



Speaking Out • Raising Awareness • Inspiring Change

Providing Continuum of Care For Severe Mental Illness (Modifying an Act formerly known as AOT)

Continuum of Care services is a less restrictive alternative to a Civil Commitment for Inpatient Treatment for those living with severe mental illness (SMI).

For the individual, it can be more beneficial.

For the public, less costly.

The current mental health system is not currently filling the gap of care for the most vulnerable after hospital discharge, resulting in high relapse rates.

A large number of individuals with SMI also become involved in the criminal justice system in Massachusetts, which highlights the issue of criminalization of those with severe mental health conditions, and instead harshly punishes such individuals.

The National Shattering Silence Coalition recognizes these benefits of the Continuum of Care Proposed legislation in Massachusetts.

Benefits Of Continuum of Care After Discharge

- Less restrictive than involuntary inpatient treatment
- Ensure gravely ill individuals will have quicker access to mental health services that are often difficult to access
- Streamlines up to 6 months of mental health services for the most vulnerable
- Reduce inpatient stays
- Does **NOT** force medication
- Accountability by the team in providing comprehensive services that are compassionate and person-centered, and include the individual

Stay tuned for more information from several states reporting savings from these provisions as well as University Studies showing this alternative improves outcomes and has cost savings.

Please visit mashatteringsilence.com to learn more on how you can get involved or contact coordinator@nationalshatteringsilencecoalition.org

www.nsscoalition.org