

MEMORANDUM
PLACER COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Adult System of Care

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W., Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen F. Bauman, Director of Adult System of Care
Robert Oldham, M.D., Public Health Officer

DATE: August 26, 2014

SUBJECT: Implementation of Assisted Out-Patient Treatment (also known as Laura's Law)

ACTION REQUESTED:

1. Adopt the resolution authorizing the implementation of Assisted Out-Patient Treatment (AOT) in Placer County, also known as Laura's Law, and declaring that no voluntary services will be reduced as the result of this implementation.

BACKGROUND:

Placer County has established a continuum of voluntary services for adults with severe mental illness. The Mental Health Services Act, passed in 2004, has allowed Placer County to expand this continuum of care with intensive Out-Patient Treatment provided 24 hours/7 days a week reaching approximately 150 people each year. In addition, in the last year Placer County has expanded outreach to people with mental illness, reaching over 500 people and engaging 54 percent in voluntary treatment. Placer County serves approximately 1,000 people each year in traditional out-patient services at the Adult System of Care site in Roseville Hills and approximately 300 in primary care in the integrated clinic model of the Placer County Medical Clinic in Auburn.

The implementation of the Assisted Out-Patient Treatment program will provide Placer County an additional tool to use in engaging people with severe mental illness. People eligible for this program will be Placer County residents, 18 years or older, suffering from a mental illness who are unlikely to remain safely in the community without supervision. In addition, the person must have been hospitalized or incarcerated twice in the last 36 months as a result of their mental illness, or their mental illness must have resulted in violence or attempted violence to themselves or others within the last 48 months.

This law allows Placer County two new tools to assist people with mental illness who meet the specified criteria. The first is the ability to mandate someone to Assisted Out-Patient Treatment through the use of court-ordered treatment if they have refused to participate in voluntary treatment. The second is the use of a court order to authorize the transport of a person in the Assisted Out-Patient Program for them to be psychiatrically assessed. This can occur if they are deteriorating and unsafe in the community even if they do not meet criteria of being a danger to self or others per the 5150 statute. It is expected that there will only be a small number of people who will need to utilize this law as a result of the many voluntary services that are now available. However, for those few who do need this law to be successful, it is quite significant.

The mandated treatment program is similar to the Full Service Partnership programs already established in Placer County. These programs in addition to the 24/7 AOT program include an array of services necessary for recovery for each individual person. The patient outcomes realized from these programs result in significant reductions in hospitalizations, incarcerations, homelessness and psychiatric emergencies. The cost benefit analysis shows an increased benefit over cost.

The AOT program establishes a discretionary program for counties that allows involuntary, court-imposed out-patient treatment for people who are mentally ill and meet specific clinical criteria. In addition, this law requires that the County Board of Supervisors authorizes the implementation by

resolution and makes a finding that no voluntary adult or children's mental health program will be reduced as a result of implementation of this program.

It is estimated that the treatment costs for this program will be \$400,000 per year. This assumes that there will be twenty people referred each year of which some will agree to voluntary services and some will be court-ordered for services. It is anticipated that this program will have a slow start-up and the numbers could increase over time.

The Department has received a letter of support for this program by the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Placer (NAMI) organization. The Mental Health, Alcohol, and Drug Advisory Board also supported this program implementation at its Executive Meeting on August 11, 2014. Finally, the Placer County Superior Court has indicated that it will facilitate the implementation of Laura's Law, in collaboration with County Counsel and the Department of Health and Human Services if the Board of Supervisors authorizes' implantation of this program.

If approved today, it is expected that there will be four months of program development necessary for the actual implementation. It is projected that the actual start date of program services will be January of 2015. Public education about Laura's Law will be included as part of the implementation of this program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The treatment cost estimated at \$400,000 is funded with 100 percent State mental health funds (augmented with federal financial participation) with no net County cost, and is included in the Department's FY 2014-15 Proposed Budget.

Attachments:

Letter of Support, Hon. Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge, dated July 21, 2014
Letter of Support from NAMI/Placer County,

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resolution No: _____

**Adopt a Resolution authorizing the implementation of
Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5345 *et seq.*,
Assisted Out-Patient Treatment.**

Ord. No.: _____

First Reading: _____

The following Resolution was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held _____ by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, in enacting Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5345 *et seq.*, also known as Laura's Law, it was the intent of the Legislature to provide for assisted out-patient treatment for adults in the community who suffer from a mental disorder; and

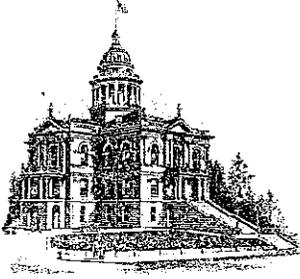
WHEREAS, under this article an adult may be recommended for assisted out-patient treatment under specified conditions, with safeguards for that person's individual rights, to prevent a relapse or deterioration of a condition that would be likely to result in grave disability or serious harm to himself or herself or others; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Assisted Out-Patient Treatment in the County of Placer is supported by many constituent organizations and persons within the mental health community; and

WHEREAS, adoption of Assisted Out-Patient Treatment in any county requires a resolution of that county's board of supervisors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Placer County does hereby:

1. Authorize the implementation of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5345 *et seq.*, Assisted Out-Patient Treatment, also known as Laura's Law, in Placer County, and
2. Find that no voluntary mental health program serving adults, and no children's mental health program, may be reduced as a result of the implementation of Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5345 *et seq.* (Assisted Out-Patient Treatment).



Superior Court of the State of California
In and For the County of Placer

10820 JUSTICE CENTER DRIVE, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95678
P. O. BOX 619072, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95661

In Chambers of
HON. ALAN V. PINESCHI
PRESIDING JUDGE
OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
DEPARTMENT 33
(916) 408-6230 FAX (916) 408-6236

July 21, 2014

Mr. Jeff Brown, Department Director
Placer County Health & Human Services
3091 County Center Dr., STE 290
Auburn, CA 95603

Mr. Brown,

Thank you for attending our Judges' Meeting on July 9, 2014 and please pass on our thanks to Ms. Bauman as well. The ability to clarify the elements of Laura's Law with you and Ms. Maureen Bauman was appreciated by all those in attendance.

Should the Board of Supervisors determine that Placer County should opt into the Laura's Law, the court will facilitate its implementation and collaborate with County Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, and other agencies, as appropriate.

Respectfully,

Hon. Alan V. Pineschi
Presiding Judge



Placer County

Board of Supervisors
175 Fulweiler
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Support for the implementation of Assisted Out Patient Treatment (Laura's Law)

Dear Mr. Chairman Duran and Members of the Board

NAMI Placer (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) wants to urge your support for the implementation of the Assisted Out Patient Program also known as Laura's Law. We feel strongly that it is time for Placer County to implement Assisted Outpatient Treatment/Laura's Law. We feel it is critical that this law be implemented before there is a tragedy in Placer. Benefits to individuals and families in Placer County can be numerous, among which are the following:

- ▣ Family members have a support system at hand to meet "their" needs.
- ▣ Fewer Law Enforcement interactions will lessen overall county costs.
- ▣ Less Hospitalization and emergency hospitalizations will reduce costs.
- ▣ Reductions in incarcerations and homelessness will occur.
- ▣ Severly Mentally Ill individuals will be provided a support system which they did not realize they needed.

Several counties have already implemented including San Francisco, Orange and Yolo Counties. We urge Placer to join this diverse group who see the need for this important program that will expand access to treatment for California's most vulnerable populations. This law will provide a pathway for individuals at risk of self-harm or harm to others to engage in and stay in treatment.

Again, we urge you to implement this law to help the many people who need assistance to get into critical and lifesaving services.

Thank you in advance for your support of this critical law.

Best regards,


Loretta Boge, President
Nami, Placer County

