



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE HOSPITALS

SEXUALLY VIOLENT PREDATOR (SVP) CONDITIONAL RELEASE PROGRAM (CONREP)

Housing Committee Meetings and Committee Member Information

This document provides an overview of Housing Committee Meetings (HCMs), the primary roles of committee members, and additional HCM requirements.

Overview of Housing Committee Meetings (HCM)

Effective January 1, 2023, pursuant to Senate Bill 1034 (Atkins, Chapter 880, Statutes of 2022), the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is to convene a committee to obtain relevant county assistance and consultation in locating and securing suitable housing for individuals who have been approved to be conditionally released. The committee participants are comprised of counsel for the committed individual, the local Sheriff or Chief of Police, County Counsel, and the District Attorney for the County of Domicile¹ (Welfare and Institutions Code [WIC] section 6608.5). The Housing Committee is not a decision-making body.

The goal of the Housing Committee is for committee members to engage in a collaborative process to assist in finding a suitable residential placement for the specified person who has been ordered by the Court to be conditionally released into the county. HCMs are often scheduled by DSH when potential placement locations are identified or when DSH seeks committee member assistance in locating potential placements. All HCMs have an open session and a closed session. The open session portion of the HCM is open to the public, with time allotted for public comments. The closed session portion of the meeting is confidential and consists only of legally permissible members, to include the committee members.

Housing Committee Members and Primary Roles

All Housing Committee Members:

- Upon notification by DSH of a person's potential or expected conditional release under Section 6608 and in preparation for a HCM, committee members shall provide the name of a designated representative and appropriate contact information to DSH within 60 days.
- Inform the Court of designated representative's name.
- When there is a change in the designated representative, inform the Court and DSH within two business days. DSH can be informed via email at: SVPCONREP_HousingCommittee@dsh.ca.gov.
- Adhere to all statutory requirements (Bagley-Keene Act, WIC 6608, etc.).
- Designated representatives attend HCMs.
- Collaborate and provide consultation to DSH and Liberty Healthcare (LHC) with identifying viable placements.

- Respond timely to all communications by DSH and LHC; no more than two business days.

District Attorney:

- Provide LHC with victim location information within 15 days of the CONREP order (WIC § 6608.5(e)).
- Provide local expertise regarding placement locations being vetted by DSH/LHC.

County Counsel:

- Identify county-owned properties suitable for potential placements.
- Identify county or city ordinances that would preclude certain areas from consideration.
- Provide local expertise regarding placement locations being vetted by DSH/LHC.

Client's Attorney:

- Advocate for their client.
- Provide locations of possible relatives that reside within the county.

Law Enforcement:

- Provide local expertise regarding placement locations being vetted by DSH/LHC.
- Identify land within the county that may be suitable for potential placements.
- Provide known areas that may be compliant with proximity restrictions.

Department of State Hospitals (DSH):

- Notify committee members, prepare for and schedule HCM.
- Chair and facilitate the HCM.
- Notice Public of HCM.
- Work with LHC in identifying viable placements.
- Assist LHC in the presentation to committee members about the individual and potential housing locations.

Additional HCM Requirements:

The HCMs are subject to Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. For more information about the requirements under this act please review the [2024 Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Guide \(ca.gov\)](#). Pursuant to Government Code section 11122.5(b)(1) of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Housing Committee members shall not, outside of the HCM, use a series of communications of any kind, directly or through intermediaries, to discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item of business that is within the subject matter of assistance and consultation in locating and securing suitable housing. Alternatively, members are encouraged to communicate this type of information directly with LHC or DSH.

¹ When extraordinary circumstances has been ordered by the court, the sheriff or the chief of police, the county counsel and the district attorney of the alternative placement county shall be included in a Housing Committee for DSH to obtain relevant assistance and consultation in the search for suitable housing when a potential placement location is identified.