

1 [Implementation of Assembly Bill 1421]

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3 **Resolution urging the Department of Public Health to implement the provisions of**  
4 **Assembly Bill 1421 to establish an Assisted Community Treatment Program (AOT)**  
5 **model in the City and County of San Francisco.**

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7 WHEREAS, Throughout California there are many individuals suffering from severe  
8 mental illness such as schizophrenia who are not receiving necessary community based  
9 mental health treatment; and,

10 WHEREAS, Previous law, the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, passed in 1967, made it  
11 practically impossible for judges or physicians to compel a mentally ill person to accept  
12 treatment, thereby depriving them of the treatment which they needed; and,

13 WHEREAS, On February 15, 2001, the Rand Corporation released a report,  
14 commissioned by the California Senate Committee on Rules entitled “ The Effectiveness of  
15 Involuntary Outpatient Treatment: Empirical Evidence and the Experience of Eight States,”  
16 this report provided an evidence-based approach to examining and synthesizing empirical  
17 research on involuntary outpatient treatment; and,

18 WHEREAS, The report found that some high-risk patients do not comply with  
19 traditional community-based mental health services, even when treatment is made available.  
20 In general, ambulatory care data does not support the assumption that individuals were  
21 entering the involuntary treatment system because they were unable to access outpatient  
22 services, and that randomized clinical trials support the use of assertive community treatment  
23 programs (ACT) which involve the delivery of community-based by multi-disciplinary teams of  
24 highly trained mental health professionals with high staff to client ratios; and,

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1           WHEREAS, In response to the need for reform of the delivery of mental health  
2 services, in February 2001, Assemblywoman Helen Thomson introduced Assembly Bill (AB)  
3 1421 which established the implementation of an Assisted Community Treatment Program  
4 model in California and allowed court-ordered outpatient treatment for people who refuse  
5 medical treatment, or who are unable to access these services due to their illness; and,

6           WHEREAS, In September 2002, the California State Legislature adopted and Governor  
7 Gray Davis approved AB 1421 with the provisions of the bill becoming law effective January 1,  
8 2003; and,

9           WHEREAS, Through the adoption of AB 1421, California can ensure the effective  
10 delivery of services to the mentally ill, through the designation and establishment of a  
11 community based treatment model and providing for the health of these persons with respect  
12 to the sensitivity of these services and individuals; and,

13           WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health has identified the administration and  
14 costs associated with the implementation of AB 1421; and,

15           WHEREAS, Requests for petitioning for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) services  
16 may be made to the Department of Public Health's Mental Health Director. If the individual in  
17 question meets the criteria necessary for AOT services, a petition will be filed and considered  
18 by the Superior Court for the designation of services not to exceed six months, and, if  
19 necessary, may mandate additional services not to exceed six months; and,

20           WHEREAS, There is not additional or increased State funding associated with the  
21 implementation of this legislation; and,

22           WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health has estimated the costs related to the  
23 mandated activities under AB 1421 and have estimated the administrative costs to be \$ 436  
24 per client over a six-month time frame; and costs related to direct services such as outreach,  
25 coordinated mental health and substance abuse services, medication access and

1 coordination, and vocational rehabilitation would be \$ 4,689; and supportive housing in  
2 coordination with services would cost \$ 7,200 for six months whereby resulting in an overall  
3 cost of \$ 12,329 per court order issued for AOT services; and,

4 WHEREAS, Some states with AOT programs have seen substantial decreases in  
5 hospitalizations, arrests, incarceration and other high cost services and increases to direct  
6 mental health and housing services; and,

7 WHEREAS, It is incumbent that the City and County of San Francisco implement AB  
8 1421 to ensure the delivery of community based outpatient services and to provide for the  
9 wellbeing of mentally ill persons; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
11 does hereby urge the Department of Public Health to implement the provisions of Assembly  
12 Bill 1421 to establish an Assisted Community Treatment Program (AOT) model in the City and  
13 County of San Francisco.

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