



# AOT LEARNING NETWORK

## May Bulletin

*Assisted outpatient treatment (AOT) is the practice of providing outpatient treatment under civil court order to individuals with severe mental illness (SMI) who have demonstrated difficulty engaging with treatment on a voluntary basis.*

*For more information on the practice, [click here](#).*

### AOT Judges web chat



The AOT Judges web chat will take **place Tuesday, May 26 at 2 p.m. ET**. This chat is a closed group specifically for judges, magistrates, and hearing officers. We ask that those who do not fit into this group refrain from registering. A recording may be available to all at a later date.

The chat will be **facilitated by the Honorable Cynthia Lu of Washoe County, Nevada**. Judge Lu currently presides in Department 5 of the Second Judicial District Court, Family Division, in Washoe County, Reno, Nevada, after being elected in 2014. Prior to joining the bench, Judge Lu represented clients in involuntary hospital admission cases and mental health court. Since 2015, she has been assigned the docket for involuntary hospital admissions. In 2016, Judge Lu was pleased to have initiated the AOT in Washoe

County through a partnership with Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services with a four-year SAMHSA grant. Since its inception, the program has **served over 200 participants** and has been shown to decrease the utilization of mental health hospitalizations, emergency room visits, and incarceration for the participants.

Please join us for this opportunity to learn from a judicial peer with hands-on AOT experience, discuss challenges unique to the bench, and gain practical tips that can be applied in the courtroom. Please encourage your judge to participate. Note that all judges are welcome, regardless of AOT program status. [Register here today.](#)

## Ask the AOT Learning Network (*new!*)

This is a dedicated space for questions from AOT Learning Network members looking to crowdsource practical guidance and real-world experience. See a question you can help answer? We invite you to share your insights by emailing [aot@tac.org](mailto:aot@tac.org).

### 1. Managing demand at program launch

A new AOT program preparing for implementation is facing this challenge: Community partners have identified more individuals who could benefit from AOT than the program can initially serve due to resource limits. Have other jurisdictions used waitlists for AOT, and if so, how were they structured and managed?

### 2. Group services for AOT participants

A peer support specialist is exploring whether group therapy could benefit participants in their AOT program. Have other programs implemented group-based services, and if so, what has the experience with participation, logistics, and outcomes looked like?

## We want to hear from you!

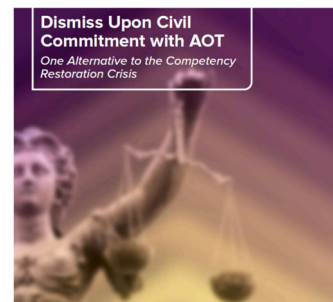
We're creating new psychosis trainings for frontline professionals and are conducting a survey of training needs and experiences across multiple sectors to find out what would be valuable. All responses will be kept confidential and used only for internal research and training improvement purposes. Take the survey [here](#). Questions or comments may be directed to [advocacy@tac.org](mailto:advocacy@tac.org).

## Resource of the month

More counties are increasingly exploring AOT as an alternative to competency restoration for the growing number of individuals who are unlikely to be restored and do not pose a risk to public safety.

TAC's *Dismiss Upon Civil Commitment with AOT* handbook is designed to help communities move beyond preliminary discussion and into practical implementation. If you have not yet reviewed the handbook, it is available for download [at this link](#).

For an introduction to the challenges faced by individuals with severe mental illness who cycle through jails and a concrete illustration of how this process can work in practice, watch *Martha's Story: How Dismiss Upon Civil Commitment with AOT Could Have Made a Difference*:



A HANDBOOK FOR ADVOCATES AND IMPLEMENTERS  
March 2024



For more free resources like this one, check out the AOT Resource Library [at this link](#).

## **April web chat recording**

4/23 AOT program staff web chat [recording](#)

## **AOT in the news**

[CARE Court should refocus on mentally ill homeless people, the hardest to help](#)

[National Shattering Silence Coalition Calls for Urgent Reform After Preventable Psychiatric System Failure in Alabama](#)

[Mental health advocates optimistic about Michigan reforms](#)

[New report highlights hurdles to Iryna's Law implementation](#)

[Portland Lawmaker Wants to Turn Up the Dial on Forced Mental Health and Addiction Treatment](#)

[Summit County Probate Court receives \\$40,125 grant](#)

[Don't leave out people with the most severe mental illnesses](#)

[Court ordered treatment prevents hospitalizations, arrests](#)

[New Mexico's court-mandated pathways to mental health care](#)

[Bipolar disorder patients gain access to California's mental health court program](#)

## **Growing the AOTLN**

We are continually seeking to add members to the Learning Network. We would be grateful if you would forward [this link](#) to everyone involved in providing AOT in your community and encourage them to participate. The greater the range of roles and perspectives represented in the AOT Learning Network, the richer the experience will be for all involved. Thank you!



**TAC.org**

Contact the AOT Implementation team

