

Prepared for: Children, Families, Health and Human Services Interim Committee
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Studies Regarding Peer Services and Endorsing Their Effectiveness

Rowe, M., *Alternatives to outpatient commitment*. The Journal of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, Volume 41, no 3, (2013).

Sledge, W.H., *Effectiveness of peer support in reducing re-admissions of persons with multiple psychiatric hospitalizations*. Psychiatric Services 62:541-544, (2011)(finding peer services result in fewer readmissions and overall hospital days).

Repper J. Carter T: *A review of the literature on peer support in mental health services*. Journal of Mental Health 20:392-411, 2011. (finding peer support services promote empowerment, self-esteem, engagement and improves consumers' social networks).

Involuntary Community Treatment Studies

Tom Burns, et al., *Community Treatment Orders for Patients with Psychosis (OCTET): A Randomised Controlled Trial*, 381 Lancet 1627 (2013)(finding "compulsory treatment and supervision does not reduce the rate of readmission for patients with serious mental illness.")

H. Steadman, et al., *Assessing the New York City Involuntary Outpatient Commitment Pilot Program*, 52 Psychiatric Services 330, 335-36 (2001)(comparing a group of individuals under involuntary community treatment to a control group and finding that court orders did not lead to lower rates of crime, hospitalization or greater compliance with treatment).

Phelan, JC, et al., *Effectiveness and Outcomes of Assisted Outpatient Treatment in N.Y. State*, Psychiatric Services 61:137-143, 137 (2010) ("Phelan 2010") (finding "modest" improvements in lives of subjects, but given "treatment and other enhancements" included in outpatient program, evidence does "not support the expansion of coercion in treatment").

Even studies that have shown some positive outcomes from outpatient commitment emphasize that it is only one aspect of a broad-based package of reforms and is likely not to be successful if comprehensive community services are not also available and delivered effectively:

Ridgely, M. Susan, et. al, *The Effectiveness of Involuntary Outpatient Treatment: empirical Evidence and the Experience of Eight States*, 69-70 (2001). ("There is no evidence that simply amending the commitment statute to add an outpatient commitment program will make benefits accrue to persons with severe mental illness").

Swanson, J., et al.: *The cost of assisted outpatient treatment: can it save states money?* American

Journal of Psychiatry AiA: 1-10, (2013)(suggesting that involuntary treatment reduced annual cost for mental health services in New York, but warning that findings “may not generalize to other states . . . where the public system may be less generously funded.”)

Swartz, Marvin, et al., "N.Y. State Assisted Outpatient Treatment Program Evaluation", Office of Mental Health NY(2009).