

AOT Program Design Overview

Upon Board of Supervisor approval Contra Costa County will implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment by November 2015. The program will consist of the following elements:

Care Team. A Care Team member will respond to a referring individual 24 hours a day, seven days a week and assist in facilitating a decision by the referring individual as to whether to pursue requesting a petition for AOT, or to assist in connecting to other levels or types of care. If AOT is to be pursued the Care Team will engage the Contra Costa Behavioral Health Services (CCBHS) Team to initiate an investigation, and will assist in the investigatory process. The Care Team will be led by a mental health clinician representing the CCBHS Team, and includes representation from the AOT Treatment Team, to include a family partner and consumer peer specialist. The CCBHS Team may authorize a representative of the Care Team to initiate outreach and engagement efforts for up to three contacts per week for up to four weeks.

CCBHS Team. The CCBHS Team, acting on behalf of the Behavioral Health Services Director, is responsible for determining whether a referring individual is a qualified requesting party and conducting an investigation in response to a request for a petition. The CCBHS Team will follow statutory procedures as specified by WIC 5345.7, and make a recommendation as to whether to pursue filing a court petition for AOT. At all times the CCBHS Team will offer treatment on a voluntary basis, and ensure connection with the appropriate level and type of care. Concurrent with the investigation the CCBHS Team, to include Care Team representatives, will develop or revise a treatment plan that will be utilized as the basis either for voluntary participation or will accompany a court petition. The CCBHS Team will consist of county employed mental health clinicians, supervision and administrative support.

AOT Treatment Team. The AOT Treatment Team is a contract provider who will utilize the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) model of care and provide services in accordance with the provisions of WIC 5348-9. Up to 75 persons who meet AOT eligibility (whether voluntary or court ordered) will be served annually. Services will be provided 24 hours a day seven days a week, and will employ the principles of client-directed psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery, and will be primarily provided out of office in the community by a mobile, multi-disciplinary team that use a staff-to-client ratio of no more than 10 clients per team member. The AOT will provide the full spectrum of services, to include flexible funds to provide housing services as needed. Staff on the AOT Treatment Team will also participate on the Care Team and provide the lead in receiving referrals in the community, assist in the investigatory process and development of the treatment plan, and upon CCBHS Team authorization conduct outreach and engagement efforts to assist a referred individual.

Budget. For the three year term period the County will utilize annually up to \$2,250,000 in MHSA funds for the CCBHS Team and AOT Treatment Team, and up to \$418,000 in County General Funds for County Counsel, Superior Court and Public Defender costs. Costs for the Care Team are included in the CCBHS and AOT Treatment Team costs. Medi-Cal reimbursement will be sought for treatment provided to eligible individuals.

Evaluation. An independent principal investigator will be contracted over a three year period to determine the respective effectiveness of voluntary participation versus involuntary participation in the program, and whether the AOT Program is more or less effective than the County's existing Full Service Partnership programs.