



▶▶ **DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
CARE COURT UPDATE:
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
July 27, 2023**

Connie Draxler, Acting Chief Deputy Director
Department of Mental Health



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▶▶ CARE Court Update

- LA County is an early implementer (still in Cohort 2, but implementing 12/1/23)
- June 6, 2023: Board Authority to implement CARE Court Plan
 - Directs DMH to work with CEO to allocate positions and recruit and hire
 - Directs DMH and CEO to look at potential properties that can support CARE Court, particularly for housing CARE Court staff
 - Directs DMH and DPH-SAPC to work together to develop referral systems, eligibility requirements, and coordination plans for CARE Court clients who also have substance use challenges
 - Directs DMH and CEO to report back in 90 days with progress towards CARE Court implementation, and to report back in 60 days with estimated costs and funding sources including any funding gaps and options to fill those gaps with existing resources



▶▶ CARE Court Update

- Communications planning underway, in partnership with Court
 - Branding and logo design
 - Media agency identified; working on contract through Emergency Declaration protocols
 - Planning to launch site in Fall
 - Exploring regional SoCal collaboration (Riverside and Orange Counties)
- Continue to attend various workgroup meetings
- Outreach and engagement with stakeholders
- Hiring will begin – use of Emergency Appointment or Eligible Lists; hiring fairs, recruitment at conferences such as APA - American Psychological Association

▶▶ CARE Court Update

- Legal Update
 - 2 courtrooms at Norwalk Courthouse dedicated to CARE Court proceedings (B and Z)
 - New self-help clinic at Norwalk Courthouse
 - Self help clinics at other courthouses will help petitioners to complete paperwork and file petition
 - Public Defender will be representing participants (not qualified legal representation entities)
- Funding Update
 - \$7.8M for planning and \$15M for implementation
 - 151M (statewide) for ongoing for operations – DMH anticipates an allocation 25-30%

Thank you



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