

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Richard J. Burton, M.D., M.P.H.
Placer County Health Officer and Director of Health & Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care

DATE: March 24, 2009

SUBJECT: Approve a Resolution authorizing the use of an additional thirty (30) day involuntary psychiatric hold as allowed under Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.63

ACTION REQUESTED:

Approve the attached Resolution authorizing the use of an additional thirty (30) day involuntary psychiatric hold as allowed under Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.63.

BACKGROUND:

Placer County currently uses a 14-day, involuntary hold (hospitalization) for individuals that are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others and/or have been determined to be gravely disabled. This 14-day hold is allowed under Welfare and Institutions Code §§5150 and 5250. During the 14-day period an attempt is made to assess and stabilize the individual in addition to developing a treatment plan. While the 14-day period is helpful, it is often not long enough to complete a thorough assessment, achieve full stabilization, determine future treatment options, as well as investigate if there are family and/or community resources that can support the individual in the community. Having insufficient time for this more thorough assessment, treatment, and investigative process, along with the individual continuing to be a danger to themselves or others, often results in the individual being placed in a more restrictive and costly institutional setting and being placed under the extensive powers and authority of a County-managed conservatorship. Conservatorship results in an individual losing many of his/her rights to self determination and adds to the Placer County Public Guardian Program's caseload and cost.

Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.65 (referred to as a 5270 hold) allows for a 30-day extension of the 14-day hold. It is the intent of this section to reduce the number of gravely disabled persons for whom conservatorship petitions are filed. The additional 30 days would only be used if/when needed to complete a thorough assessment, achieve patient stabilization, develop future treatment options, investigate family and/or community resources and make appropriate referrals. It is anticipated that utilizing the 5270 hold, which provides a longer involuntary treatment course, will help avoid more restrictive and costly institutional placements, and will reduce the number of conservatorships and the County costs associated with filing the conservatorship petitions and managing the conservatorships. Authorizing the use of the 5270 hold requires that the County Board of Supervisors pass a resolution that: 1) authorizes its application; and, 2) makes a finding that any additional costs incurred through implementation of the 5270 hold will not result in current service reductions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Implementation of the recommended action is cost-neutral. Any additional costs associated with longer involuntary hospitalizations will be offset by savings from avoiding placements in higher, more restrictive and costly, levels of care, avoiding the costs of filing conservatorship petitions, and managing additional conservatorships. There is no additional cost to the County General Fund.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

**A Resolution Authorizing the Use of an Additional Thirty
(30) Day Involuntary Psychiatric Hold as Allowed Under
Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.63**

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____, by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, Placer County currently uses a 14-day, involuntary psychiatric hold for individuals that are deemed to be a danger to themselves or others and/or have been determined to be gravely disabled; and

WHEREAS, it is often found that 14 days does not allow sufficient time to complete a thorough assessment, achieve patient stabilization, determine future treatment options, and to investigate if there are family and/or community resources that can support the individual in the community; and

WHEREAS, not having sufficient time for a thorough assessment, treatment and investigative process often results in more restrictive and costly institutional placements and individuals being placed under the extensive powers and authority of a County-managed conservatorship, adding to the Placer County Public Guardian Program's caseload and cost; and

WHEREAS, Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.65 (referred to as a 5270 hold) allows for a 30-day extension of the 14-day hold, for a total of 47 days including the initial 72-hour hold; and

WHEREAS, the additional 30 days would only be used if/when needed to complete a thorough assessment, achieve patient stabilization, develop future treatment options, investigate family and/or community resources and make appropriate referrals; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that having an additional 30 days will reduce the number of inappropriate institutional placements, as well as reduce the number conservatorships and the county costs associated with filing conservatorship petitions and managing conservatorships; and

WHEREAS, the county finds that any additional costs incurred by implementing the 5270 hold will be offset by savings achieved through use of the hold, assuring that no current service reductions will occur as a result of implementing the 5270 hold.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, State of California hereby adopts this resolution authorizing the use of an additional thirty (30) day involuntary psychiatric hold as allowed under Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 5270.10 - 5270.65.