

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OPTING OUT OF LAURA’S LAW - ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT (“AOT”).

WHEREAS, the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (“AOT”) Demonstration Project Act of 2002, known as Laura’s Law, authorizes each county to elect to offer specified mental health programs, either through a resolution adopted by the county Board of Supervisors, or through the county budget process, if the county Board of Supervisors makes a finding that specified mental health programs will not be reduced as a result of participating; and

WHEREAS, existing law authorizes participating counties to pay for the services provided from funds distributed to the counties from various continuously appropriated funds, including the Mental Health Services Act Fund, when included in a county plan, as specified; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1976, enacted September 25, 2020, requires a county or group of counties to offer those Assisted Outpatient Program services, unless a county or group of counties opts out by a resolution passed by the governing body stating the reasons for opting out and any facts or circumstances relied on in making that decision; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, on April 6, 2021, directed the Department of Health and Human Services in collaboration with the County Administrative Office to return with a supplemental budget and position allocation to implement Laura’s Law or a similar type of service program; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on June 8, 2021, approved and authorized the implementation of Laura’s Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment pilot program to assist in determining feasibility of implementation of Laura’s Law; and

WHEREAS, the Laura’s Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment pilot program has produced positive results albeit at a high cost for a small population; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County Behavioral Health provides a number of services similar to Assisted Outpatient Treatment, with strong outcome measures; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2024, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors voted to not include funding for continuing the Laura’s Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment program in Fiscal year 2024-2025 as the County of Humboldt has numerous competing funding priorities for services that are mandated; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, that Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services is opting out of continuing a Laura’s Law – Assisted Outpatient Treatment program, ceasing to actively seek new referrals as of July 1, 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, that Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services shall provide all individuals currently in the Laura’s Law Assisted Outpatient Treatment program the full six months of services reflected in the voluntary or court-ordered treatment plan, utilizing funding originally allocated for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 that is rolling over to Fiscal Year 2024-2025 for the purposes of winding the program down for closure December 31, 2024.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of June 25, 2024

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt, that Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services shall work with partners in law enforcement and the criminal justice systems, other partners, and the public to ensure awareness of and linkage to other behavioral health service options for individuals who would otherwise meet the state criteria for Assisted Outpatient Treatment referrals.

Dated: June 25, 2024

Rex Bohn, Chair

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors