

IMD Waiver Could increase the use of AOT-PTP in Maine

- 1) One federally funded advocacy organization said, “we oppose these type of forced community mental health treatment laws because for one thing, we know of no, like, peer review, randomized studies suggesting that a court-ordered commitment — committing individuals to an assertive community treatment or ACT team — for mental health treatment alone improves treatment outcomes ”
 - a) The fact is, SAMHSA added assisted outpatient commitment to the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) back in 2015, after an independent assessment concluded the program met its requirements for demonstrating positive outcomes in multiple, rigorous peer-reviewed studies. The value of the intervention for qualifying individuals is also recognized by the American Psychiatric Association, the National Sheriffs’ Association and the International Association of Chiefs of Police
 - b) The NREPP was a publicly available online database of mental health and substance abuse interventions. To be recognized as evidence-based, interventions had to meet NREPP’s requirements for review and be independently assessed and rated for quality of research and readiness for dissemination
 - c) SAMHSA’s designation also followed recognition of AOT by the US Department of Justice, whose Office of Justice Programs deemed it to be an effective and evidence-based practice for reducing crime and violence in 2012. Forty-seven states and the District of Columbia currently authorize the use of some form of court-ordered outpatient treatment for individuals with the most severe psychiatric illnesses
 - d) As stated by Jeanne Gore at the press conference, “This type of early intervention has been found to be highly successful in states where it is utilized resulting in 77% fewer psychiatric hospitalizations. In addition, 74% fewer experienced homelessness, 83% fewer arrests, and 87% fewer incarcerations”
- 2) This statement has been made repeatedly by our opponents “The IMD waiver would go against the 1990 settlement agreement in a class action lawsuit brought against the state on behalf of residents of the now-defunct Augusta Mental Health Institute ”
 - a) As was already stated in our response to the news media on December 6th, “From our IMD Position Statement “The state of Maine did not apply for the SMI/SED waiver based on Disability Rights of Maine’s argument claiming it was “in violation of the ADA, Olmstead, and the Settlement Agreement.” Their arguments are misguided as proven elsewhere in this position statement. It’s time to end this layer of bureaucracy and eliminate the IMD exclusion.” I hope our opponents and the public will read our position statement carefully and finally