



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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FROM: Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D. *Lisa H. Wong*
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SUBJECT: **MOVING FORWARD: EXPANSION OF SECURE MENTAL HEALTH BEDS AND DEVELOPMENT OF SECURE MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES TO DEPOPULATE THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAILS (ITEM NO. 24, AGENDA OF APRIL 4, 2023)**

To address the complex mental health needs of P3/P4 classified individuals, the Board of Supervisors (Board) unanimously supported the [September 2022 motion](#), “Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Los Angeles County: Developing Mental Health Care Facilities to Help Depopulate the Jail,” (referred herein as the “March 8th report”) which directed various Los Angeles County (LA County) stakeholders to report back on the development of secure mental health facilities in LA County, creating Care First settings which would allow for those with serious mental illness to stabilize and recover.

In the [March 8, 2023, report response](#), the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Health Services (DHS) put forward a plan for serving P3/P4 classified individuals, in four population categories, through diversion and community-based restoration and community-based non-carceral treatment facilities with a plan to expand acute and subacute mental health beds in the community by 500 beds over five years.

On [April 4, 2023](#), the LA County Board directed DMH and DHS to move forward with the Jail Depopulation Program (Program) to develop an initial 500 secure mental health care beds to care for P3/P4 individuals currently in the jails, including but not limited to

developing secure beds for Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conserved/conservable, Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (FIST), non-LPS conserved/conservable, and the non-traditionally divertible populations, with the goal of using these beds for individuals incarcerated with a P3/P4 mental illness classification.

Implementation Progress

DMH and DHS continue to implement the plan as described here. The critical shortage in acute and subacute beds continues to challenge rapid and full implementation of the program. In this context, the DHS-Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR), DMH, and the Department of Justice (DOJ) Compliance Office continue to work together to define priorities. DMH and ODR continue to prioritize procurement of acute and subacute beds for conserved (DMH) and FIST (DHS-ODR) populations while we work collaboratively to spur bed development to meet the goals of the Program.

DHS Update on Progress

DHS-ODR continues to work toward the goal of contracting for a total of 63 acute beds (20 via P3/P4 funding and 43 via Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Solutions funding), and 200 subacute beds (50 via P3/P4 funding and 150 via IST Solutions funding). Thus far, DHS-ODR has secured a total of 45 acute beds and 29 subacute beds. ODR is in conversations with a current acute bed provider to secure an additional 18 acute beds as part of their hospital expansion. We anticipate these beds being operational in late 2025. Additionally, ODR has met with two subacute providers to work toward contracting for 120 subacute beds at one site and the remainder of the beds at a separate site. These two new subacute facilities are currently undergoing minor construction and are pending licensure changes. Barring significant delays, we anticipate that the remaining subacute beds will be online in late Summer 2025.

As previously noted, as a result of advocacy to the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH), capital funding was made available to private entities to build or rehabilitate beds to serve FIST clients. ODR has partnered with DHS contracts and grants to draft a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to support the application of one of the proposed subacute providers. DHS-ODR will continue to educate potential acute and subacute providers about the capital funding opportunity and work with DSH and their partners to encourage other applicants to apply.

DMH Update on Progress

In Fiscal Year 2024-25, which is year two of our bed commitment, DMH is responsible for adding 92 new beds at various levels of care (Acute, Subacute, Enriched Residential Services (ERS), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF)). As a result of exceeding the first-year commitment by 12 beds, DMH must add at least 80 new beds this fiscal year. Contracts

were awarded for 32 Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC) beds at the Behavioral Health Center at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Hospital campus for the justice involved population which will contribute to the year two bed commitment. There are several other potential beds in the pipeline, including subacute and ERS beds from providers submitting proposals to the open DMH solicitations, or by providers in the process of opening new facilities that will serve DMH clients. Additionally, the State released the Bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 1 Launch Ready grant Request for Application (RFA). Proposals were due December 13, 2024, and grants will be awarded in 2025.

Barriers to Implementation

DMH continues to search for providers that have the capability, training, and staffing resources necessary to admit the most vulnerable and challenging conserved population, including Murphy and Murphy-like conservatees.

If you have any questions, you may contact us or your staff may contact Connie D. Draxler, Senior Deputy Director at DMH, by email at cdraxler@dmh.lacounty.gov or Clemens Hong, M.D., Director of Community Programs at DHS, by email at chong@dhs.lacounty.gov.

LHW:CDD:ak

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