

CARE Court

Lead Department Implementation Update

October 2023



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

What is **CARE** Court?

Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment Act

New **CIVIL COURT PROCESS** established to:

- Focus counties and other local governments on serving persons with **untreated schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders**
- Provide **behavioral health and housing resources and services**
- **Protect self-determination and civil liberties** by providing legal counsel and promoting supported decision making
- **Intervene sooner** in the lives of those with multiple needs
- Ensure local governments have support while **driving accountability** for their role

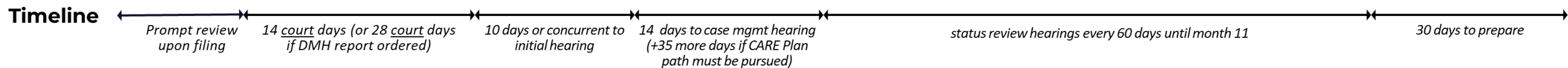
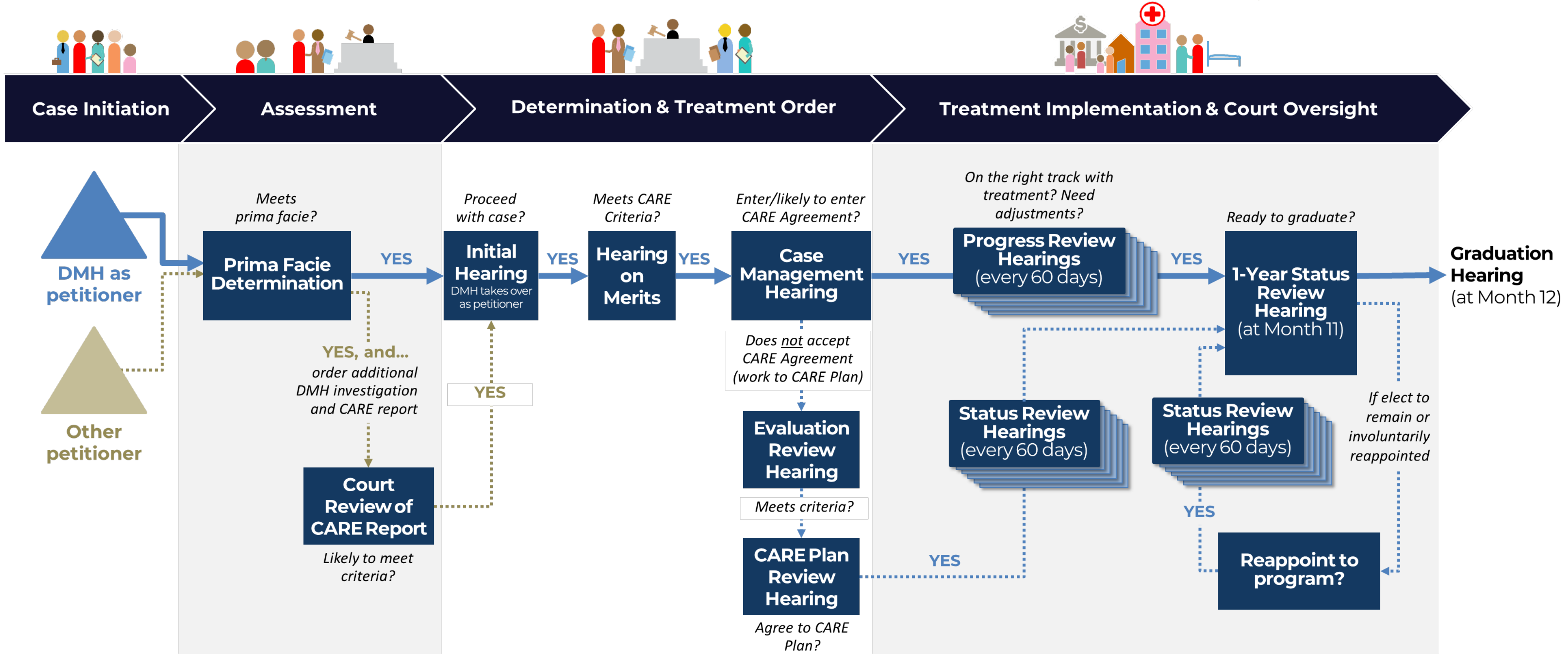
Homelessness and/or justice involvement are NOT eligibility criteria for CARE

CARE Court in LA County



LOCATION: NORWALK COURTHOUSE

— Base path
 - - - Additional steps for certain types of cases



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Program **Eligibility**



18 years or older



Has diagnosis in disorder class: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders



Currently experiencing behaviors & symptoms associated with severe mental illness (SMI)



Not clinically stabilized in on-going voluntary treatment



At least one of the following:

- Unlikely to survive safely without supervision and condition is substantially deteriorating
- Needs services & supports to prevent relapse or deterioration, leading to grave disability or harm to others

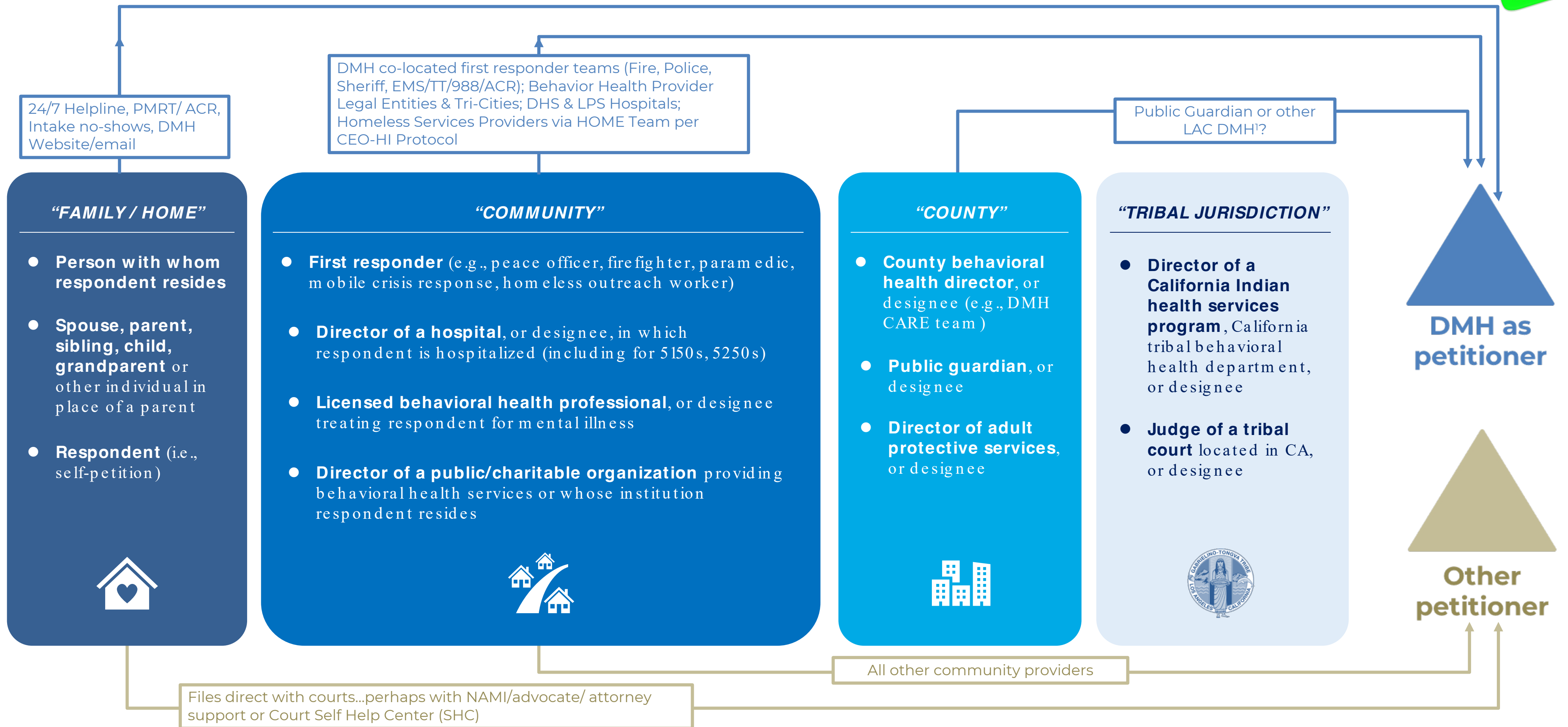


Participation in a CARE Plan or Agreement is the least restrictive alternative



Likely to benefit from participating in a CARE Plan or Agreement

Possible Referral Entry Points



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1 TBD Given recent Judicial Partners Discussion regarding suitable alternatives with LPS Cases...CoCo and Justice Partners to discuss/consider Statutory Right of OPG to file CARE Petition

Source: [Senate Bill 1338 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment \(CARE\) Court Program § 5974](#)

Filing a **Petition**

CONFIDENTIAL CARE-100

ATTORNEY OR PETITIONER WITHOUT ATTORNEY NAME: FIRM NAME: STREET ADDRESS: CITY: TELEPHONE NO.: FAX NO.: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:	STATE BAR NUMBER: STATE: ZIP CODE: FAX NO.:	FOR COURT USE ONLY DRAFT Not approved by the Judicial Council
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF _____ STREET ADDRESS: MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: BRANCH NAME:		CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS FOR (name): _____ RESPONDENT: _____ CASE NUMBER: _____
PETITION TO COMMENCE CARE ACT PROCEEDINGS <small>For information on completing this form, see <i>Information for Petitioners—About the CARE Act</i> (form CARE-050-INFO).</small>		

1. Petitioner (name): _____ is 18 years of age or older and (check all that apply):

a. <input type="checkbox"/> A person who lives with respondent. b. <input type="checkbox"/> A spouse or registered domestic partner, parent, sibling, child, or grandparent of respondent. c. <input type="checkbox"/> A person who stands in the place of a parent to respondent. d. <input type="checkbox"/> The director* of a hospital in which respondent is hospitalized. e. <input type="checkbox"/> The director* of a public or charitable organization, agency, or home (1) <input type="checkbox"/> who is or has been, within the past 30 days, providing behavioral health services to respondent; or (2) <input type="checkbox"/> in whose institution respondent resides. f. <input type="checkbox"/> A licensed behavioral health professional* who is or has been, within the past 30 days, treating or supervising the treatment of respondent.	g. <input type="checkbox"/> A first responder, including a peace officer, firefighter, paramedic, emergency medical technician, mobile crisis response worker, or homeless outreach worker who has had repeated interactions with respondent. h. <input type="checkbox"/> The public guardian* or public conservator* of the county named above or a private conservator referred by the court under Welfare and Institutions Code section 5978. i. <input type="checkbox"/> The director* of the county behavioral health agency of the county named above. j. <input type="checkbox"/> The director* of adult protective services of the county named above. k. <input type="checkbox"/> The director* of a California Indian health services program or a California tribal behavioral health department. l. <input type="checkbox"/> A California tribal court judge.* m. <input type="checkbox"/> Respondent.
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* This person may designate someone else to file the petition on their behalf. If the petitioner is a designee, check this category and put designee's name in item 1, above.

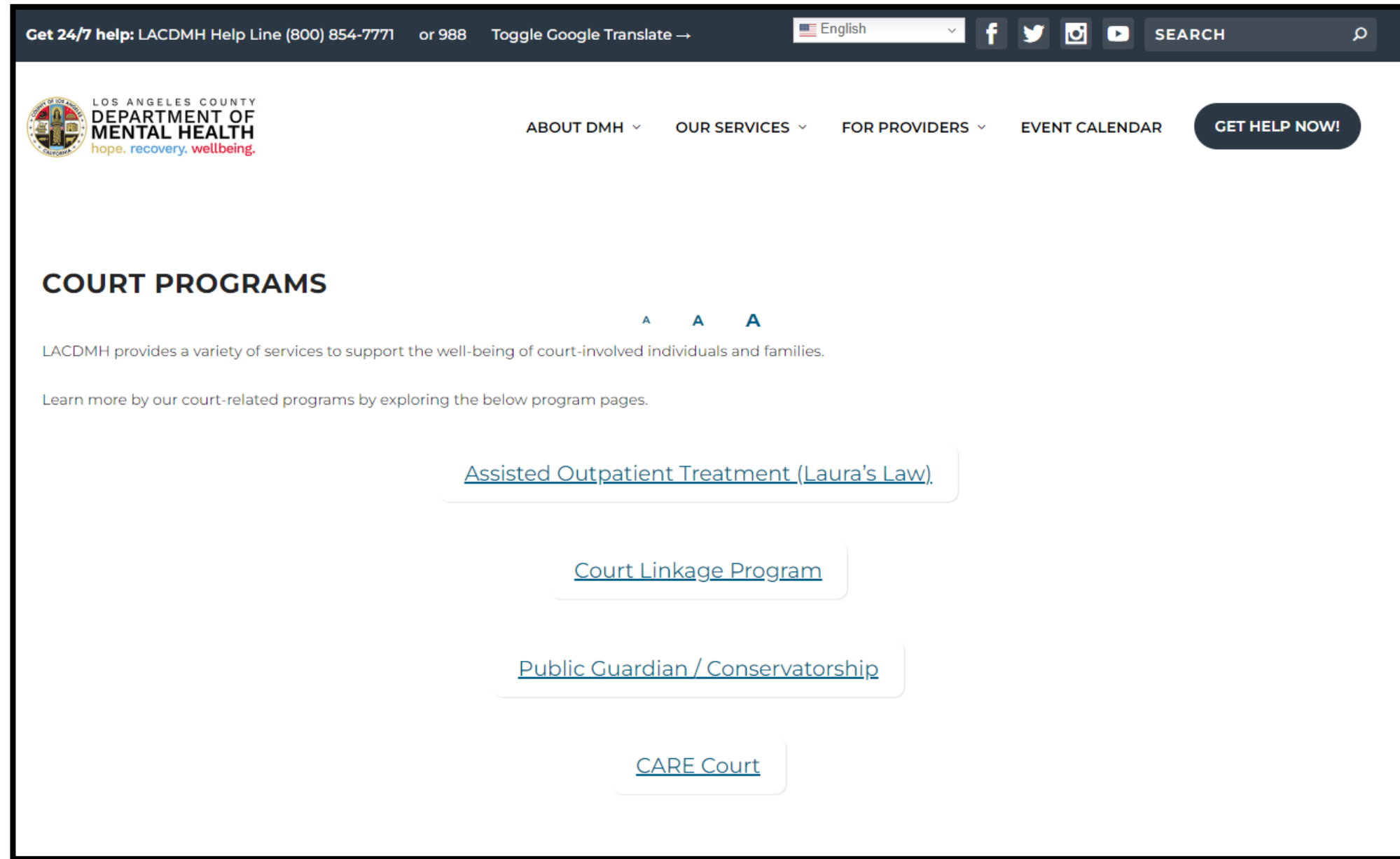
2. a. Petitioner asks the court to find that respondent (name): _____ is eligible to participate in the CARE Act process and to commence CARE Act proceedings for respondent.
 b. Petitioner's relationship to respondent (specify and describe relationship): _____

- Complete petition (**CARE-100**) – remember to fill out all requested information
- Additionally, provide the required documentation:
 - Completed **Mental Health Declaration** (CARE-101) from licensed behavioral health provider
 - OR -
 - Evidence the respondent was detained for a minimum of two periods of intensive treatment (**aka WIC 5250 holds**), the most recent one within the previous 60 days

- Petitions can be **filed in-person at Norwalk and Hollywood Courthouses** and anywhere Self-Help Centers are located. Future plan to also offer e-file option.
- Help is available online and at **Self-Help Centers** located in courthouses where family law matters are heard



CARE Court: Referral Information & Links



****New updates****

<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/court-programs/>



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CARE Court: Referral Information & Links, cont'd




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ABOUT DMH ▾ OUR SERVICES ▾ FOR PROVIDERS ▾ EVENT CALENDAR GET HELP NOW!

CARE COURT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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CARECourt

LA County Caring Together

The **Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court** is a [new state law](#) meant to address and treat those with severe mental health disorders, such as schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, by allowing a court to order behavioral health treatment in community-based settings.

Web: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/court-programs/care-court/>

Email: CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov

By focusing on a holistic, person-centered approach, CARE Court aims to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration for individuals and promote long-term recovery through a civil court process. This holistic approach seeks to create a safe, supportive, and healthier community for all residents.

CARE Court is intended to be a path towards recovery for a very specific population of adults.

The goal of the program is to divert individuals with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders from more restrictive settings (such as conservatorships or incarceration) into the community with a supportive Care Agreement or plan to meet their individual needs.

Voluntary treatment is always available and preferred to court involved/ordered treatment.

While the County of Los Angeles is part of the second legislative group/cohort, early implementation will allow us to optimize the resources and services offered across our departments during this state of emergency on homelessness and early CARE implementation.

CARE Court will begin accepting petitions on **December 1, 2023**, but help for community members does NOT have to wait. Residents and family members can access other LACDMH programs, services, and resources today through our website, calling our 24/7 Help Line at (800) 854-7771, or calling/texting the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#).

Explore the below sections for more information about CARE Court; program details will also be posted on [L.A. Court's website](#) soon. If you have additional questions about CARE Court, email CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov.

HOW CARE COURT WORKS

WHO IS INVOLVED IN CARE COURT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What Is In A CARE **Agreement/Plan?**



Behavioral Health Services



Medications



Housing Resources

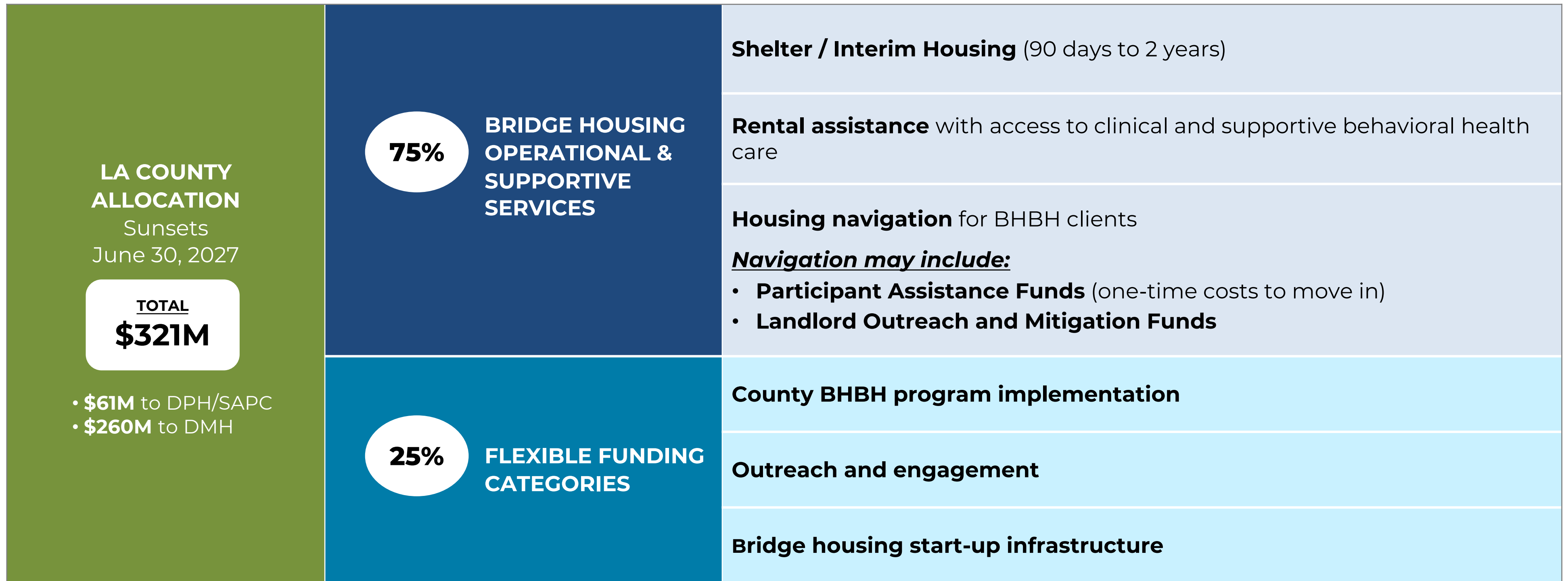


Social Services & Supports

What Is In A CARE Agreement/Plan? *(Housing)*

County (DMH + DPH/SAPC) Housing Strategy for CARE Court Population

LA County Proposal for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program Funding - Round 1



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CARE Court: Equity in Access with Technology

- LA Superior Court, DMH, and Mental Health Advocacy Services have MOU drafted to support Care Court participants with mutual on-site staffing in **Self Help Center** (SHC) at Norwalk Courthouse
- SHC will use **permanent/fixed private work pods** (site prep complete, delivery and install pending) to assist community members via video and/or Microsoft Teams to link legal and/or DMH personnel in real time
- SHCs are located in **10 courthouses across LA County**: Antelope Valley, Central (S.Mosk), Chatsworth, Compton, Long Beach, Pasadena, Pomona, Torrance, Whittier, and Van Nuys.
- Additionally, SHC operates a **Call Center** (Monday-Friday)



<https://www.steelcase.com/research/articles/topics/workplace/designing-with-pods/> **Illustrative for concept only**



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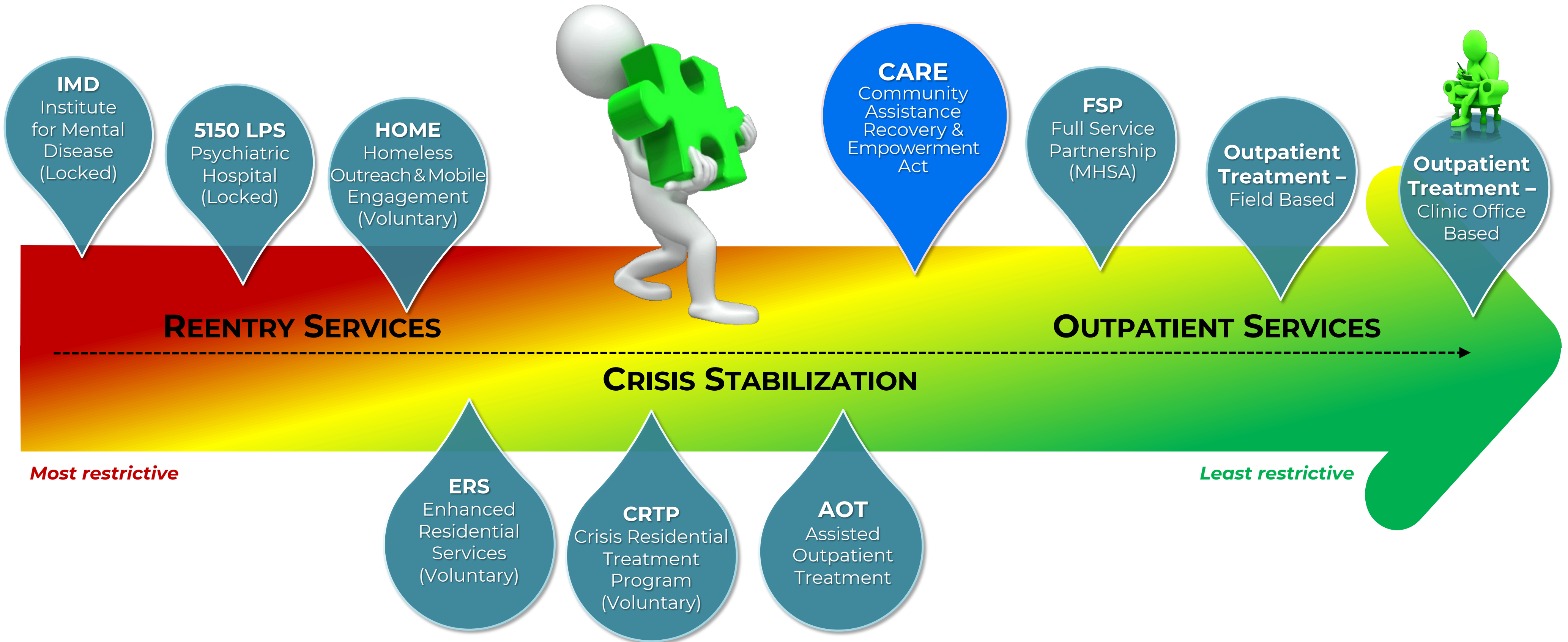
CARE Court: Access, Technology and Hiring

- CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov email and [website](#) updates reference Court Programs, including links to Superior Court and state resources
- DMH Care Court Team members available at Norwalk Court and SHC to assist with program questions and referrals/resources
- DMH coordinating with Court partners and hiring campaigns are happening NOW!



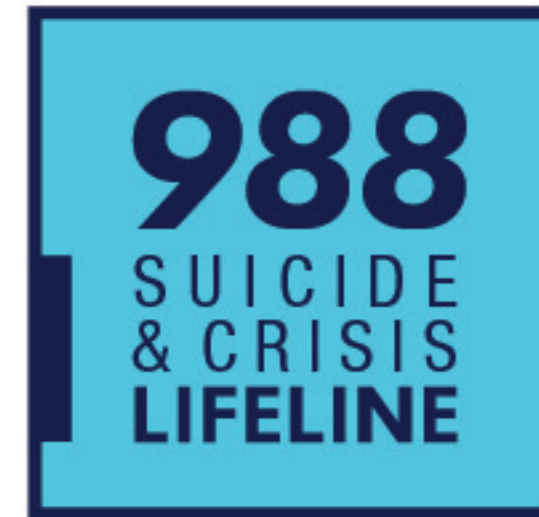
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What Other **DMH** Programs Are Available?



HELP for a community member does not have to wait—please share the info below—available now..

Talk with us.



<https://dmh.lacounty.gov/988-information/>

Multi-lingual service referrals, emotional support, and mental health resources available 24/7 at LACDMH Help Line

(800) 854-7771