



SVP HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

THE MEETING IS IN OPEN SESSION



MEETING AGENDA

1. Meeting Called to Order and Roll Call
2. Housing Committee Overview
3. Public Comment (2 Minutes per Speaker)
4. Closed Session Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(c) to obtain relevant assistance and consultation information from all county partners (committee members) on potential suitable housing for the person to be conditionally released within the County of placement
5. Return to Open Session and Report on Any Actions Taken in Closed Section
6. Adjourn

**All times and the order of the agenda items are approximate and subject to change*



HOUSING COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Establishing Housing for those Ordered to the CA SVP Conditional Release Program

October 2023

Housing Committee Meetings

Housing Committee Meetings are held pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 6608.5, subdivision(d)(2), which provides a forum for our county partners to provide assistance and consultation in the process of locating and securing housing for a person who is committed under the Sexually Violent Predator, also known as SVP, Act and has been approved for conditional release. The assistance and consultation provided by our county partners will help to inform placement updates and recommendations to the Superior Court.

Why Placement in the Conditional Release Program (CONREP)?

- CONREP is the safest discharge pathway from the state hospital back into the community
- CONREP participants present lower recidivism rates compared to those unconditionally released to the community
- SVP participants in CONREP were 3 times less likely to get re-arrested than SVP individuals who were unconditionally released¹ to the community



¹ 1996-2017 follow up for all SVP releases and 1996-2019 follow up for CONREP SVP participants. (14% v 43%
D'Orazio, Azizian, Oliver, 2019).

SVP CONREP: The final phase of the DSH SOTP

- DSH recommends all SVP committed individuals complete the inpatient SOTP modules before participating in CONREP, but the court can order CONREP with or without completion of the modules
- SVP CONREP is the final phase of DSH's SOTP and involves supervised skills application and community reintegration for those approved by a court to participate
- SVP CONREP is an intensive community-based treatment and 24-hours per day, 365 day per year monitoring program designed to safely integrate SVP individuals back into the community
- DSH contracts with Liberty Healthcare to provide SVP CONREP services



DSH Sex Offense Treatment Program (SOTP)

- All SVP individuals at DSH are recommended to participate in the SOTP while in the state hospital, but it is voluntary
- ~52% of SVP inpatients participate in the 4 inpatient SOTP modules:
 - Module 1: Informational, motivational, didactic
 - Module 2: Identifying risk factors and skills for change
 - Module 3: Applying skills in the here & now
 - Module 4: Preparing to transfer skills to supervised community release in CONREP
- Supplemental treatment in addition to core SOTP Modules is also provided e.g., substance abuse, vocational, educational, life skills, anger management
- Comprehensive sex offense specific assessments: risk and need assessments, polygraph, PPG and visual reaction time measures of sexual interests



Court Hearing Determining CONREP

Would the individual committed as an SVP...



“be a danger to the health & safety of others in that it is likely that he will engage in sexually violent criminal behavior due to his diagnosed mental disorder under supervision & treatment in the community”?

Existing Housing Proximity Restrictions (WIC 6608.5)

- Placement searches must consider proximity to victim and next of kin, as well as age and profile of victims
- Placements may not occur within $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of any public or private school (K-12) for persons with improper sexual conduct with children (WIC 6608.5(f))

What Happens After Judicial Approval for CONREP? (WIC 6608.5)

- The person ordered to CONREP remains at the DSH hospital in pre-placement status until suitable housing is identified, noticed, and a court order for placement at the specified location occurs
- Placement searches may occur only in the County of Domicile, unless the court rules Extraordinary Circumstances exist and orders a housing search in another county
- SB 1034 (Chapter 808, Statutes of 2022) requires collaboration and assistance from the Housing Committee, comprised of counsel for the committed person, sheriff or local chief of police, county counsel, and district attorney of the county of domicile, or their designees.

Additional Proximity Considerations

An analysis of each site assessed considers the proximity of places and services relevant to the risks and needs of the individual, for example:

- Cell signal strength; Wifi signal strength
- Law enforcement response time; Emergency services response time
- Proximity of mental health, medical, and reintegration services
- Other places where children or victim type gather, in addition to statutory restrictions
- Establishments that furnish alcohol, night/strip clubs, cannabis dispensaries, adult book/video stores, spas, recreational areas, amusement parks, campgrounds, public pools, gambling establishments, tribal lands, churches, nude beaches/camps, interstate rest stops

When Suitable Housing is Identified

- SVP CONREP reviews all available legally compliant residential options through a Site Assessment process
- SVP CONREP holds Housing Committee Meetings, confers with the Housing Committee, and submits housing status reports to the court
- When a placement location is provided to the court, DSH notifies the sheriff or chief of police, district attorney, and county counsel for the jurisdictions where 1) the person may be released; 2) they last maintained legal residence, and 3) that which filed for SVP commitment (WIC 6609.1). These noticed parties typically solicit for public comment
- The notice includes the person's name, photograph, proposed placement address, date of commitment, county of commitment, and proposed date of placement, and the date, time, and location of the court hearing to order the placement
- Noticed parties may provide written comments, including public comments, to DSH and the court. DSH considers potential adjustments to the placement location or terms and conditions based on this feedback.

- The court approves, rejects, or modifies the provided placement location



SVP CONREP Supervision Tools

- Court-ordered terms and conditions
- Unannounced and scheduled in person visits; searches, onsite and offsite from the residence
- Collateral contacts and chaperone training with significant people in the person's life
- Covert surveillance
- 24-hour active GPS monitoring; electricity generators for every CONREP participant
- Monitoring of approved electronics (i.e. phone, computer)
- Random urine screens for illicit substances
- Banking and expense reviews
- Approval of schedules, locations of outings, and routes of travel for all times outside of residence, verified by GPS tracking. The GPS system also provides "real time" tracking with instant notification of any violations of the inclusion/exclusion zones developed for the patient.
- Life skills training, residential placement, and other services needed to support safe and successful community reintegration

SVP CONREP Census & Outcomes

Current (10/11/23)

- SVP CONREP in community = 17
 - <3% of all CONREP (708)
 - +20 at DSH court ordered to CONREP and pending placement across the state

Total Since Inception of the SVP law (1996)

- 1,026 individuals have been committed as SVP to DSH
 - 287 of the 1,026 have been fully discharged
 - 55 (5%) of the 1,026 have been discharged to CONREP
 - The average duration from DSH hospital admission to SVP CONREP placement is 11.4yrs*
- Of the 55 total ever SVP CONREP participants 21 have been fully discharged
 - Length of Stay CONREP to full discharge = average 5.4 years
 - Duration in CONREP ranges from 13 months to 13.5 years

**Before the individual is admitted to DSH, they serve a prison sentence; most have been in a secure setting (prison/state hospital) for more than 20 years prior to SVP CONREP placement*





Thank you

Webpage: www.dsh.ca.gov

Providing Public Comment

- Each speaker will be given **two minutes**. Time may be adjusted to accommodate as many comments as possible. Please be sure to remain muted until you are called on to speak.
- Please be sure to unmute yourself before providing your comment.
- If you are attending in person and would like to provide public comment now, please organize in a line behind the microphone.
- If you are attending via videoconference and would like to provide public comment, please use the “raise hand” Webex icon and we will call on you when it is your time to speak.
- If you are attending via telephone and would like to provide public comment, please raise your hand by pressing *3 (star 3) on your phone and we will call on you when it is your time to speak.





SVP HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING:

THE MEETING IS NOW IN CLOSED SESSION