

What is a Public Guardian?

- All California counties have a Public Administrator/Public Guardian/Public Conservator
- The Public Guardian is appointed by the court to an adult unable to act on their own behalf, when there is no other less restrictive intervention to resolve their needs
- Responsibilities of Public Guardian programs are:
 - defined statutorily
 - supervised by the Superior Court
 - determined by the Probate Code and/or the Welfare and Institutions Code



Public Guardian Office (PGO) Staffing

WHO ARE WE?

Mark Vanderscoff	Public Guardian (PG)
Erica Blengino	Supervising Deputy Public Guardian
Liza Cruz	Senior Social Worker – LPS
Allison Corbin	Senior Social Worker – Probate

- 6 Deputy Public Guardians (DPGs)
- 3 Accounting Assistants
- 1 Office Assistant
- 1 Administrative Tech (data, reporting, etc.)



LPS Conservatorship: Key Terms and Takeaways

- T-Con = temporary conservatorship
- LPS Conservatorship – can renew annually
- Conservatorship of Person – governs placement and consent for psychotropic medications
- Conservatorship of Estate – governs ability to manage financial assets
- Representative Payee – manage clients' Social Security benefits on their behalf



Meeting Criteria for LPS Conservatorship

SECTION 5008

- “Gravely disabled” is a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental disorder, is unable to provide for his or her basic personal needs for food, clothing, or shelter
- Note that the existence of a mental disorder does not in itself, justify a finding of grave disability

SECTION 5350

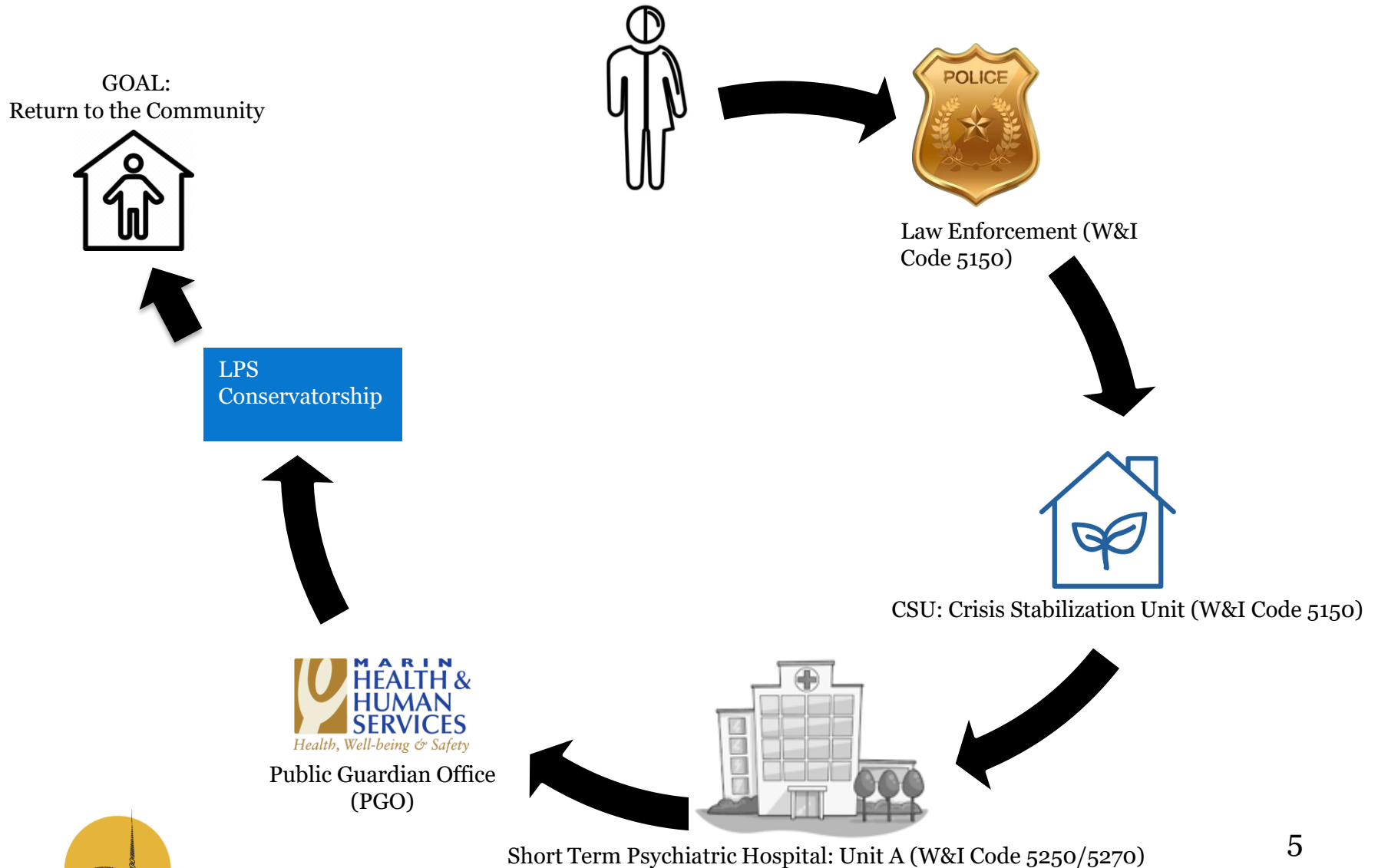
- A person is not gravely disabled if he or she can *survive safely* with the assistance of a third party

SECTION 5352

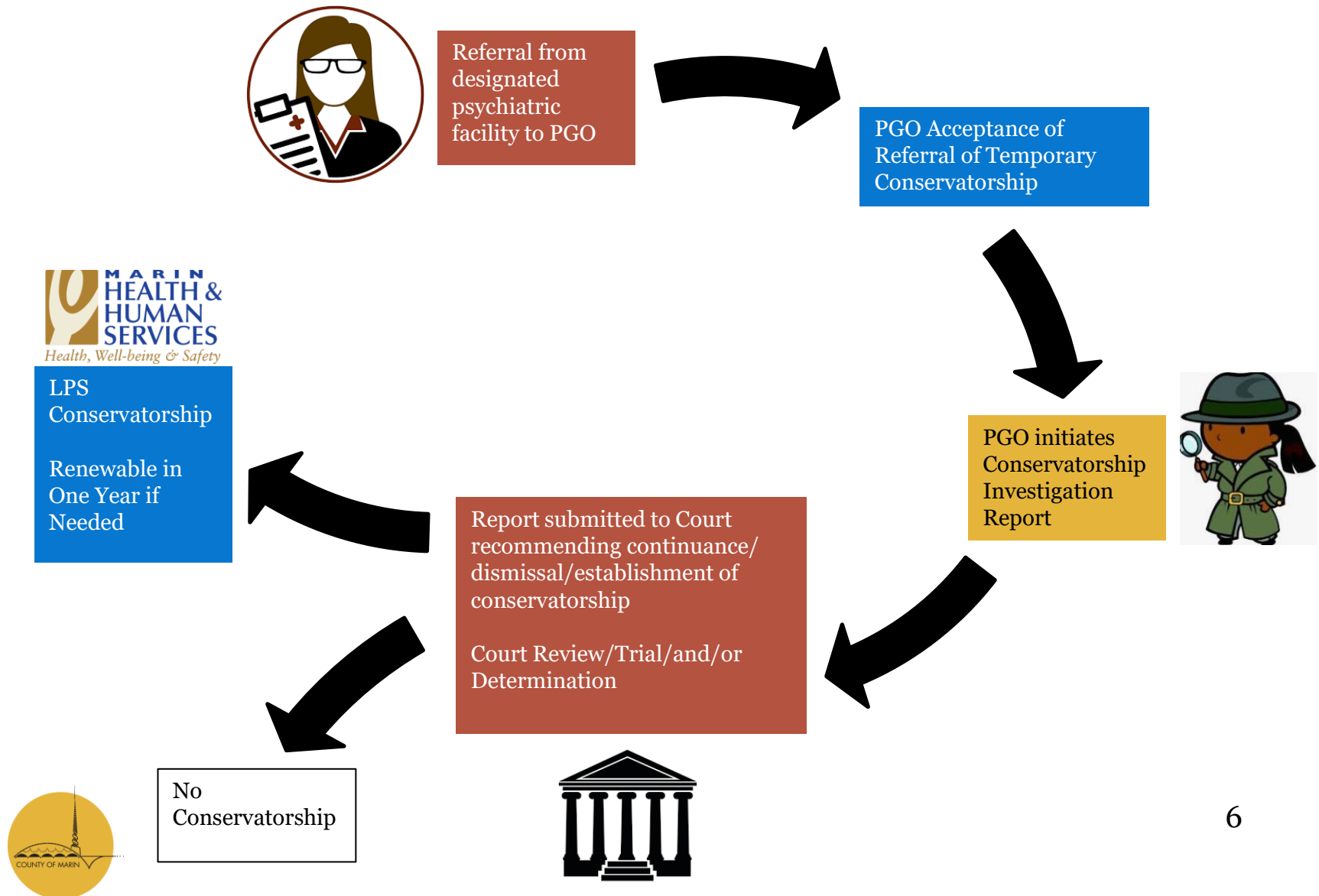
- Only the investigating officer or another county officer or employee designated by the county can act as a temporary LPS conservator



LPS Conservatorship Process



Close Up: Conservatorship Investigation Process



Safeguards / Possible Exit Points

- 5150 Assessment
- CSU determines “Holdability”
- Writ on the 14 Day Hold (5250)
- Contest filing of T-Con
- File Writ on the T-Con
- Court or Jury Trial option

GOAL:
Return to the Community



-
- Conservatee: represented by the Public Defender
 - PGO: represented by County Counsel



How can an LPS Conservatorship Help?

The Public Guardian:

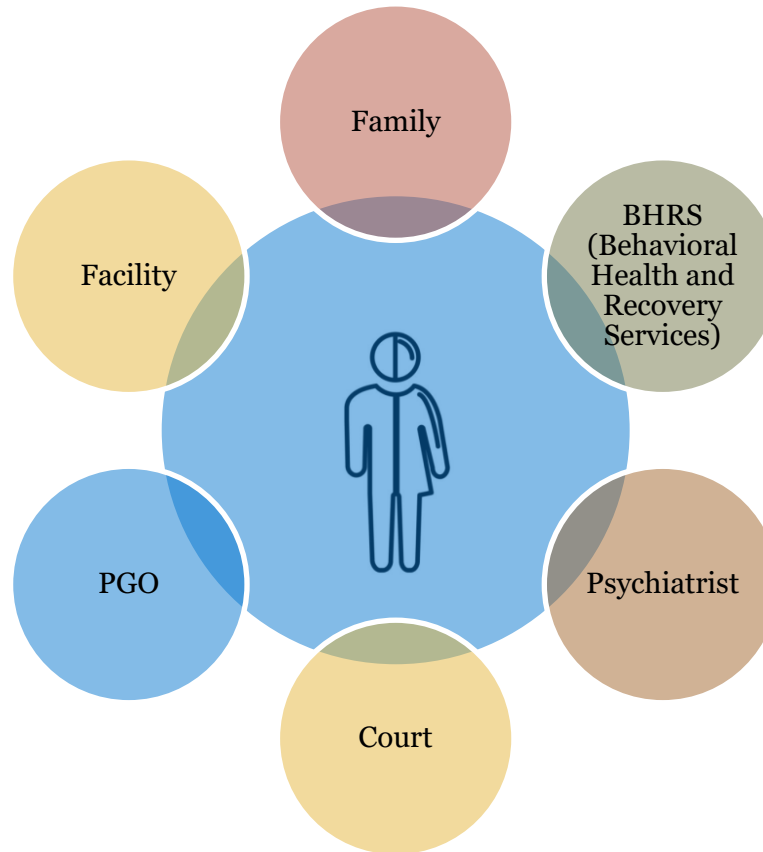
- Can place in a locked psychiatric setting
- Can authorize administration of medications
- Can consent to routine medical procedures
- Can restrict ability to
 - Drive or operate a motor vehicle
 - Enter into contracts of more than \$40
- Does not allow possession of firearms



Photo Credit: Jeff Wong



LPS Conservatorship Supports



Takeaways:

*LPS
Conservatorship
is not forever

*Goal is to treat
clients and
encourage a
return to the
community



PGO Partners

- Marin County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS)
 - Referrals
 - Renewals
 - Plans/Issues/LRA
- County Counsel
 - Oversees legal process and advises PGO on all legal issues
 - Represents conservatee and other clients
 - Draft and file all legal documents, including letters and orders of conservatorship



PGO Role

The Public Guardian:

- Authorizes placements
- Authorizes medication
- Assumes control of finances
 - Representative payee
 - Estate
- Oversees legal process of LPS conservatorship
 - Renewal
 - Hearings & trials
 - Dismissal



Statistics

CURRENT CASES

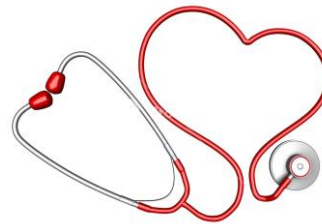
- LPS Conservatees: 102
- Representative Payees: 92

CONSERVATEE PLACEMENTS

- 51% at Board and Care Level facilities

LPS REFERRALS (2021)

- 24 Referrals
- Only 5 established (21%)



CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- PUBLIC GUARDIAN'S OFFICE (415) 473-2870
- MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE TEAM (415) 473-6392
MON-SAT, 1PM-9PM
- ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES 24-HOUR HOTLINE (415) 473-2774
- BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES ACCESS LINE (888) 818-1115
- CRISIS STABILIZATION UNIT (UNIT B) (415) 473-6666



Photo Credit: Jeff Wong



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<https://marinhhs.org/public-guardian>