

Behavioral Health Center at ZSFG

Expanding locked sub-acute
beds to meet the urgent need

July 21, 2025



City & County of San Francisco
Department of Public Health



San Francisco faces a critical shortage of locked mental health beds contributing to hospitalizations, homelessness, and repeated psychiatric crises.



Unique opportunity & cost-effective solution to increase capacity

Repurposing the first and second floors of the BHC is the most cost effective and immediate path to add more than 90 locked beds — doubling capacity in county.

Timely and structured treatment in a safe setting

Beds will serve individuals under conservatorship ensuring they receive timely, structured treatment in a safe, therapeutic setting.



Unique Opportunity to Leverage Funding and Existing Infrastructure

✓ **A Rare Opportunity: The BHC was built as a locked facility**

Already meets infrastructure and licensing requirements for this level of care. SFDPH conducted an extensive analysis of City sites, and all others were cost-prohibitive.

✓ **\$21M in Prop 1 Bond BHCIP funding from the State**

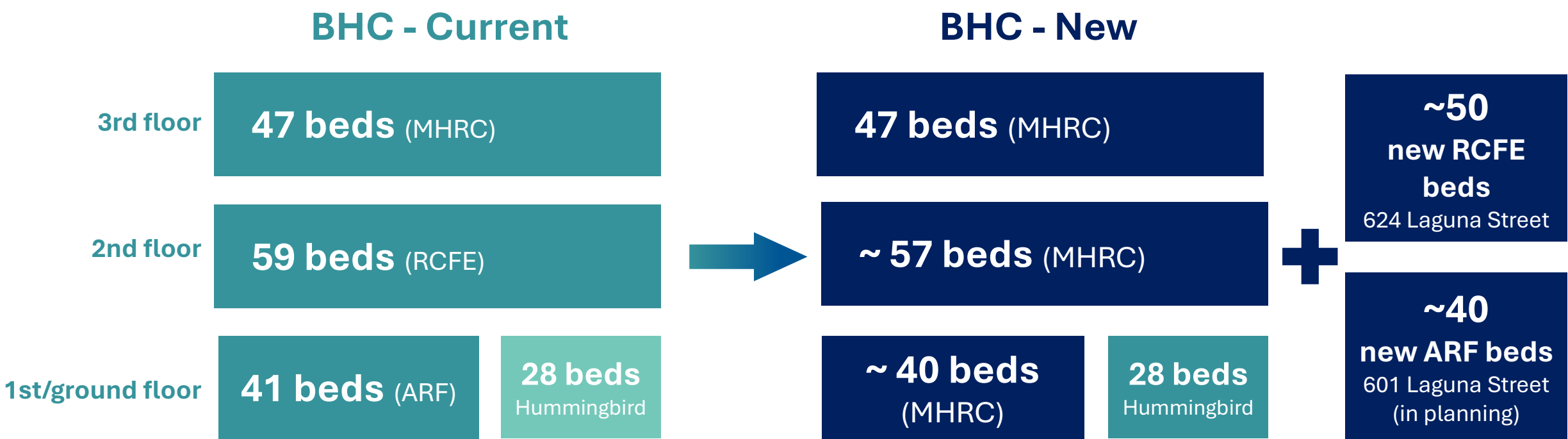
Grant application approved by Board of Supervisors at the end of 2024.

✓ **Only feasible way to double locked capacity in San Francisco**

Combination of funding, licensing, and infrastructure allow for City's only near-term answer to adding more locked mental health beds.



Doubling Locked Beds in SF & Expanding Treatment Capacity



MHRC: Locked Mental Health Rehabilitation Center beds provide 24-hour, intensive support to people with mental health disorders
RCFE: Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly are assisted living facilities that provide non-medical care to individuals age 60+
ARF: Adult Residential Facilities provide 24-hour non-medical care to adults with developmental disabilities and/or mental illness
Hummingbird: Psychiatric respite center and interim housing site located at the BHC



Supporting Staff & Adding New Positions

Adds 20-30 new union positions:

Good, stable jobs for local workers that strengthen our public mental health workforce.

Civil Service Protections & No Layoffs:

The City's approach ensures no layoffs, upholds civil service protections, and prioritizes fair staffing and reassignments.

Professional Growth Opportunities:

Many new roles will offer professional growth opportunities for current staff and provide pathways for recruitment and retention in one of our most strained systems.

Good Faith Process:

Meet and confer with union partners has begun and we continue to engage in a good faith process throughout the transition.



Expanding Quality Residential Care in San Francisco



A safe, supportive place to call home:

DPH plans to open two new assisted living homes in the Hayes Valley neighborhood to serve nearly 100 low-income San Franciscans.

Formerly private-pay assisted living facilities, will be overseen by DPH:

Preserving a community-asset and ensuring that long-term care is available to our most vulnerable residents.



Community-based care is the standard:

Licensed care homes are integrated into the neighborhood and provide residents with dignified, long-term care.

Ready to welcome BHC clients:

Allows clients to move together, and age in place at a homelike (not institutional) setting.



Goals and Engagement

Supporting vulnerable patients across our continuum of care:

Our goal is to support our most vulnerable patients, who desperately need locked treatment beds, while at the same time meeting the needs of current BHC residents and providing a compassionate and supportive transition to other DPH contracted locations.

Navigating each step with transparency, care, and collaboration:

We are engaging with unions, staff, residents and their loved ones, City departments, the Board of Supervisors, the Health Commission, and community partners.

A thoughtful and responsible path forward:

We will continue to center stakeholder engagement throughout this process to ensure decisions are informed, inclusive, and grounded in our shared goal: Building a stronger, more responsive behavioral health system for San Francisco.



Supporting Current BHC Residents Every Step of the Way

No resident
will move
without a
secure and
appropriate
next home.

Every resident will remain a DPH client:

All residents are guaranteed placement in a setting that meets their care needs.

Ensure the best new placement:

DPH is working closely with residents, their care teams, family members, and legal decision-makers to find the best fit based on needs and preferences.

Close collaboration with clients:

Regular community meetings and one-on-one planning meetings are underway.

DPH is expanding residential care capacity:

With the acquisition of 624 Laguna Street and a plan to acquire 601 Laguna Street, DPH can serve the current BHC residents and keep them connected with their community.



Thank you

