

Why AOT is Successful?

- AOT includes judicial involvement that is different than regular court hearings, as well as wrap-around services
- The judge meets with the participant's case manager, as well as them; they are interested in the participant's needs, viewpoint and best interest
- Dockets are 14, 30, 60, and 90 days apart-increasing as participant becomes more engaged in services
- AOT program coordinators work closely with the participant's treatment team to ensure all needs are met, including housing, transportation, and peer support services

Benefits of AOT

- Effective in reducing incidence of hospitalization, including length of stay if hospitalized
- Reduces homelessness, arrests, incarceration, victimization, and violent episodes
- Increases treatment adherence
- Promotes long-term voluntary treatment compliance



Common Pleas Court

323 Columbus Ave.
Sandusky, OH 44870



FIRELANDSHEALTH

Firelands Regional Medical Center
Counseling & Recovery Services



Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health
Services Board of Erie County

PIVOT: Promoting
Intervention, Voluntary
Outpatient Treatment

**Erie County's Assisted
Outpatient Treatment
Program (AOT)**

*Helping participants turn
toward recovery and stability*

Who is AOT For?

- Individuals with severe mental illnesses (SMI)
- Individuals with a primary diagnosis of schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, schizoaffective disorder, and/or major depressive disorder (MDD)
- Those unlikely to accept voluntary treatment and/or suffers from the inability to understand their illness
- Has a history of persistent non-adherence with treatment and/or emergency custody orders

What is AOT?

- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) is the practice of providing community-based mental health treatment under civil court commitment. It serves as motivation for individuals with serious mental health illnesses (SMI) who struggle with voluntary treatment adherence and fully engaging with treatment.
- It is designed to assist those who are caught in cycles of repeat hospitalizations, homelessness, and/or incarceration.
- The AOT program strives to assist and motivate those who are high risk of negative outcomes and ensure that the mental health system is attentive to the needs of the individual

The AOT Process

- A Judge/Magistrate will order AOT
- Participant's are court-ordered to follow individualized treatment plan
- Local Mental Health Agency monitors participant's adherence and compliance
- If the participant demonstrates successful voluntary engagement with treatment, they will graduate and continue with care on their own
- If the participant does not adhere with treatment the court may:
 - Modify treatment plan
 - Order the participant to appear in court
 - Order the participant to be evaluated for hospitalization