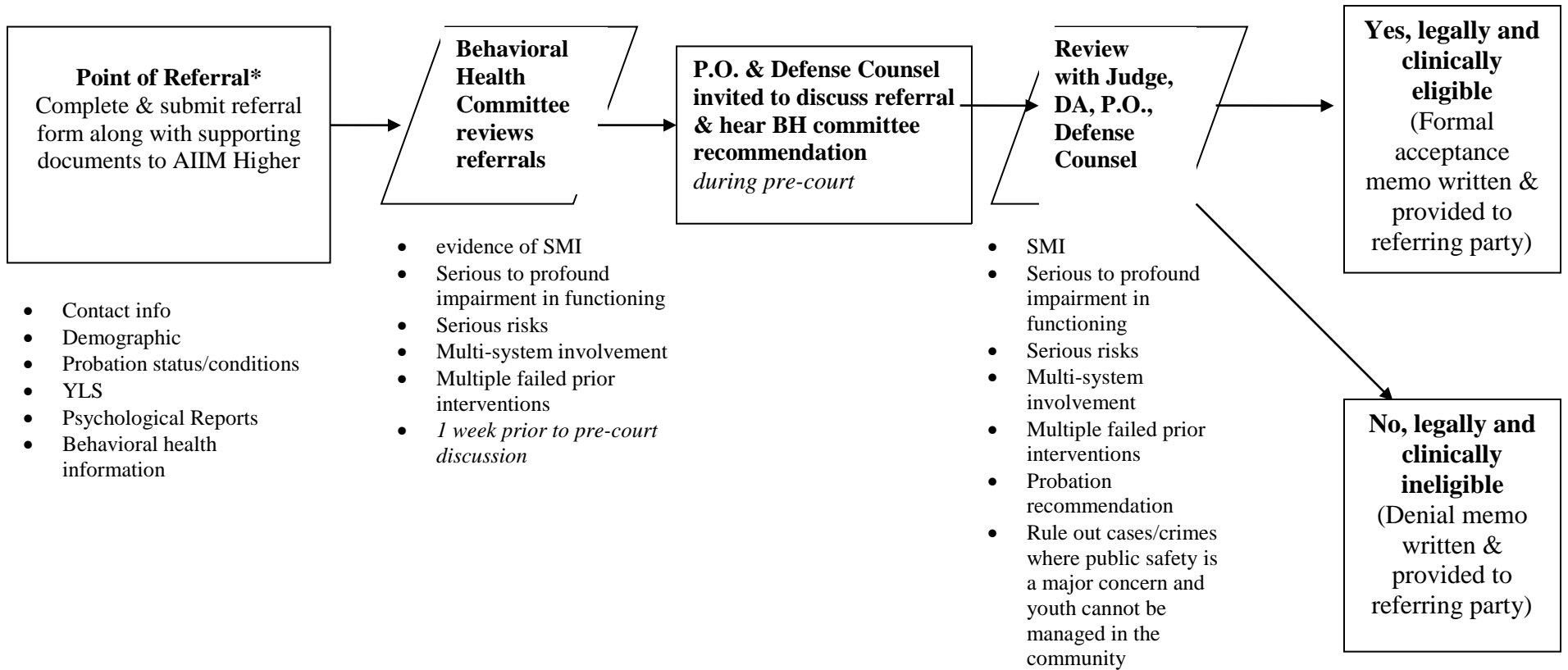


Wellness Court Referral & Eligibility Flowchart



*Note: A National Center for Juvenile Justice and Mental Health review of the effectiveness of juvenile mental health courts (2006) reported that most target post-adjudicated youth prior to disposition.

SAN FRANCISCO WELLNESS COURT

MISSION & GOALS

The mission of the Wellness Court of San Francisco is to enhance the public safety and reduce recidivism, and improve the well-being and positive outcomes for youth and their families involved in the juvenile justice system who suffer from serious mental illness. Wellness Court will do this through intensive supervision and connecting these youth and their families with effective community treatment services and appropriate dispositions to the criminal charges. The court will monitor progress, will implement appropriate sanctions for setbacks and reward progress towards individualized goals that will lead to successful completion and graduation.

THE TEAM

The team is a multi-disciplinary and collaborative team. In WC, all parties and counsel share the common goal of helping participants successfully comply with treatment in a community setting.

JUDGE

The WC Judge heads the collaborative team. In this capacity, the Judge regularly reviews case status reports detailing each youth's compliance with the treatment plan. During regular court appearances, the Judge administers graduated sanctions and incentives to increase each youth and their caregivers' accountability and to enhance the likelihood of long-term treatment compliance and a successful transition to a health and productive adult life.

PUBLIC DEFENDER/DEFENSE COUNSEL

The Public defender/defense counsel represents and advises the defendant in all court proceedings and is mindful of the youth's constitutional rights as a criminal defendant and civil rights as a mental health consumer. The Public Defender/defense counsel uses a non-adversarial approach with a focus on protecting a youth's constitutional rights and their success in treatment to promote health and well-being. The Public Defender/defense counsel seeks to find treatment solutions for the youth that minimize exposure to incarceration, reduce the risk of re-arrest or new charges, and mitigate the consequence of criminal conviction.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH (SPY)

SPY staff in collaboration with SF AIIM Higher will review cases for clinical eligibility and along with probation will recommend youth for participation in WC.

SF AIIM HIGHER

SF AIIM staff will conduct standardized screening and assessment, review cases for clinical eligibility, will develop recommendations for community treatment options in collaboration with probation to target needs, support youth and their families in accessing and engaging in treatment and regularly present progress reports to WC.