Assisted Outpatient Treatment
General steps and roles

CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

This resource is a general overview of the steps and responsibilities for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) orders. It is by no means a comprehensive representation of what every individual's AOT journey will look like, as each case is different depending on where that individual lives, what their history with serious mental illness is, and what community and human resources that individual has around them.

1

The **individual** is identified as a potential candidate for AOT. Find out who is best suited here. AOT should only be used after other, less restrictive treatment engagement options have been tried.

Individual | Families & advocates | CMH | Emergency Department | Court | Inpatient unit | Psychiatrist | Law enforcement

parties that can petition

2

A petition is filed with **probate** for a combined order of AOT and hospitalization, or for AOT only. For orders requesting hospitalization, two clinical certificates are required. If a transport order for evaluation is issued, **law enforcement** is to take the **individual** for assessment. An **individual** can defer, which requires a deferral conference. See the **court** process map here.

Law enforcement executes a transport order for assessment if necessary.

The **probate court** appoints defense attorneys, schedules a hearing within seven days, and deploys transport orders if necessary.

The **psychiatrist** assesses the individual if hospitalization is requested and completes a clinical certificate. The **hospital** staff schedules a deferral conference if applicable.

3

After the hearing, either the petition is dismissed, or the **judge** grants a combined or AOT only order. The **court** sends the order to the designated **psychiatric hospital or unit** (if combined) and to **CMH** to oversee and develop an individualized plan of service (IPOS) and coordinate delivery.

The **psychiatrist** testifies at the hearing.

The **judge** can grant an order, the **court** sends the order to **CMH** and the **hospital** if applicable.

CMH assumes responsibility for connection to and delivery of ordered services for AOT only orders, and once released from **inpatient** for combined orders, as well as oversight of the **individual**'s progress and communication with the court.

4

If hospitalization is ordered, the **psychiatric hospital or unit must notify CMH and the court five days prior to the individual being discharged**. The **psychiatric hospital or unit** and **CMH** work together to ensure that service coordination and delivery are in place immediately after discharge.



The **hospital** makes sure treatment records are complete, including medications. They also coordinate with **CMH** for discharge planning

CMH engages the **individual** immediately after hospital discharge for a warm hand-off into community services.

5

CMH works with the **individual** to create an individualized plan of service (IPOS); connects them to resources; provides case management; and documents regular encounters and fidelity to the IPOS.

The **individual** participates in treatment plan development with their **CMH** case worker.

CMH works with the **individual** to create a treatment/case management plan.

The **probate court** receives confirmation of the case management plan from **CMH**.

6

If the **individual** is not adhering to treatment, a notice of noncompliance is sent to the **court** from the **CMH** with a demand for hearing. An order for examination/ transport can be issued to get the **individual** reevaluated. **Law enforcement** executes the transport order and takes the **individual** for assessment or hospitalization.

CMH files documents for noncompliance

The **court** arranges a hearing

Law enforcement executes the transport order (if necessary) to either evaluation or **inpatient hospitalization**

CMH facilitates a psych assessment at a designated assessment center

The designated **hospital** provides inpatient care

7

If the **CMH** or their contracted providers are not providing the services ordered, the **individual** and/or their **family/advocate** can demand a hearing. The **judge** can hold a show cause hearing to ask why the **CMH** is violating the court order.

demand a hearing

The **court** can hold a show cause hearing and hold **CMH** accountable if they have not been providing services.

CMH must be present at the show cause hearing

8

The case manager is to note when the order is due to expire, and then coordinate with the system of care to determine if an extension is warranted. If an extension is needed, the case manager is to file extension paperwork. Alternatively, an **individual can be discharged from their AOT order prior to the expiration** if the **individual** and their clinical team feel they have improved to the point of engaging in voluntary treatment.

CMH files the necessary paperwork for an AOT extension if it is deemed appropriate.

The **probate court** grants or denies an extension.

The **individual** continues to participate in treatment and treatment planning.