

Sacramento County Mental Health Board Special Meeting

Mental Health Board – Minutes

Members Present: Loran Sheley, Maria Padilla-Castro, Ann Arneill, Laura Bemis, Brad Lueth, and Silvia Rodriguez

Staff Present: Jason Richards, Janice Snyder

Members Absent: Theresa Riviera, Supervisor Kennedy

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, March 10, 2021
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Meeting Location

Conference Call
Call-In: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: 968 9427 2422
Password: 296169

Meeting Invitees

- Mental Health Board
- General Public

Agenda Item	Presenter	Time
<p>I. Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Chair Loran Sheley called the meeting to order at 6:01 and introductions were made.</p>	Loran Sheley, Chair	6:00-6:05 pm
<p>II. Read Comfort Agreement</p> <p>Ms. Laura Bemis read the comfort agreement.</p>	Mental Health Board Member	6:05-6:10 pm
<p>III. Mental Health Board Discussion/Action Item – Potential Recommendation on Sacramento County Decision to Implement or Opt Out of Assisted Outpatient Treatment/Laura’s Law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction and review meeting goals <p>Chair Sheley provided an overview of the topic of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)/Laura’s Law, for MHB discussion this evening, as outlined in Handout #2. The action item is for the MHB to decide if they would like to submit recommendations on this topic, and if so, which recommendations to submit.</p> <p>Ms. Bemis, Ms. Maria Padilla-Castro, and Ms. Ann Arneill affirmed the importance of hearing public comments before making a decision on this topic (public comments are listed below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Mental Health Board member presentations <p>Ms. Arneill provided a summary of reasons to opt out of AOT in Sacramento County, and advocated for this position (Handout #3).</p>	<p>Loran Sheley, Chair</p> <p>Mental Health Board Members</p> <p>Members of the Public</p>	6:10-7:25 pm

Sacramento County Mental Health Board Special Meeting

Ms. Bemis provided a summary of reasons to not opt out of AOT in Sacramento County, and advocated for this position (Handout #2).

- Public Comment

Community member advocated in favor of AOT as an in-between step between the FPSs and criminalizing mental health issues, based on experience as the family member of a consumer.

Community member advocated against AOT, due to concerns that AOT could further stigmatize mental health services, issues with enforceability, and currently overcrowded hospitals.

Community member advocated against AOT, stating the position that the rights of the individual are more important than the rights of the community.

Community member advocated against AOT, stating that systemic transformation through recovery-oriented services is only possible when all stakeholders feel like they are decision makers in the system.

Community member advocated against AOT, due to an emphasis on the recovery model, strain on County resources, and keeping local control to meet the needs of unique communities.

Community member spoke about the experiences of a family member who does AOT-related work in another County, and the significant efforts it would take to implement AOT in Sacramento County.

Community member advocated against AOT, due to a potential larger impact on people of color and running contrary to the County's efforts towards equity.

Community member advocated in favor of AOT, because overall it saves money, saves lives, serves the people who need services most, and AOT consumers express afterwards that they appreciate the services.

Community member advocated in favor of AOT based on her experiences as a consumer, stressing that not accepting treatment is often a symptom of mental illness.

Community member advocated against AOT, stressing that it is a civil rights issue to make consumers receive treatment if they don't want to.

Sacramento County Mental Health Board Special Meeting

<p>Community member advocated in favor of AOT, stating that it is meant to serve a small number of individuals who would not otherwise seek services, and that it can be used in a supportive manner which respects clients' voice and choice in addition to other existing mental health options such as motivational interviewing.</p> <p>Community member advocated in favor of AOT, due to the existing catch and release short-term treatment model making things worse with clients ending up in the hospital or the law enforcement system. This community member also outlined solutions to pay for AOT, such as a combination of MHSA and Medi-Cal funds.</p> <p>Community member advocated against AOT, based on experiences as a former consumer and positive experiences with existing County programs.</p> <p>Community member advocated against AOT, based on expressions by consumers that they would not be helped by AOT. This community member expressed that consumers would seek treatment on their own if they felt like the system was more supportive of them.</p> <p>Community member advocated in favor of AOT, based on experiences of consumers who wished they had had AOT after Sacramento County decided not to implement it several years ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Board discussion <p>Ms. Padilla-Castro advocated for the importance of having discussions and listening to everyone on this issue, and asked about alternatives to AOT if it is not implemented.</p> <p>Mr. Brad Lueth discussed the experiences of a family member consumer, who has expressed that asking for mental health services can often be challenging for consumers and interpreted incorrectly even when they do want services. Mr. Lueth expressed the importance of considering both sides of this issue.</p> <p>Chair Sheley clarified that the County could choose to opt out now and opt in at a later date, or vice versa.</p> <p>Ms. Padilla-Castro discussed how the current system has not been successful and that it continues to land consumers in the hospital and the law enforcement system. Ms. Bemis expressed agreement with these points.</p>		
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Sacramento County Mental Health Board Special Meeting

<p>Ms. Arneill discussed recovery oriented interventions which work with clients in a strength based way to encourage them to accept help, as alternatives to AOT.</p> <p>Ms. Padilla-Castro asked for clarification about the alternatives to AOT mentioned, and asked if consumers had been offered those alternatives. Ms. Arneill stressed that many of them have not, because there need to be more community programs available. Ms. Arneill discussed the upcoming Alternatives to 911 program in addition to additional FSPs as an alternative to AOT.</p> <p>Ms. Silvia Rodriguez advocated in favor of AOT, until the County can show that they are able to adequately serve individuals that AOT would reach without it.</p>		
<p>IV. Wrap up and concluding remarks</p> <p>Ms. Arneill moved that the MHB recommend that Sacramento County opt out of AOT. Ms. Sheley seconded the motion. Motion not carried. Votes were as follows—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Ms. Sheley and Ms. Arneill • No: Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Padilla-Castro, and Ms. Bemis • Abstain: Mr. Lueth and Ms. Riviera <p>Ms. Bemis asked for clarification on the MHB’s position as a result of the vote. Ms. Janice Snyder clarified that the result is that the MHB has not taken a position at this time.</p>	Loran Sheley, Chair	7:25-7:30 pm
<p>V. Adjournment</p> <p>Ms. Sheley adjourned the meeting at 7:42.</p>	Loran Sheley, Chair	7:30 pm