

Katherine Douglas **Public Comment**

A-9

**From:** Lynne Gibbs <gibbslyn2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 12:41 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Cc:** Williams, Das; Spencer Brandt; Laura Capps; Hanke, Aaron; Hartmann, Joan; Jefferson Litten; Lavagnino, Steve; Bantilan, Cory; Nelson, Bob; Henson, Chris  
**Subject:** NAMI SBCO BOS Hearing Statement Attached  
**Attachments:** MHSA Statement 2023 06 27.docx



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Good afternoon,

Please find attached NAMI Santa Barbara County's statement related to the June 27th agenda item on the upcoming MHSA 3-yr. plan, Administrative Item A-9.

Thank you,  
Lynne Gibbs



To: Chair Das Williams, and Honorable Board of Supervisors  
From: Lynne Gibbs, on behalf of NAMI Santa Barbara County  
Subject: Public Comment on Administrative Agenda item A-9, the MHSA 3-yr. Plan  
Date: June 26, 2023

Each year NAMI Santa Barbara County has unsuccessfully advocated for AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) expansion under MHSA (Mental Health Services Act). We believe there are particularly compelling reasons for funding such an expansion in the next 3-year MHSA plan, as noted below:

- 1) AOT is by definition the outpatient program that serves those with the most serious mental illness who are unlikely to survive safely in the community without it.
- 2) Our AOT program has a proven success record of bringing an impressive number of treatment resistant individuals into care.
- 3) Family members support AOT. It is the only program they can apply for on behalf of their loved ones who lack the capacity to recognize their need for treatment.
- 4) AOT has been shown to successfully reduce incarcerations and involuntary hospitalizations. Each referral to the program supports our efforts to reduce the jail population.
- 5) **We have had a substantial AOT waitlist for several years. The addition of just 2 AOT Outreach workers would double the coverage of the program.**
- 6) MHSA revenue is projected to increase substantially, and the new MHSA 3-yr. draft plan proposes to bring up a number of new, untested programs. New programs require considerable lead time for initial implementation. Why not expand AOT and see the immediate benefit?
- 7) **Most other California counties with AOT programs fund them via MHSA, whereas we never have.**
- 8) Given similarities between AOT and the upcoming Care Act implementation, AOT provides invaluable practice and experience.

Is it prudent to invest time in bringing up so many new programs that may be at risk if the Governor's MHSA Modernization plan is adopted in 2024 with a potential 30% reduction in the county's MHSA allocation?

MHSA is a major source of funding for our mental health programs. Let us further invest in one of our most successful programs to best leverage our investment.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lynne Gibbs, on behalf of NAMI Santa Barbara County Public Policy Chair