



Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Director

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health
550 S. Vermont Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90020



Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 26, 2017

CONTACT: H. Chung So
(213) 351-5297
hso@dmh.lacounty.gov

***** MEDIA ADVISORY FOR MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017 *****
LACDMH OPENS PEER RESOURCE CENTER AT HEADQUARTERS

WHAT: The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), will be opening a peer resource center at its headquarters building on the corner of 6th Street and Vermont Avenue. The May 1, 2017 opening celebration will feature a ribbon-cutting event with speeches from LACDMH leadership and government officials, LACDMH clients and volunteers, followed by activities and tours of the new facility.

Staffed primarily by paraprofessionals and volunteers with lived experiences, the center will provide peer-to-peer support to people facing mental health challenges and connect them with local resources for emotional recovery and wellness. Clinical and administrative staff from LACDMH's Outreach and Triage Bureau will also be at the center to ensure a smooth transition for individuals who need crisis intervention or professional services.

The walk-in center will be open to LACDMH clients, family members, loved ones and community members – with an emphasis on connecting unserved or underserved populations with mental health resources and services.

WHERE: LACDMH Headquarters
550 S. Vermont Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90020

WHEN: Monday, May 1, 2017
9 to 10 a.m. (Media suggested arrival time: 8:45 a.m.)
On-site media contact: H. Chung So, mobile: (213) 247-8027

AUDIO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Ribbon-cutting with LACDMH leadership and government officials, including Jonathan Sherin, M.D., Ph.D., LACDMH Director, and Hon. Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
- Tour and activities at the newly-opened peer resource center
- Interviews with LACDMH clients, volunteers and staff

About the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States, directly operating 75 program sites and more than 100 co-located sites. Each year, it contracts with approximately 1,000 agencies and individual practitioners to provide a spectrum of mental health services to more than 250,000 residents of all ages. The Department's mission – enriching lives through partnership to strengthen our community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency – is accomplished by working with stakeholders and community partners to provide clinically competent, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to clients in the least restrictive manner possible. For more information, visit <http://dmh.lacounty.gov>.

###