

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Planning Principles

DHS-DMH-DPH

Department Mission/Vision Statements

DHS: Our mission is to ensure access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care to Los Angeles County residents through direct services at DHS facilities and through collaboration with community and university partners.

DMH: Enriching lives through partnerships designed to strengthen the community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency.

DPH: To protect health, prevent disease, and promote health and well-being.

Planning Principles: Overall planning efforts should ultimately result in 1) The best possible client care experience (including quality and satisfaction); and 2) The best possible culturally competent integrated care for clients and their families of all three systems.

- **Transparency and Stakeholder Involvement:** Discussions regarding consolidation or integration must be characterized by transparency and a meaningful process for stakeholder input into developing the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
- **Equity and Parity:** Public health, mental health and substance use systems must be equity partners with physical health care systems. Parity among these services must be considered at every level.
- **Autonomy:** Each Department must have an independent voice with the Board of Supervisors to ensure responsiveness to their unique constituency groups.
- **Service Integration vs. Consolidation:** Agreement regarding how best to integrate services should inform the design of any potential agency governance structure. Information technology must support integration efforts while retaining essential subject-matter expertise and required functions specific to each of the involved departments.
- **Demonstrated Value Added:** The transition to integrated services and consolidation (if necessary) must demonstrate enhanced service delivery, quality of care and consumer satisfaction.
- **Existing Partnerships:** Impact on existing commitments to providers, other County Departments and other partners (e.g., faith-based initiatives, school districts, LAHSA, etc.) must be analyzed and considered; proper balance in these commitments must be continually monitored. Population health initiatives must be maintained.
- **Quality:** Quality standards must continue to be the foundation of all clinical services.