

President, Board of Supervisors
District 8



City and County of San Francisco

RAFAEL MANDELMAN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Supervisor Rafael Mandelman Introduces Hearings on Behavioral Health and Substance Use Treatment in San Francisco

San Francisco, CA — At today’s meeting of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Rafael Mandelman introduced requests for three hearings related to San Francisco’s current behavioral health response — including how State laws and resources are being leveraged to confront the crisis on our streets. These hearings are the latest step in Supervisor Mandelman’s years-long efforts to ensure San Francisco uses every available tool, from local programs to state policy, to get people the mental health treatment they need.

“Everyday, we all see people on the street in desperate need of help they never seem to get,” said **President Rafael Mandelman**. “For decades, California and San Francisco have failed to make good on our basic obligations to deliver mental health care and treatment to those most in need.”

The first hearing will focus on San Francisco’s implementation of **California Senate Bill 43** (SB 43), enacted in October 2023 and in effect since January of 2024. The legislation expanded the criteria for conservatorship to include individuals with severe substance use disorders who are unable to provide for their own basic needs, including medical care and personal safety. The hearing is scheduled for the June 26th meeting of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

Also scheduled for June 26 is a second hearing, co-sponsored by Supervisor Jackie Fielder, to review the final report of the Residential Care and Treatment Workgroup. The Workgroup was convened by Mayor Breed at Supervisor Mandelman’s request following the passage of Proposition 1 in March 2024. It was charged with assessing the City’s long-term residential treatment capacity for individuals with serious mental illness and recommending strategies to close persistent gaps. Among its recommendations was the addition of up to 135 new residential treatment beds. The Workgroup’s findings laid the foundation for the City’s application for

Proposition 1 funds to add approximately 100 locked subacute treatment beds to San Francisco's existing portfolio of 140.

A third hearing, co-sponsored by Supervisor Matt Dorsey, will address the FY 2023-2024 Treatment on Demand Annual Report. Under Proposition T, approved by San Francisco voters in 2008, the Department of Public Health is required to assess the City's need for publicly funded substance use disorder treatment and present a plan to meet that need by February 1 of each year — a plan that should also be reflected in the annual budget. As of today, the report has yet to be released. This hearing is scheduled for the July 24 meeting of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

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