



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
Inter-Departmental Correspondence  
Health System



**Date:** January 17, 2017  
**Board Meeting Date:** March 28, 2017  
**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Louise Rogers, Chief, Health System  
Stephen Kaplan, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

**Subject:** Status Report on Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law)  
Implementation in San Mateo County

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a resolution accepting the report on the progress of implementing Assisted Outpatient Treatment (Laura's Law).

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2002, the California Legislature adopted Assembly Bill 1421, commonly known as Laura's Law. On June 16, 2015, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to enact AB 1421 by establishing an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program. The approved budget for this program was \$3,766,973 through June 2017.

AOT is intended to address the mental health care needs of individuals who do not meet the requirements for "grave disability" in order to establish a conservatorship, or the "danger to self or others" requirement for involuntary confinement, but whose mental status appears to be nonetheless serious and deteriorating. By enacting AB 1421, the criteria to involuntarily detain an individual for a psychiatric evaluation for up to 72 hours is expanded. If an eligible individual does not accept services voluntarily, the court may order individuals to 180 days of AOT. The court, however, cannot force any individual to take medications or to participate in treatment; ultimately an individual can choose not to engage in treatment without any legal consequences.

**DISCUSSION:**

The AOT team staffing, as approved by your Board, consists of a Clinical Services Manager, Psychiatric Social Worker, Administrative Assistant, Peer Support Worker, Deputy Public Guardian and Psychologist. The BHRS AOT Team has been fully staffed since August 2016. The treatment is provided by Caminar's Full Service Partnership (FSP) consisting of up to 50 slots. The first client was enrolled on August 4, 2016.

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 121 referrals and 20 information calls were received. 23% or 27 individuals have been enrolled in the Caminar AOT-FSP. The AOT-FSP enrollees have thus far shown a significant decrease in: psychiatric hospital admissions from 41% prior to enrollment to 15% since services began with a subsequent reduction in psychiatric hospitalization days (204 days vs 29 days). Further initial outcomes include a reduction in visits to Psychiatric Emergency Services (63% vs 37%); homelessness (58% vs 23%); and arrests (19% vs 0%).

As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, 54% or 27 of the AOT- FSP slots have been filled. The initial 50 slots were intended to cover a two-year period. Based on the current rate of enrollment, we expect to be utilizing all 50 slots by September of this year.

Two court petitions have been filled to date. The first was not successful in engaging the client in treatment as he refused to attend his hearing and the Court did not issue a bench warrant. Staff continues to outreach to him in order to enroll him at a later date. The second person petitioned has an AOT Court date of March 14, 2017.

This update contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Healthy Community by providing mental health care for individuals who are not engaged in treatment and do not meet the requirements for “grave disability” in order to establish a conservatorship, or the “danger to self or others” requirement for involuntary confinement, but whose mental status appears to be nonetheless deteriorating.

#### **PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>FY 2015-16 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2016-17 Projected</b>
Percentage/number decrease in total hospital days by enrolled clients in comparison to total hospital days 12 months prior to enrollment	NA*	75% / 249 days
Percentage/number decrease in number of enrolled clients who experienced any homeless event in comparison to total homelessness 12 months prior to enrollment	NA*	60% / 15 clients
Percentage/number decrease in total arrests by enrolled clients in comparison to total arrests 12 months prior to enrollment	NA*	90% / 7 arrests

\*Because the services and measure are new, no data is available for FY 2015-16.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.