



VENTURA COUNTY

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

A Department of Ventura County Health Care Agency

February 28, 2023

# **30-DAY INVOLUNTARY HOLDS UNDER WELFARE AND INSTITUTION CODE SECTION 5270.10 ET SEQ.**

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**Scott Gilman, VCBH Director**

# The Problem

- Under the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC), “gravely disabled” individuals may be ***involuntarily*** hospitalized in a psychiatric unit for a maximum of 17 days.
- Frequent reports of individuals being discharged before they are ready.
- The only tool to keep a patient longer, if needed, is Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS) temporary conservatorship.
- This has resulted in the local “revolving door” and increased conservatorship costs

# The Solution

- WIC 5270.10 et seq. provides hospitals and facilities the option for an additional 30 days of inpatient involuntary commitment.
- But requires the county board of supervisors, by resolution, to authorize its application.
- WIC 5270.10 et seq. is currently utilized by Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange, Placer, San Francisco, San Diego, Sonoma, Tulare and others.

# Senate Bill 1277 Effective January 1, 2023

- In addition, SB 1227 became effective January 1, 2023. This bill changed WIC 5270.10 et seq. to provide hospitals and facilities the option of involuntarily committing a patient for a second additional 30-day period.
- To protect civil liberties, these involuntary commitments may only be used where a patient remains gravely disabled and subject to court oversight.

# Request Approval of WIC 5270.10 et seq.

- Strong support of WIC 5270.10 et seq. from medical staff
- Support of WIC 5270.10 et seq. from NAMI Ventura County
- Accordingly, Ventura County Behavioral Health and the Ventura County Behavioral Health Advisory Board request approval of this resolution to authorize implementation of 5270.10 et seq. at Ventura County inpatient psychiatric hospitals and facilities.

# WIC 5270.10 et seq. Questions

## QUESTIONS?