

**Before the Board of Supervisors in and for the
County of Monterey, State of California**

Resolution No., _____

Adopt a Resolution to:

Consider adopting a Resolution to authorize)
County of Monterey to opt-out of AB 1976,)
Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), also)
known as Laura’s Law.)

WHEREAS, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act (LPS; effective 1972) mandates that individuals deemed to be in serious need of mental health treatment may be admitted for evaluation and treatment on a 72-hour hold (W&I Code§ 5150). If the individual is unwilling or unable to remain voluntarily and further treatment is indicated the individual can be held for an additional limited period of up to 14 days (W&I Code § 5250; and

WHEREAS, AB1421 Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT), or “Laura’s Law” was signed into law in 2002 as an optional alternative to the LPS, providing court-ordered intensive outpatient services for adults with serious mental illness who are experiencing repeated crisis events and who are not engaging in treatment on a voluntary basis; and

WHEREAS, AB1976 was signed into law in 2020 as an unfunded mandate requiring all Counties to either implement AOT by July 1, 2021 or opt-out by way of a resolution passed by the governing body stating the reasons for opting out and any facts or circumstances relied on in making that decision, no later than May 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors authorized the County of Monterey to opt-out of AB 1976, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) on May 4th, 2021 by Board of Supervisors Resolution No. 21-125 and Counties may elect to participate or opt-out of AB1976 at the beginning of each fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Monterey County Health Department, Behavioral Health Bureau (MCBH) currently provides a wide-array of services that meet or exceed the services required by AOT, and finds it would best serve our residents to opt out of this bill because opting-in to AOT would lead to inefficient service redundancies; and

WHEREAS, MCBH estimates the cost of AOT to be \$943,338 annually. AB 1976 specifically requires that AOT implementation cannot reduce or eliminate funding to existing programs. Implementation of AOT would require additional General Fund contribution or other non-behavioral health funding. As a result of funding and staffing issues, County needs to opt-out.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County of Monterey to opt-out of AB 1976, Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT).

PASSED AND ADOPTED upon motion of Supervisor _____,
seconded by _____ carried this _____ day of _____ 2022, by the
following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

I, Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book _____, on _____, 2022.

Dated:

Valerie Ralph, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Monterey, State of California

By _____

, Deputy