

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

Resolution No. 21-

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

**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 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 \$364,179 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; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH conducted an oral presentation regarding AOT before the Monterey County Behavioral Health Commission (“BHC”). Individual commissioners expressed via comments general support for opting-out of AOT; and

**WHEREAS**, MCBH conducted an oral presentation regarding AOT before the Health, Housing, Homelessness & Human Services Committee. The Committee provided direction to staff showing support of MCBH's intent to opt-out of AOT.

**WHEREAS**, outreach regarding AOT was conducted with key stakeholders including the Collaborative Court Steering Committee, County Counsel, Public Guardian-Conservator, County Law Enforcement Chiefs, Voices of Monterey/NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness), and peer representatives; finding general support for this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Monterey County 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 April 2021, 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 \_\_\_\_ for the meeting on .

Dated:

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