



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: April 20, 2021

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Opting Out of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project of 2002, as Amended by AB 1976, ("Laura's Law") and Confirming that the County will Monitor Program Outcomes and Community Needs and Consider Opting In to Laura's Law in the Future if the Need is Confirmed and Resources are Available

Whereas, in 2002, AB 1421 – Laura's Law – established counties' ability to "opt in" to establish involuntary Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) programs;

Whereas, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is court ordered, involuntary, out-patient treatment for individuals, who do not engage in mental health treatment and have frequent hospitalizations and contact with law enforcement, related to untreated or undertreated mental illness;

Whereas, in 2020, AB 1976 required that counties establish AOT programs or "opt out" of doing so by July 1, 2021;

Whereas, Sonoma County operates, and is expanding, a number of effective programs, including Drug Court, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT), Diversion Court, Jail Diversion Program, and Full Service Partnerships (FSPs) that treat a broad population of individuals with severe mental illness including those who qualify for AOT;

Whereas, AB 1421 and AB 1976 do not provide additional funding for AOT and require that AOT implementation does not result in reductions of other services;

Whereas, the Board finds that implementing AOT would likely result in a reduction of other services due to existing budget constraints; and

Whereas, a county that opts out of AOT can determine that it will opt in at any time.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that Sonoma County opts out of the Assisted Outpatient Treatment Demonstration Project of 2002, as amended by AB 1976, ("Laura's Law").

Be It Further Resolved that Sonoma County will monitor existing program outcomes and community needs and consider opting in to Laura's Law if the need is confirmed and resources are available.

Supervisors:

Gorin: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.