

# California

## County of San Mateo Acute Stabilization Unit

The Acute Stabilization Unit (ASU) provides intensive psychiatric stabilization services in a safe environment for incarcerated adults in acute crisis in the San Mateo County jail system.

### Objectives

The primary objectives of the program are to:

1

Provide high-quality psychiatric assessment and treatment of the most challenging incarcerated persons in the county jail system and to stabilize patients in acute crisis as quickly as possible.

2

Accept patients under California Welfare and Institutions Code 5150, which allows for adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis to be involuntarily detained for a 72-hour psychiatric hospitalization when determined to be a danger to themselves or others or gravely disabled.

3

Provide all legal hearings related to the patient's involuntary psychiatric hold, such as certification and capacity hearings, to ensure the patient's due process and compliance with state regulations.

4

Consistently meet with FMH clinicians, CHS staff, and custody officers from the Sheriff's Office for discharge planning, coordination of services, and to promote continuity of care.

### Overview

In 2018, the County of San Mateo selected Liberty to implement and manage a new acute psychiatric stabilization program within an existing 10-bed unit at the Maguire Correctional Facility in Redwood City, CA. The program focuses on the treatment of incarcerated persons in the county jail system who are acutely disabled by psychiatric illnesses and/or co-occurring substance abuse disorders.

The ASU works to develop and implement individualized assessments and treatment plans that aim toward rapid and sustainable clinical recovery. We provide psychotropic medications and clinical interventions that target achievable goals, that are trauma-informed and rooted in recovery. Through its designation as a Jail Inpatient Unit, the ASU is also authorized to admit and treat patients who are under the conditions of involuntary civil commitment.

The ASU represents a clinical collaboration between Liberty and the County of San Mateo that requires daily coordination with staff from Forensic Mental Health (FMH), County Health Services (CHS), and the Sheriff's Office. Through effective collaboration, we identify and address the psychiatric needs and provide appropriate continuity of care for the most vulnerable mental health patients in the county jail system.



#### LOCATION

MAGUIRE CORRECTIONAL  
FACILITY  
REDWOOD CITY, CA



#### CUSTOMER

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO HEALTH  
SYSTEM



#### DATES OF SERVICE

2018 - PRESENT



#### SERVICE LINE

CORRECTIONAL MENTAL HEALTH

## Statistics

### Average Daily Census

Year	# of Patients
2018*	5.66
2019	7.57
2020	7.72
2021	8.49
2022*	8.59

**Average Patients Since Inception: 7.61**

### Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders % of Admissions

Year	% of Admissions
2018*	64.3%
2019	83.6%
2020	87.0%
2021	93.6%
2022*	75.0%

**Average % Since Inception: 80.7%**

### % of Discharges to Administrative Segregation

Year	% of Patients
2018*	28.6%
2019	27.4%
2020	24.1%
2021	22.9%
2022*	21.1%

**Average % of Discharges Since Inception: 24.8%**

### % of Temporary Conservatorship Referrals

Year	% of Discharged Patients
2019	54.8%
2020	44.4%
2021	60.4%
2022*	68.4%

**Average % of Conservatorships Since Inception: 57%**

Mark Delucchi, Ph.D., CCHP-MH,  
Executive Director  
E: mark.delucchi@libertyhealth.com  
P: (650) 599-1205



## Certifications



Certified by the Joint Commission for Healthcare Staffing Services



Executive Director is a certified correctional mental health professional through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care

## Accomplishments

In 2021, the clinical treatment team recognized that > 80% of patients admitted to the ASU had a Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. In response, Liberty introduced an evidence-based treatment program focused on reducing unpleasant auditory hallucinations, a frequent and debilitating symptom of Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders. This program was developed in collaboration with the University of San Francisco to adapt the community-based treatment model to work in a jail-based environment. Liberty launched the 12-session treatment program in March 2022 and continues to evaluate the efficacy of the treatment modality for this acute jail-based forensic population.

**Admitted and discharged nearly 200 patients.**

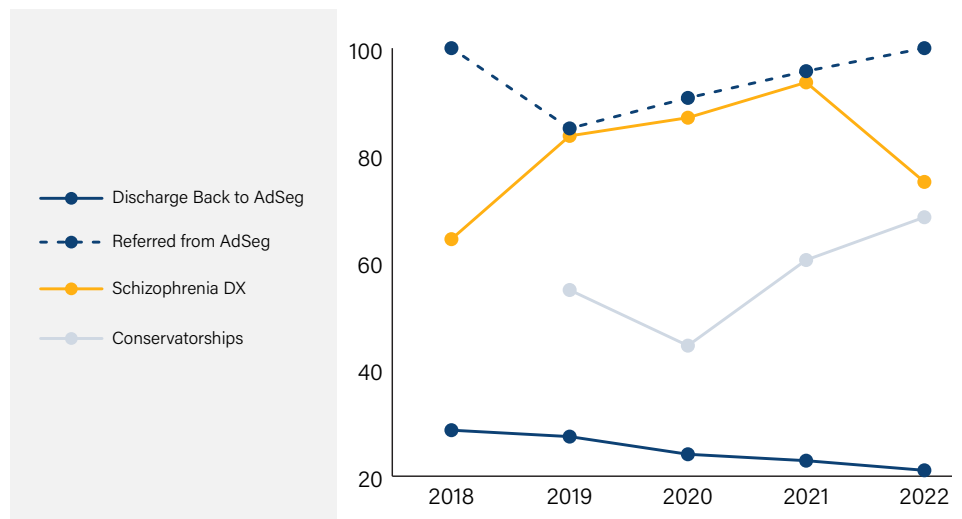
**Increased the average daily census from 5.7 in 2018 to 8.6 in 2022, demonstrating maximum use of available ASU service capacity.**

**Admitted patients from the Administrative Segregation (AdSeg) unit, a source of 94.3% of all admissions, to provide needed acute psychiatric treatment.**

**Enabled 75% of acutely psychotic individuals to safely return to the general population for follow-up treatment by CHS clinicians.**

**Obtained Temporary Conservatorships for 57% of patients, which enables Liberty to apply involuntary medications as appropriate, increases treatment time for acutely ill individuals, strengthens connections to community treatment providers, and achieves more enduring stabilization and recovery.**

As shown in the graph below, the percentage of Temporary Conservatorships and AdSeg referrals has steady increased over the last two and three years respectively. At the same time, Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders continues to be the primary diagnostic category served, showing a pattern of increasing dominance until the current year and overall percentage of 80.7%.



\*Note: Year 2018 is part of Oct, all of Nov and Dec ; Year 2022 is through June 2022