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April 9, 2020

To: Chair Hart and County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

Sent by email to Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board at bcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.
To be read at County budget workshops for the Dept. of Behavioral Wellness.

SUBJECT: Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program (AOT) funding

The Santa Barbara League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (League) has strongly supported the County's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program since its inception. AOT fills a gap in the mental health continuum of care, mandating outpatient treatment for those in our community suffering the most serious illness. The AOT program has reduced crisis events, incarcerations and homelessness for a significant number of persons in the pilot program.

We reviewed the Department of Behavioral Wellness' budget presentation. The League commends Director Alice Gleghorn for listing AOT Implementation among the Department's 2020-21 Objectives and for the success of the pilot program.

We urge you to provide funding for continuation of the AOT program. We cannot afford to lose it.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vijaya Jammalamadaka".

Vijaya Jammalamadaka, President
League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara