



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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Assisted Outpatient Treatment for Los Angeles (AOT - LA)

In 2002 Assembly Bill (AB) 1421 established the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Demonstration Project Act, also known as "Laura's Law." The purpose and intent of Laura's Law is to identify persons with serious mental illness and a history of unwillingness to participate in treatment, and streamline access to needed mental health services and courts, enhance jail diversion efforts, and provide new hope for clients and families.

A unique programmatic component associated with DMH's Laura's Law is the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Outpatient & Engagement Team. This new team will receive requests, conduct extensive outreach and engagement, develop petitions, and manage the court process to connect AOT enrollees with service providers. AOT enrollees will have access to Full Service Partnership (FSP) providers at any given time, as well as 60 crisis residential beds.

In order to make an AOT referral, the requesting party must be:

- An adult with whom the Candidate resides
- A parent, spouse, sibling or adult child of the Candidate
- Public or private agency, treatment facility, charitable organization, or licensed residential care facility director providing mental health services to the candidate in whose institution the Candidate resides
- Hospital director where the Candidate is hospitalized
- Licensed Mental Health Treatment provider who is either supervising the treatment of, or treating the Candidate for a mental illness.
- Peace officer, parole officer, or probation officer assigned to supervise the Candidate.

In order to qualify for AOT services, the Candidate must be:

- 18 year of age or older
- Qualifying Mental Illness
- Unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision
- History of lack of compliance which includes:
 - At least two hospitalizations or incarcerations within the last 36 months, and/or
 - At least one act, threat, and/or attempt of harm to self and/or other(s) within the last 48 months
- Condition is substantially deteriorating
- AOT is the least restrictive placement necessary to ensure Candidate's recovery and stability
- AOT is necessary to prevent relapse or deterioration likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to self and/or other(s)
- Continues to fail to engage in psychiatric treatment
- Likely to benefit from AOT.

The program began accepting referrals on May 15, 2015. If you wish to make a referral or obtain further information, please contact AOTLAOE@dmh.lacounty.gov or (213) 738-2440.



Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Assisted Outpatient Treatment for Los Angeles (AOT-LA) Program

AOT Criteria

Each of the following criteria must be met for the AOT program:

- 18 years or older
- Has a mental illness
- Clinical determination that the person is unlikely to survive safely in community without supervision defined as:
 - Unable to provide for food, clothing or shelter in a manner consistent with preservation of reasonable physical health and safety: (1) Exposed to easy victimization and/or (2) exposed to environmental health dangers.
- History of lack of compliance with treatment for his/her mental illness demonstrated through at least one of the following:
 - Mental illness has, 2x within the last 36 months, been a factor in necessitating hospitalization, or receipt of services in a forensic or other mental health unit of a state or local correctional facility (excluding hospitalization or incarceration immediately preceding the petition
 - Person's mental illness has resulted in one or more acts of serious and violent behavior toward him/herself or others.
- Has been offered an opportunity to participate in a treatment plan and fails to engage in treatment
- The person's condition is deteriorating
- AOT would be the least restrictive placement to support recovery and stability
- The person is in need of AOT in order to prevent relapse or deterioration (serious harm to self or others)
- It is likely the person will benefit from AOT