



Community Comes Together to Support a New Erie County Initiative, 06/03/2025

Erie County, OH — Over 80 community members gathered recently for the **PIVOT: Erie County's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Program's Breakfast Forum**, a powerful event focused on promoting intervention, voluntary outpatient treatment, and supporting individuals on their journey toward recovery and stability.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is a supportive, court-ordered program that helps individuals with serious mental illness receive the care they need in their community—especially when staying on treatment has been a challenge.

The forum opened with a warm welcome from Diane Taylor, Executive Director of the ADAMHS Board of Erie County, who emphasized the importance of community collaboration in addressing mental health challenges. The event was led by Magistrate Thomas Dusza, whose leadership underscored the legal and compassionate framework of the AOT program.

A highlight of the morning was a compelling video presentation featuring testimonials from graduates of AOT programs in other counties/states. These personal stories illustrated the transformative impact of AOT, offering hope and insight into the recovery process.

Firelands Health and the Erie County Sheriff's Office presented data and insights from other AOT programs, emphasizing the proven benefits of early intervention and structured outpatient care. They outlined eligibility, program structure, and the collaborative roles of law enforcement, healthcare, and the courts.

The forum concluded with an engaging question-and-answer session, where attendees had the opportunity to delve deeper into the program's operations and outcomes. The dialogue was both informative and inspiring, reflecting a shared commitment to improving mental health services in Erie County.

The PIVOT forum served as a reminder that recovery is possible when communities come together with compassion, structure, and support. In that same spirit, Erie County's AOT program stands as a beacon of hope, offering individuals the guidance they need to find stability and move forward.