



## SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CYNTHIA C. LU  
DISTRICT JUDGE  
DEPARTMENT FIVE  
FAMILY COURT

STATE OF NEVADA  
WASHOE COUNTY

July 5, 2018

PHYSICAL: ONE SOUTH SIERRA  
MAILING: 75 COURT STREET  
RENO, NEVADA 89501  
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Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board  
c/o Sheila Leslie  
Washoe County Human Services Agency  
P.O. Box 11130, Reno, Nevada 89520-0027

**RE: Budget request for Washoe County's Assisted Outpatient  
Treatment (AOT) program**

Dear Board Members,

This letter is to thank you for your support of state funding for the Washoe County's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program. The program initiated in 2016 through a 4-year SAMHSA grant, which will end in the middle of the fiscal year of 2019-2020. It is significant to note that our consumers are not limited to residents in the Second Judicial District of Washoe County, but are also referred from other Northern Nevada counties. We currently have several consumers from the First Judicial District of Carson City.

The stakeholders and Court began meeting in April 2016. After staff was hired and trained, consumers began being admitted into the program in December 2016. The program has admitted 67 consumers and currently has 52 active consumers. The program has attracted high consumers of hospitalizations, jail, and emergency rooms. The statute only allows a consumer to be admitted to AOT for up to 6 months. Thus far, all but five consumers have re-petitioned to stay in the program for another 6 months. Six consumers have chosen to remain in the program for more than a year. Consumers choosing to remain show their belief that the program has assisted them and they continue to want the assistance.

As we work on adjusting our court data system to capture statistics, our current statistics have been manually collated. According to our statistics as of April 2018, in the 5 years prior to admission to the AOT program, the AOT consumers had a combined total of 68 petitions for involuntary mental health hospital admissions filed with the district court; were arrested for a combined total of 113 times; and were in jail for a combined total of 2,738 days. While participating in AOT, the same consumers had a total of 5 petitions for involuntary mental health hospital admissions filed with the district court; were arrested for a combined total of 6 times; and were in jail for a combined total of 253 days. This

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reflects a 92% decrease, a 94% decrease, and a 90% decrease, respectively. Our preliminary data suggests this program is making significant progress with these difficult consumers.

It is our hope that with state funding our AOT program can continue. The SAMHSA grant, for the first year, allocated \$573,893 for training, supplies and foundation development of the program. Years 2, 3 and 4 of the grant allocates \$502,743 each year for psychiatric caseworker salaries (60%), oversight for RDA evaluator (20%), and housing provider support hours (20%).


The SAMHSA funds do not cover housing, state funded staff, trainings, supplies or client incentives. The State of Nevada is currently funding the staff salary of the Project Director, Team Lead, Nursing, Psychiatrist, Administrative Assistant, and two CSA positions. The State of Nevada also covers a large amount of provider support hours, as well as rent-utilities-food-personal needs associated with CBLA contracts as the grant funding is insufficient to cover these costs. The grant is geared toward providing for 85 consumers. However, even with 52 active consumers, the grant does not cover the actual costs incurred.

There is no funding from the grant or the State for housing, transportation, AOT trainings, consumer and family social functions, and supplies for AOT groups. The AOT staff and I have provided food and beverages for open houses and social functions from our private funds. We choose to invest our own funds because we want to see the program succeed.

One of the challenges with the grant is it lacks housing funding. Another challenge is that since the AOT employees are not state employees, it has resulted in a high turnover rate. Further, since none of the AOT caseworkers are state employees, they have been unable to provide transportation for the AOT consumers.

Thank you again for your support of funding for the Washoe County AOT program, so we can continue to assist these consumers to lead successful lives through outpatient services as well as reduce the burden on the hospitals and detention centers.

Sincerely,

  
Cynthia Lu  
District Judge