September 18, 2018

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Update from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) regarding two-year AB 1421 (Laura’s Law) pilot program.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Receive Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services report regarding two-year AB 1421 (Laura’s Law) pilot program.

SUMMARY: Assembly Bill (AB) 1421 established the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Demonstration Project Act of 2002. AB 1421 provides a process to allow court-ordered outpatient mental health treatment based on specific eligibility criteria. The law provides for services to individuals with SPMI (serious and persistent mental illness); 18 years & older, who can benefit from treatment, but decline voluntary participation; are unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision; have a history of lack of compliance with treatment. The SPMI must have resulted either in psychiatric hospitalization or incarceration two or more times within the past 36 months; or threats or acts of serious and violent behavior towards themselves or others within the past 48 months. Referrals can be from family members who are over 18 or older, adult living with individual, agency providing mental health treatment to the individual, inpatient and outpatient hospitals, licensed mental health treatment provider or law enforcement agencies.

In the spring of 2017 based on your Board’s policy direction, the Department commenced planning a two-year AB 1421 pilot program. Today, the Department returns to your Board with an update. The team has completed the following activities: hired and oriented new staff; completed benchmark site visits in San Mateo and San Francisco counties and consulted on lessons learned regarding AOT implementation; launched the program on 9/4/18; received one referral for review; established centralized referral number (415) 473-4321; developed marketing materials, including program brochures in English and Spanish; established referral process; developed data collection plan as established in (AB1421) legislation with approximately 14 data elements; identified judge for AOT court process, and collaborated with justice partners (PD, DA, Court, etc.).

Based on the information we have learned regarding AOT implementation, we anticipate receiving high number referrals; however, only a small number will meet program criteria. For those referrals that are not eligible for AOT, the Department will re-direct and engage them with our existing service system.
FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal component associated with the acceptance of this report.

REVIEWED BY:
- County Administrator [X]  N/A  [ ]
- Department of Finance [ ]  N/A  [X]
- County Counsel [ ]  N/A  [X]
- Human Resources [ ]  N/A  [X]

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Nash Colfax, MD
Director