

MISSION Statement

Working together to achieve hope, healing and a meaningful life in the community.

VISION Statement

People with mental illness and addictions recover to achieve their hopes and dreams, enjoy opportunities to learn, work, and contribute to their community.

VALUES Statements

Hope, Healing, Community, Authority

We honor the potential in everyone

We value the whole person – mind, body and spirit

We focus on the person, not the illness

We embrace diversity and cultural competence

We acknowledge that relapse is not a personal failure

We recognize authority over our lives empowers us to make choices, solve problems and plan for the future



ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT

P.O. Box 1000
Bakersfield, CA 93302

661-635-2997

Crisis Hotline Toll Free:
1-800-991-5272

Telecommunications Relay Services Available

On the Web:
www.co.kern.ca.us/kcmh/



Commission on Accreditation
of Rehabilitation Facilities

Kern County Mental Health has been accredited by CARF for the following programs: Mental Health Programs- Case Management; Children and Adolescents-Case Management & Crisis Stabilization; Integrated Alcohol & Other Drugs-Case Management & Children & Adolescents-Case Management; Employment Services-Community Employment Services



Kern County Mental Health Department

*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (AOT) *Laura's Law*



What Is Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)?

AOT as permitted by Laura's Law is designed to prevent persons at known risk who are not receiving mental health treatment from deteriorating into states where they are dangerous to themselves or others. It does so by directing such persons into compulsory treatment in the hopes that the person's condition will improve and she or he will seek subsequent treatment voluntarily.

Thus, the overall effectiveness of the program will be seen in its ability to successfully graduate persons from AOT into voluntary treatment while preventing episodes of dangerousness to self or others.

For further information or assistance about our Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program, please call (661) 635-2997



WHO IS AOT FOR?

Mentally ill adults presently residing in Kern County who:

- ◆ have been offered the opportunity to participate in treatment by KCMH but have failed to engage in treatment AND
- ◆ their condition is presently substantially deteriorating

WHO CAN REQUEST AOT?

- ◆ Immediate Adult Family Members
- ◆ Persons 18 years of age or older residing with the individual
- ◆ Director of treating agency, charitable organization, licensed residential care facility or hospital
- ◆ Peace officer, parole or probation officer supervising the individual

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU MAKE A REFERRAL

KCMH will contact you to learn more about your concerns. We will also attempt to meet with the mentally ill adult to encourage him or her to receive our services voluntarily and to allow us to share information about our attempts with the referring party.
(KCMH cannot share this information without the consent of the mentally ill person).

If the person doesn't immediately agree, we will continue our attempts for no less than 30 days. If our attempts do not succeed during this time, KCMH may file an AOT petition with the Kern County Superior Court if several conditions are present:

- ◆ The person has a history of lack of compliance with treatment for his or her mental illness
- ◆ The individual has been offered the opportunity to participate in a treatment plan by the KCMH director, or his designee, and the individual continues to fail to engage in treatment
- ◆ The individual's condition is substantially deteriorating
- ◆ It is likely that the person will benefit from assisted outpatient treatment

If the court finds that the conditions for AOT have been met, the mentally ill adult will be ordered to receive AOT from KCMH for 180 days. AOT can be repeated if the necessary conditions remain present at the end of each term. Most people receiving AOT are prescribed and accept psychiatric medications even though involuntary medication is not allowed by Laura's Law.

ASSISTED OUPATIENT TREATMENT

AOT includes a variety of mental health treatments such as psychiatric medication, individual and group therapies, psychosocial skills training, substance use disorder treatment, case management and crisis intervention.

AOT clients usually receive these services in the community several times each week by a team of highly trained and caring professionals that include licensed mental health professionals (e.g. psychiatrist, psychologist, therapist, nurse) as well as recovery specialists, substance abuse specialists, and peer support specialists.

AOT IS NOT FOR PERSONS WHO

- ◆ are under the age of 18
- ◆ are not presently residing in Kern County
- ◆ are ill but not recently deteriorating
- ◆ are currently participating in MH treatment
- ◆ do not have a history of non-compliance with MH treatment
- ◆ have never been hospitalized or arrested

