 or more WIC §5150 holds linked to housing and other services will also be included in the next iteration of the draft report.
- Working Group members expressed concern around the way the form that individuals receive after their fifth WIC §5150 hold describes housing services. Dr. Almeida mentioned that she would connect with the city attorney about this issue.
- More broadly, the Working Group also discussed the overall feasibility of measuring the efficacy of the program, given that there have not yet been any individuals conserved.

Like the previous year's preliminary report to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's office, this draft also includes a section on further consideration from the Working Group. Members walked through the points from the previous report, with the intent of providing an update and next steps on each topic to be included in this year's annual report:

- The Working Group noted the importance of highlighting progress on data obtained in the last year, specifically regarding overall 5150 counts and the circumstances surrounding peace officer involvement.
- The Working Group agreed that the report should note the various conversations and initiatives being implemented in San Francisco related to officer involvement in behavioral health crises (e.g., Street Crisis Response Team), as a way of connecting this evaluation to those broader efforts.
- Working Group members expressed interest in the reasons why individuals have declined voluntary services and if there are any specific groups that the Housing Conservatorship program is not successful in reaching.
- The Working Group reiterated concern around the disproportionate representation of African American individuals in the data on WIC §5150 holds. The final draft of the local annual report will include more data on this disparity.

Working Group members agreed to provide any additional written feedback on the report by Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, after which final drafts of the state and local reports will be formally submitted.

### **Public Comment**

One individual provided public comment on their opposition to the Housing Conservatorship program and mentioned their relief that no one has yet been conserved. However, they expressed concern that this spoke to the inadequacies of the system itself. The individual expressed hope that the Working Group could better advise on San Francisco's behavioral health policies.

### **Closing and Next Steps**

The Housing Conservatorship Working Group meeting schedule for 2021 is as follows:

- April 19, 2021
- August 16, 2021
- October 18, 2021
- November 15, 2021
- December 13, 2021

All meetings will be held from 1:00-2:30pm and will be held virtually as long as needed.