



April 28, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**

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**Board Administration**  
Behavioral Health Center  
201 Mulholland  
Bay City, MI 48708  
800-448-5498 Access Center  
989-895-2300 Business

Arenac Center  
PO Box 1188  
1000 W. Cedar  
Standish, MI 48658

North Bay  
1961 E. Parish Road  
Kawkawlin, MI 48631

William B. Cammin Clinic  
1010 N. Madison  
Bay City, MI 48708

On behalf of our Community Mental Health (CMH) organization, I am writing to express strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

From a CMH perspective, we work closely with individuals who may be subject to AOT and regularly interact with the courts throughout this process. We have observed that judges are often tasked with making complex, high-stakes decisions under time constraints, balancing individual rights, clinical needs, and community safety. While statutory criteria provide a legal framework, their interpretation can vary significantly.

In practice, different judges may approach AOT determinations in different ways, often shaped by their professional experiences, familiarity with behavioral health systems, and frequency of exposure to these cases. Some judges may have extensive experience with AOT and mental health proceedings, while others may encounter such cases less often. This variability can lead to inconsistencies in how statutory criteria are applied and how similar cases are decided.

The proposed AOT decision-support tools offer a meaningful opportunity to address this challenge. By providing a structured, statute-aligned framework, these tools can help standardize how key clinical and legal factors are considered during hearings. Importantly, they do so while preserving judicial discretion, ensuring that judges retain full authority over their decisions while benefiting from additional guidance.

We believe these tools could enhance consistency, transparency, and confidence in AOT proceedings. For CMH providers, greater consistency in judicial decision-making can also improve care coordination, as clearer and more predictable outcomes allow for more effective treatment planning and collaboration between courts and service providers.

The pilot study's approach—evaluating the tools with judges experienced in AOT proceedings and comparing tool outputs with actual rulings—will provide valuable insight into both the validity and practicality of the tools.

Incorporating judicial feedback will further ensure that the tools are usable and relevant in real-world courtroom settings.

For these reasons, we strongly support funding this pilot study. We believe it represents an important step toward improving the fairness, clarity, and effectiveness of AOT decision-making.

Sincerely,

Stacy Krasinski MA, LPC, QIDP, QMHP, MHP, CMHP, TFCBT  
Emergency and Access Services Clinical Program Manager  
Bay Arenac Behavioral Health Authority

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)  
Dana Lasenby

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Yvette Woodruff

April 27, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN), I am writing to express strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

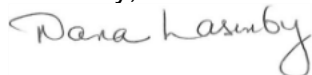
From a Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan and Community Mental Health Service Provider perspective, we work closely with individuals who may be subject to AOT and regularly interact with the courts throughout this process. The proposed AOT decision support tools offer a meaningful opportunity to bring consistency, fairness and equity to the decision-making process of when an individual should be placed on a court order. By providing a structured, statute aligned framework, these tools can help standardize how key clinical and legal factors are considered during hearings. Importantly, they do so while preserving judicial discretion, ensuring that judges retain full authority over their decisions while benefiting from additional guidance.

We believe these tools could enhance consistency, transparency, and confidence in AOT proceedings. Greater consistency in judicial decision-making can also improve care coordination, as clearer and more predictable outcomes allow for more effective treatment planning and collaboration between courts and service providers.

The pilot study's approach, evaluating the tools with judges experienced in AOT proceedings and comparing tool outputs with actual rulings, will provide valuable insight into both the validity and practicality of the tools. Incorporating judicial feedback will further ensure that the tools are usable and relevant in real-world courtroom settings.

For these reasons, we strongly support funding this pilot study. We believe it represents an important step toward improving the fairness, clarity, and effectiveness of AOT decision-making.

Sincerely,



Dana Lasenby  
Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director

Inspire Hope • Empower People • Strengthen Communities

STATE OF MICHIGAN



**ST. CLAIR COUNTY PROBATE COURT**  
**31st JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT**  
**FAMILY DIVISION**

**HON. MICHAEL L. WEST**  
CHIEF JUDGE

**HON. CYNTHIA LANE**  
PRESIDING JUDGE  
FAMILY DIVISION

**HON. JENNIFER SMITH DEEGAN**  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

**HON. JOHN TOMLINSON**  
JUDGE OF PROBATE

201 McMORRAN BLVD.  
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 48060  
Adult Probate (810) 985-2066  
Family Division (810) 985-2155

**MICHAEL K. MCMILLAN**  
Court Administrator

**SAMANTHA A. LORD**  
Attorney Referee

**DANIELLE EASTWOOD**  
Director of Youth Services

**JOSEPH SCHULTE**  
Probate Register /  
Director of Internal  
Court Operations

To Whom It May Concern,

I write to convey my support for the proposed pilot study by the Center for Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University concerning the development and evaluation of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial use.

Judges tasked with presiding over AOT proceedings must make prompt and consequential determinations that implicate individual rights, clinical considerations, and community safety. Although statutory frameworks provide guidance, the practical application of those standards often requires the synthesis of complex and sometimes inconsistent testimony. This challenge can be particularly pronounced in courts where AOT matters arise infrequently or where formalized decision-support resources are limited.

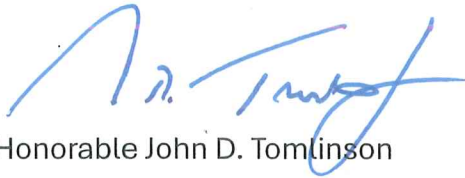
The proposed tools seek to assist the judiciary by organizing relevant statutory and clinical considerations into a structured format that may be used during AOT hearings. By providing a consistent framework for evaluating evidence and articulating findings, these tools have the potential to enhance clarity in decision-making while preserving the independent judgment of the court.

The design of the pilot study appears well considered. Its emphasis on evaluation by judges with experience in AOT proceedings, along with the comparison of tool-generated outputs to actual judicial determinations, offers a practical method for assessing both accuracy and usability. The inclusion of judicial feedback further supports the development of tools that are responsive to real-world courtroom needs.

In my view, this initiative represents a meaningful effort to promote consistency and transparency in AOT proceedings without diminishing judicial discretion. If successful, the tools could provide valuable support to courts handling these matters and contribute to more uniform application of statutory standards.

Accordingly, I support the proposed pilot study and would be willing to participate should the opportunity arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John D. Tomlinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "T".

Honorable John D. Tomlinson  
Judge of Probate  
St. Clair County

March 2, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

Judges presiding over AOT matters are required to make consequential, time-sensitive decisions that balance individual liberty, public safety, and clinical need, often based on complex and highly variable testimony. While statutes establish legal criteria for AOT, the application of those criteria can be challenging, particularly in jurisdictions where judges hear relatively few AOT cases or lack access to consistent mental health-specific decision aids. As a result, outcomes may vary based on experience, local practice, or the framing of testimony rather than on a standardized interpretation of statutory elements.

The proposed judicial AOT tools are designed to address this gap by providing structured, statute-aligned decision-support guidance during AOT hearings. The tools synthesize key legal and clinical factors into a consistent framework, assisting judges in organizing testimony, evaluating whether statutory criteria are met, and documenting the rationale underlying their decisions—while fully preserving judicial discretion.

The pilot study's focus on validating these tools through use by judges experienced in AOT proceedings is particularly appropriate. By comparing tool-generated recommendations with actual judicial rulings and gathering qualitative feedback on usability and feasibility, the study will assess both the tools' alignment with expert judicial reasoning and their practicality in real courtroom settings. This approach strengthens the credibility of the findings and their relevance to broader judicial implementation.

I believe these judicial decision-support tools have the potential to promote greater consistency, transparency, and confidence in AOT decision-making, especially for judges with limited exposure to mental health cases. If validated, they could serve as an important resource for courts statewide, supporting due process while enhancing the quality and clarity of AOT determinations.

For these reasons, I strongly support funding this pilot study and believe it represents a thoughtful, well-targeted investment in improving judicial decision-making in AOT proceedings. If funded I would be pleased to participate in the project.

Sincerely,



Judge Milton Mack (ret)

Chair, Governor's Mental Health Diversion Council



**MACOMB  
COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

MCCMH Administration  
19800 Hall Road  
Clinton Township, MI 48038

855-99-MCCMH  
info@mccmh.net  
www.mccmh.net

May 4, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

**Traci Smith**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

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On behalf of Macomb County Community Mental Health (MCCMH), I am writing to express strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

We work closely with individuals who may be subject to AOT and regularly interact with the courts throughout this process. We have observed that judges are often tasked with making complex, high-stakes decisions under time constraints, balancing individual rights, clinical needs, and community safety. While statutory criteria provide a legal framework, their interpretation can vary significantly.

In practice, judges may approach AOT determinations differently, often shaped by their professional experience, familiarity with behavioral health systems, and frequency of exposure to these cases. Some judges may have extensive experience with AOT and mental health proceedings, while others may encounter such cases less often. This variability can lead to inconsistencies in how statutory criteria are applied and how similar cases are decided.

The proposed AOT decision-support tools offer a meaningful opportunity to address this challenge. By providing a structured, statute-aligned framework, these tools can help standardize the consideration of key clinical and legal factors during hearings. Importantly, they do so while preserving judicial discretion, ensuring that judges retain full authority over their decisions while benefiting from additional guidance. We believe these tools could enhance consistency, transparency, and confidence in AOT proceedings. For CMH providers, greater consistency in judicial decision-making can also improve care coordination, as clearer, more predictable outcomes enable more effective treatment planning and collaboration between courts and service providers.

The pilot study's approach—evaluating the tools with judges experienced in AOT proceedings and comparing tool outputs with actual rulings—will provide valuable insight into both the validity and practicality of the tools. Incorporating judicial feedback will further ensure that the tools are usable and relevant in real-world courtroom settings.



**MCCMH Mission Statement**

Macomb County Community Mental Health, guided by the values, strengths, and informed choices of the people we serve, provides quality services which promote recovery, community participation, self-sufficiency, and independence.

For these reasons, we support funding this pilot study. We believe it represents an important step toward improving the fairness, clarity, and effectiveness of AOT decision-making.

Thank you,

*Traci Smith*

Traci Smith, Chief Executive Officer  
Macomb County Community Mental Health

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sue Dobrich. I am a retired Probate Judge and Chief Judge from Cass County. I currently serve as the Project Director of the Michigan Judicial Council.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

Judges presiding over AOT matters are required to make consequential, time-sensitive decisions that balance individual liberty, public safety, and clinical need, often on the basis of complex and highly variable testimony. While statutes establish legal criteria for AOT, the application of those criteria can be challenging, particularly in jurisdictions where judges hear relatively few AOT cases or lack access to consistent mental health-specific decision aids. As a result, outcomes may vary based on experience, local practice, or the framing of testimony rather than on a standardized interpretation of statutory elements.

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I believe these judicial decision-support tools have the potential to promote greater consistency, transparency, and confidence in AOT decision-making, especially for judges with limited exposure to mental health cases. If validated, they could serve as an important resource for courts statewide, supporting due process while enhancing the quality and clarity of AOT determinations.

For these reasons, I strongly support funding this pilot study and believe it represents a thoughtful, well-targeted investment in improving judicial decision-making in AOT proceedings. I am happy to support the project in any way that is useful and meets the goals and mission of the project.

Sincerely,

  
Susan L. Dobrich

Date:

4/30/26

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sue Dobrich. I am a retired Probate Judge and Chief Judge from Cass County. I currently serve as the Project Director of the Michigan Judicial Council.

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

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Sincerely,

  
Susan L Dobrich

Date:

4/30/26



**TUSCOLA**  
*Behavioral Health Systems*

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of our Community Mental Health (CMH) organization, I am writing to express strong support for the proposed pilot study examining the use of Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) decision-support tools for judicial application by the Center of Behavioral Health and Justice at Wayne State University.

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*A Michigan Community Mental Health Authority serving Tuscola County since 1973*

Mailing and Administration Address: 323 North State Street, Caro, MI 48723

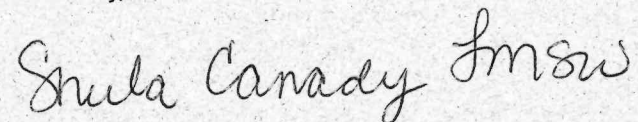
Clinical Programs located at 1332 Prospect Avenue, Caro, MI 48723

989 673 6191 or 1 800 462 6814 • TDD 1 866 835 4186 • [www.tbhsonline.com](http://www.tbhsonline.com)

The pilot study's approach—evaluating the tools with judges experienced in AOT proceedings and comparing tool outputs with actual rulings—will provide valuable insight into both the validity and practicality of the tools. Incorporating judicial feedback will further ensure that the tools are usable and relevant in real-world courtroom settings.

For these reasons, we strongly support funding this pilot study. We believe it represents an important step toward improving the fairness, clarity, and effectiveness of AOT decision-making.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheila Canady LMSW". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Sheila Canady, LMSW

Chief Operating Officer

Tuscola Behavioral Health Systems