



Advocating for Change

2020 IMPACT REPORT



Dear Friends,

The year 2020 was marked by unprecedented challenges, from civil and economic unrest to a global pandemic. Yet the Treatment Advocacy Center has proceeded undaunted in our mission to eliminate the barriers to treatment for people with severe mental illness.

As we look back on 2020, we pause to reflect on all we have accomplished in spite of those many challenges.

As you will learn from this report, 40 communities across the country received technical assistance from our Assisted Outpatient Treatment Implementation Team. Our research department produced 52 consecutive editions of Research Weekly to educate scientists, lawmakers and families on a variety of timely topics related to severe mental illness. And our Advocacy Team published "Grading the States: An Analysis of Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Laws," a detailed analysis of every state's civil commitment laws, with recommendations for lawmakers that garnered major media attention, including comprehensive coverage in U.S. News & World Report.

In December, we bid farewell to our longtime executive director, John Snook, who served the Treatment Advocacy Center with distinction since 2014. John guided the passage of 44 new laws designed to improve access to treatment for people with severe mental illness and secured more than \$70 million in federal funding for AOT programs across the country. That same month, we welcomed our director of advocacy, Lisa Dailey, into the role of acting executive director. Lisa has stepped up to lead the organization at a critical time in our country, when mental health has never been a more urgent priority.

The theme of this year's annual report is Advocating for Change. With a change in presidential administrations and a new leader at the helm of our organization, some change is to be expected, both for our country and for the Treatment Advocacy Center.

But rest assured that our mission remains the same, to advocate for continued research and clinical advances for people with severe mental illness, and for compassionate treatment laws that benefit them and their loved ones.

We hope the impressive statistics contained in these pages give you a window into our work this past year, and inspire you to continue supporting our mission. Even more impressive, we believe, is the resilience, dedication and passion of the Treatment Advocacy Center staff – the stories behind the data.

Thanks to their efforts, and your support, the Treatment Advocacy Center continues to be the premier source of information and advocacy regarding severe mental illness. Together, we are changing the narrative around mental illness and lowering the barriers to treatment for some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Thank you for supporting the Treatment Advocacy Center. We are in this fight together.

Yours very truly,


Lisa Dailey
Acting Executive Director


Dr. Michael Knable
Chair, Treatment Advocacy Center Board of Directors


Dr. E. Fuller Torrey
Founder

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

MARCH

Treatment Advocacy Center Executive Director John Snook testified to the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice on recommendations for handling mental health crises.



APRIL

Treatment Advocacy Center crowdsourced a list of resources for families struggling with severe mental illness during COVID-19.

APRIL

Treatment Advocacy Center released behavioral healthcare recommendations during COVID-19.



JULY

The National Alliance on Mental Illness awarded Treatment Advocacy Center founder Dr. E. Fuller Torrey with its 2020 Exemplary Psychiatrist Award.



SEPTEMBER

Treatment Advocacy Center released an updated "Grading the States" report, which was covered by U.S. News & World Report.



NOVEMBER

Treatment Advocacy Center's John Snook and Sabah Muhammad testified in support of AOT implementation before the Pa. House of Representatives Human Services Committee.



DECEMBER

Treatment Advocacy Center's Director of Advocacy Lisa Dailey and consultant Eric Smith testified before the Va. Senate on expanding the use of mandatory outpatient treatment.

APRIL

Treatment Advocacy Center launched its Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Learning Network in effort to extend the Center's implementation of AOT in the time of COVID-19.



MAY

Treatment Advocacy Center released online modules to assist with the implementation of AOT.

AUGUST

Treatment Advocacy Center's Director of Research Elizabeth Hancq testifies about police and crisis calls to the Pa. House Democratic Policy Committee.



SEPTEMBER

Director of Advocacy Lisa Dailey wrote an op-ed for the New York Daily News arguing that by redefining 'dangerousness,' New York will be able to use Kendra's Law more effectively.



SEPTEMBER

Legislative and Policy Counsel Sabah Muhammad wrote an op-ed for The Washington Post arguing that being Black and mentally ill should not be a death sentence.



AOT Implementation

Treatment Advocacy Center's Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Implementation Team is working toward the day when every community in the nation has an assisted outpatient treatment program. At its core, AOT is a legal procedure, authorized by law in all but three states, to mandate outpatient mental health treatment for vulnerable individuals. To unlock the maximum potential of this legal intervention, a community must establish an AOT *program* – an organized, collaborative effort between a civil court and the treatment system to actively identify individuals in need of AOT, ensure they receive high-quality services and appropriate monitoring, and transition them back to voluntary care when appropriate.

Treatment Advocacy Center offers technical assistance to jurisdictions of all types and sizes that seek to establish or improve the quality of their AOT programs. Our Implementation Team has expertise in law, advocacy, stakeholder engagement and evidence-based mental health treatment. In 2020, we were excited to add an AOT graduate to our team to help us advance an understanding of the program from the participant's perspective.

40 communities received technical assistance in 2020 from the AOT Implementation Team.

1,453 individuals took part in our online learning opportunities to learn more about AOT.

“TAC has provided the Houston AOT Program with valuable guidance as we strive for success. We are all so grateful for their experience and knowledge of the complex issues that come up during an AOT effort. We look forward to continuing our partnership.
– Associate Judge Amy Parsons, Harris County Probate Court # 3, Houston, Texas

“Thank you for the Zoom meetings and presentations your team has been doing since the beginning of the pandemic. They have given us a lot of structural information that is helpful in getting our program started. On a personal level, it is honestly just nice to be able to learn from you all, and to get questions answered, as the unofficial ‘pusher’ of our AOT program here in Iowa.”
– Leslie Carpenter, Serious Brain Disorders Advocate, Iowa City, Iowa

360 AOT stakeholders joined our AOT Learning Network, linking AOT programs everywhere to one another for purposes of knowledge sharing, networking and mutual support.

Office of Research and Public Affairs

The Office of Research and Public Affairs (ORPA) at the Treatment Advocacy Center is an educational program that aims to bring knowledge and awareness to the public on severe mental illness.

Our goal is to shed light on the complexities of the most severe psychiatric diseases and how these illnesses profoundly affect the individuals living with them, their families, and society. We promote evidence-based policies that can improve lives and communities by making treatment options more accessible to individuals with severe mental illness. This year, we:

- Published *Research Weekly* blogs on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on people with severe mental illness and their families
- Launched an AOT data collection database and provided technical assistance on program evaluation
- Partnered with national research experts and universities on a landmark national mental illness prevalence study, funded by SAMHSA

"Families like mine crave science-based research and data about the life-threatening serious mental illnesses that gravely impact the life trajectory of our loved ones and families. The Treatment Advocacy Center's research reports and weekly summaries are an invaluable resource providing shared learning, advocacy information, and guide improvement science. TAC is driving measurable systemic change by providing evidence-based data that focuses on the forgotten population, those who live heroically with serious mental illnesses."
– Teresa Pasquini, SMI Advocate



52 Research Weekly
blogs published

"Families trying to support loved ones with serious psychiatric disorders struggle to find agencies that validate the realities of their confusing, heartbreaking, and dangerous circumstances. Treatment Advocacy Center collects and shares data to shine a light on what's happening—incarceration, homelessness, and systemic barriers to evidence-based medical treatment. The research and work to disseminate accurate information is critical for grassroots advocates desperate to motivate systemic change." – Jerri Clark, founder of Mothers of the Mentally Ill (MOMI)

150 million media
impressions of ORPA
statistics

30 academic citations of
ORPA reports in
academic literature



Advocacy

The Advocacy Team promotes the mission of the organization through legislation. We work to improve laws and policies affecting people with severe mental illness at the local, state and federal level.

During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic halted legislatures in their tracks throughout the country. Despite the changing face of lobbying and grassroots organizing, however, our advocates have innovated and created new strategies to meet the moment, whether through hearing testimony delivered by Zoom or a webinar panel discussion hosted remotely. This year, we:

- Published "Grading the States: An Analysis of Involuntary Psychiatric Treatment Laws," an update of Treatment Advocacy Center's detailed analysis of each state's civil commitment laws
- Led a grassroots campaign to pass AB 1976, making Laura's Law an opt-out program available to all counties in California
- Created the DJ Jaffe advocacy position endowed by Dr. E. Fuller and Barbara Torrey to honor our late friend and former board member, DJ Jaffe

"Treatment Advocacy Center has provided support, research and expertise through every step of our process as we work to reform our mandatory outpatient treatment (MOT) law in Virginia. They are the go-to resource on the subject, and we have benefited from their assistance and participation on our workgroup."

– Delegate Patrick A. Hope, Virginia's 47th district

12 priority bills passed in 2020

36 legislative or workgroup hearings attended remotely

"Senator Floyd Prozanski and I started the Workgroup to Decriminalize Mental Illness sponsored by the Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee to make our civil remedies more workable and efficient for people suffering from serious mental illness. Our workgroup received support from the very beginning from the Treatment Advocacy Center. There have been numerous times when our workgroup efforts could have been sidetracked or derailed without the presence of TAC."

– Hon. Pat Wolke, Oregon's Josephine County Circuit Court

Sat on legislative workgroups in six states

Supporters

Thank you! Treatment Advocacy Center is deeply grateful to all of our supporters. We are pleased to recognize in these pages those who made significant contributions to Treatment Advocacy Center during the last fiscal year.

Your generosity enables Treatment Advocacy Center to remove the barriers to treatment for people with severe mental illness.

In the past year, Treatment Advocacy Center has benefited from significant gifts to support specific areas of advocacy, policy implementation and organizational excellence, enabling Treatment Advocacy Center to work meaningfully toward our vision of improving access to care for people with severe mental illness.

Treatment Advocacy Center is pleased to recognize the gifts below made between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

Partners and Investors

Thank you to our foundation partners who provided substantial support to Treatment Advocacy Center last year.

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\$10,000+

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“Since TAC focuses pretty much exclusively on barriers to treatment with mental illness, they can be much more effective in that arena, especially in terms of the legal barriers – nobody else really focuses on that. So that can have a huge impact on the treatment that people with serious mental illness can get.”

– Evelyn Burton, member, Treatment Advocacy Center Board of Directors

2019-2020 Financials

Revenue

Individuals	\$753,570
Foundations	\$977,848
Contracts	\$305,850
In-kind contributions	\$141,485
Investment	\$65,468
Other	\$1,643
Total Revenue	\$2,245,864

Expenditures

Programs	\$1,542,238
Management and general administration	\$508,936
Fundraising	\$130,037
Total Expenses	\$2,181,211
Change in net assets	\$64,653
Net assets, beginning of year	\$890,670
Net assets, end of year	\$955,323
Excess or (deficit) of revenues over expenditures	\$64,653