

2019-119 AUDIT SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

County Implementation of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act

The audit by the California State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to the implementation of the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS Act) by Los Angeles County and two other counties selected by the California State Auditor. The audit's scope will include, but not be limited to, the following activities:

1. Review and evaluate the laws, rules, and regulations significant to the audit objectives.
2. Review the statewide oversight of the implementation of the LPS Act.
3. By county and for each of the most recent three years, determine the following:
 - (a) The number of individuals placed under initial involuntary holds, the referral sources for those holds, and the number of individuals placed under repeated initial holds.
 - (b) The number of individuals placed under subsequent holds.
 - (c) The number of individuals placed into new and renewed LPS conservatorships and the referral source for those conservatorships.
 - (d) The average length of LPS conservatorships.
 - (e) The number of terminated LPS conservatorships and the reasons for the termination.
4. Assess the counties' implementations of the LPS Act for the last three years and compare the counties to one another by reviewing at least the following:
 - (a) The counties' definitions of the criteria for involuntary treatment holds and whether each county has consistently applied its definitions.
 - (b) The counties' criteria for placing individuals into LPS conservatorships and making least-restrictive environment determinations and whether the counties have consistently followed these criteria.
5. Assess whether any differences between county approaches to involuntary holds, conservatorships, or the associated care provided to individuals should be addressed through changes to state law or regulation.
6. Determine how the counties fund their implementations of the LPS Act and whether access to funding is a barrier to the implementation of the LPS Act.
7. Assess the availability of treatment resources in each county and, to the extent possible, determine whether there are barriers to achieving the intent of the LPS Act. In doing so, at the minimum, consider the number of LPS facilities in each county and the availability of rehabilitative programs during and after conservatorships.
8. Review and assess any other issues that are significant to the audit.