



**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**  
Behavioral Health Services

**ASSISTED OUTPATIENT  
TREATMENT (AOT)  
COUNTY-CITY MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2018**

# AOT OVERVIEW

- AOT provides court-involved intensive outpatient services for adults with serious mental illness who are experiencing repeated crisis events and are not engaging in mental health services on a voluntary basis.
  - CA W&I code specifies the eligibility criteria, referral process, and suite of services for an AOT program.
- AOT is designed to interrupt the repetitive cycle of hospitalization, incarceration, and homelessness for people with serious mental illness who have been unable and/or unwilling to engage in voluntary services.

# AOT CONSIDERATION

- There is a sub-group of adults with serious mental illness who don't engage in needed voluntary services.
  - A percentage of people with serious mental illness don't have an awareness that they are ill and don't recognize the need for mental health treatment.
  - Some adults with mental illness may have experienced trauma and/or stigma related to mental health services.
  - Some adults may experience difficulty accessing or navigating the mental health system.
- There are limited options available to intervene with individuals with serious mental illness who are not voluntarily engaging in mental health services and are experiencing repetitive crisis events and hospitalizations.

# AOT PROCESS



Qualified requestors include: an adult who lives with the individual; Parent, spouse, adult sibling, or adult child of the individual; Director of an institution or facility where the individual resides; Director of the hospital where the person is hospitalized; Treating or supervising mental health provider; Probation, parole, or peace officer.

# AOT COLLABORATION

- Required Partners
  - County Behavioral Health Department
  - Superior Courts
  - Public Defender
  - County Counsel
  - FSP/ACT Service Provider
- Other Partners
  - Referring Agencies

# AOT IMPLEMENTATION

- Requires that the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution adopting AB1421 and issue a finding that no voluntary mental health program serving children or adults be reduced as a result of the implementation.
- Any funding that currently supports mental health services can pay for services associated with AOT.
  - Mental health service dollars cannot fund legal costs associated with implementing AOT.

# CA LESSONS LEARNED

- **Access and Referral**

- The presence of AOT provides a mechanism for family members and other concerned parties to refer an individual for mental health services and accountability for county agencies to follow-up.
- The majority of people referred to AOT do not end up in court-supervised treatment and accept services on a voluntary basis.

# LESSONS LEARNED (CONT.)

- **Service Delivery**

- California counties are implementing Full Service Partnership or Assertive Community Treatment for people enrolled in AOT.
- Most California counties are receiving referrals and conducting the investigation process internally but have contracted providers for FSP and ACT service delivery.



# LESSONS LEARNED (CONT.)

- **Cost**

- Most, if not all, counties are using a combination of Medi-Cal and MHSA funds for service delivery.
- While no county is using MHSA or other mental health service dollars for the legal costs associated with AOT, counties differ in the level of resources provided to County Counsel, Public Defender, and Superior Courts.