



Agency Mission

The mission of the Mental Health Association of Essex County, Inc. is to promote mental health including the integration of physical healthcare, to improve the care and treatment of individuals with mental illness, and to remove the stigma associated with emotional and mental disorders. We, as a community organization, accomplish our mission through advocacy, education, prevention, treatment and service.

Mental illness is real...
Recovery is possible...

ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT SERVICES

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Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services AOTS



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Target Population

Assistant Outpatient Treatment Services (AOTS)/IOC provides an assessment from the team to assess the appropriateness of the individual (pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 30:4-27.2(m)*) in need of involuntary commitment to treatment.”

The following is the list of eligibility criteria for the program:

- An adult who is 18 and over;
- An Essex County resident;
- Diagnosed with a mental illness (means a current, substantial disturbance of thought, mood, perception or orientation which significantly impairs judgment, capacity to control behavior or capacity to recognize reality, but does not include simple alcohol intoxication, transitory reaction to drug ingestion, organic brain syndrome or developmental disability unless it results in the severity of impairment described herein. The term mental illness is not limited to “psychosis”, but shall include all conditions that result in the severity of impairment describe herein per *N.J.S.A 30:4-27.2r*);
- Unlikely to comply with the outpatient treatment necessary to safely manage their risk for dangerous behavior.

Goals and Services Provided

The goal of Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services (AOTS) also known as Involuntary Outpatient Commitment (IOC) is to provide court ordered mental health treatment, intensive case management and assistance to a selected group of mental health consumers who have been resistant and have had difficulty engaging in outpatient treatment. The goal of AOTS is to enable these consumers to live safely in the community, to avoid repeated inpatient hospitalizations, homelessness and/or incarcerations, and to ensure they have access to comprehensive outpatient services. Through the use of a court ordered treatment plan, consumers have the opportunity to better engage in consistent, ongoing treatment and to ultimately graduate to less restrictive mental health services.

Objectives:

- Reduction of hospitalizations
- Reduction of homelessness
- Reduction of arrests and/or incarcerations
- Reduction of violence, crime, and victimization
- Improvement in treatment compliance
- Increase in access and linkage to mental health and social services

Staffing

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Services consists of one program director, one psychiatrist, two case managers, one peer case manager and one administrative assistant.

Method of Referral

- Referrals can be made by screening centers, short term care facilities, the county hospital center, state hospitals and/or court.
 - The referral source must complete an AOTS referral form and fax it immediately to the AOTS office.
- Referrals will be followed up with an in-person visit by AOTS staff.
- AOTS staff will assess client history of mental illness, co-occurring illness, and/or treatment and will evaluate referrals for appropriateness.
- AOTS staff will then initiate psychiatrist visit.
- AOTS program will collaborate with referral source once determination of the person referred is made.
- AOTS will participate in treatment team meeting as needed and provide court ordered treatment plan as needed to community providers.

