



PROGRAM GOALS

- Timely and comprehensive strength-based assessment of children and families
- Earlier diagnosis of critical medical and mental health conditions
- Increased cooperation between families, caregivers, providers of services and DCFS
- More appropriate placement decisions for children
- More consideration given to sibling, relative, and community placements
- Earlier access to medical, educational and mental health services for children and families

What is MAT?

Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) is an exciting collaborative effort between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and community-based mental health provider agencies. It is designed to ensure the immediate and comprehensive assessment of children and youth entering out-of-home placement. The MAT Program has been operational countywide as of October 2009.

MAT Assessments address the following areas:

- Child and family strengths and needs
- Caregiver strengths and needs
- Education
- Mental Health
- Medical & Dental
- Developmental
- Hearing/Language
- Vocational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

When a child is newly detained, he/she is eligible to receive a Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) assessment through DCFS. The MAT assessment was designed to ensure that all child and family strengths and needs are assessed when a child/youth enters foster care.

This assessment is meant to help a family meet the needs that the child(ren) may have that place this family in danger of a lengthy separation. The information gathered by this assessment will be used to determine what interventions and services are most needed by the child(ren) with the intention of using this information for the most appropriate placement of the child while ensuring that his/her needs will be met.



DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

Tina M. Mosely, LMFT, Program Manager
 Email: mosleta@dcfs.lacounty.gov

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Dana McEwen, LMFT, Program Manager
 Email: dmcewen@dmh.lacounty.gov

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MAT PROCESS:

- Parents
- Caregivers
- Children (as appropriate)
- DMH MAT Assessor
- DCFS MAT Coordinator
- Service Providers
- DCFS CSW and/or DI
- Public Health Nurse
- Other CSAT members

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Department of Mental Health

Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D., Director
550 South Vermont, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020

MAT Agencies:

- Alafia Mental Health Institute
- Alma Family Services
- Almansor
- Amanecer Community Counseling
- Asian Pacific Family Center
- Aviva Family and Children's Services
- Bienvenidos
- CHCADA
- Child and Family Center
- Child and Family Guidance Center
- ChildNet
- Children's Bureau
- Children's Institute, Inc.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Counseling 4 Kids
- DiDi Hirsch
- Drew Child Development Corporation
- El Centro de Amistad
- ENKI
- Five Acres
- Foothill
- For the Child
- Hathaway/Sycamores
- Hillsides
- Kedren Community Mental Health Center
- Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic
- Masada
- McKinley
- Optimist
- PACS
- Pacific Clinics
- Penny Lane
- Personal Involvement Center
- Prototypes
- Providence
- SFVCMHC, Inc.
- South Central Health and Rehab Program
- SHIELDS for Families
- St. John's Child and Family Dev Ctr
- Star View Community Services
- Stirling Behavioral Health Institute
- Tarzana Treatment Center
- Tessie Cleveland Community Services
- The Guidance Center
- The Help Group
- The Village Family Services
- The Whole Child
- TIES for Families
- VIP
- Vista del Mar



LACDMH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY
ASSESSMENT TEAM
(MAT)**

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

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1-800-854-7771