

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (AOT)

May 16-17, 2017 – Las Vegas, NV

June 1-2, 2017 – Rockville, MD

June 28-29, 2017 – Detroit, MI

Dear Prospective Applicant:

This announcement is to inform you of an exciting opportunity for you and your fellow stakeholders in community mental health to receive Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) sponsored training on launching and operating an assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) program.

AOT is court-ordered outpatient treatment for high-risk individuals with serious mental illness to facilitate community integration and recovery. There is evidence that AOT is effective in reducing rates of hospitalization, homelessness, arrest, and incarceration while reducing cost and improving the health and social outcome of participants, yet implementation of AOT remains inconsistent in most of the 47 states where it is authorized by law.

SAMHSA will present two-day trainings at three different sites across the nation in May and June to address the common barriers that public mental health officials and judges have reported as reasons for not fully implementing AOT in their communities. The curriculum, developed by the Treatment Advocacy Center in consultation with SAMHSA, will be targeted to leaders and policymakers of state and local mental health agencies, judges who currently preside over civil commitment dockets, coordinators and providers of outpatient services to high-risk individuals with mental illness, and leaders of peer and/or family advocacy groups. Attendees will hear from and interact with their counterparts in jurisdictions that currently practice AOT, receive practical instruction on establishing and maintaining successful AOT programs, forge useful connections, exchange insights and observations, and develop concrete action plans.

Among the many issues to be addressed:

- What investments in community-based and judicial resources are necessary to effectively practice AOT?
- What are the fundamental components of a formalized AOT program?
- What are the differences and parallels between AOT and mental health courts?
- How do AOT programs identify the individuals who most stand to benefit from court-ordered outpatient treatment?
- Is AOT consistent with a recovery approach to mental health service delivery?
- What takes place at an AOT court hearing?

- What is the ongoing role of the judge after an AOT order is issued?
- How are AOT court orders enforced?
- How do AOT programs engage participants in treatment?
- How do court, treatment community and recovery support systems form partnerships to build effective AOT programs?

There will be three presentations of this training. Each presentation will be identical in content. Meetings will be held on the following dates and locations:

- May 16-17, 2017 at The Linq Hotel in Las Vegas, NV
- June 1-2, 2017 at SAMHSA headquarters in Rockville, MD
- June 28-29, 2017 at the Marriott at The Renaissance Center in Detroit, MI

Attendance will be limited to 50 people for each two-day session. Teams of leaders and policymakers of state and local mental health agencies, judges who currently preside over civil commitment dockets, coordinators and providers of outpatient services to high-risk individuals with mental illness, and leaders of peer and/or family advocacy groups are encouraged to apply. Teams may include up to 5 people and should represent as broad an array of stakeholders as possible. The training will be free, but attendees must cover their own travel costs and make their own travel arrangements. (Information will be provided on discounted hotel rooms at or near each training site.) Those wishing to attend one of the trainings must apply to SAMHSA using the attached application form and email it to aotregistration@affirmasolutions.com by March 24, 2017. SAMHSA will send notifications to those selected to participate in the training no later than April 15, 2017.

If you are interested in initiating, expanding or improving the practice of AOT in your community or state, please join us for this unprecedented opportunity to acquire critical knowledge and support!