

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

September 1, 2026

**Proclaiming September as National Suicide Prevention Month in Los Angeles County**

September is recognized nationally as Suicide Prevention Month, and across the United States, mental health advocates, prevention organizations, survivors, allies, and community members unite to promote suicide prevention awareness throughout the entire month. Additionally, September 8 is known as “988 Day,” which is a day to raise awareness and positive buzz about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline through a variety of creative activities spearheaded by communities, organizations, and individuals.<sup>1</sup> This year’s 988 Day theme is “Your reason is reason enough.” This theme is a reminder that you do not have to be in crisis to reach out to 988. Any reason to seek support is reason enough.<sup>2</sup> In Los Angeles County (County), the Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Public Health (DPH) provide various educational materials, conduct outreach efforts and provide services to address the problem and connect people with the mental health support that they need.

In 2024, suicide was responsible for 48,824 deaths across the United States, with the number of attempts and thoughts of suicide being even higher.<sup>3</sup> Specifically in Los

<sup>1</sup> <https://988lifeline.org/988-day/>  
<sup>2</sup> Id.  
<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/suicide/data/index.html>

**MOTION**

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Angeles County, suicide accounted for 776 deaths in 2024,<sup>4</sup> with youth accounting for about 10% of suicide deaths, 33% of self-harm hospitalizations, and 49% of self-harm emergency department visits.<sup>5</sup> Suicide Prevention Month not only helps raise awareness, but it also helps promote education, training, and engagement for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention in Los Angeles County. In 2023, DPH's Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) received pilot funding from the state to improve the identification of youth suicide deaths and attempts, and to explore ways to develop, strengthen, and expand local crisis response programs that provide support after a young person's suicide death or attempt. Since the end of the pilot, OVP has continued funding grief support groups for youth and working with DMH and other organizations to provide trainings that teach staff of youth-serving agencies how to recognize warning signs of suicide risk and how to respond and connect at-risk youth to resources. Since initial implementation during the pilot, OVP-funded contractors have held over 80 support group sessions for youth, and 79% of participants during the pilot project reported learning coping skills.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, OVP hosted a series of Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) trainings provided by DMH staff that reached 152 participants (June to December 2025), with 71% of the training attendees working with youth at least a few times a week, and 89% reporting that the training would help them at work.<sup>7</sup> OVP has also hosted trainings for staff from multiple County departments and other local partners such as OVP contractors, the faith

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<sup>4</sup> Los Angeles County Annual Death Data File for 2024, assembled from California Department of Public Health Vital Records Data. Office of Health Assessment & Epidemiology, LA County Department of Public Health.

<sup>5</sup> [EpiCenter: California Injury Data Online](#)

<sup>6</sup> OVP unpublished internal evaluation data and

[http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/docs/Suicide%20Prevention/2025\\_OVP\\_YSPF\\_Outcomes.pdf](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/docs/Suicide%20Prevention/2025_OVP_YSPF_Outcomes.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> OVP unpublished internal evaluation data

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community, domestic violence service providers, and members of the Sexual Assault Council (SAC). Furthermore, in February 2026, OVP was able to reinstate its Care Coordination program, which provides post-discharge support to youth and their families after an emergency department visit for a suicide attempt. The program, which is in place at two Department of Health Services (DHS) facilities, received 78 referrals by the end of July 2026, with 53 youth enrolled or pending enrollment.<sup>8</sup>

OVP also continues to work to increase community knowledge of suicide warning signs and intervention strategies. They have done this work through the distribution of materials from the California Department of Public Health's "Never a Bother" Campaign. Additionally, through OVP's Gun Violence Prevention Initiative, the Department has worked to prevent suicide by raising awareness of Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs) and safe gun storage, providing GVRO system navigation support, presenting and tabling at community events, and providing trainings to normalize conversations about gun safety. Nearly 90% of suicide attempts with a gun result in death, the highest fatality rate of any method.<sup>9</sup> This data highlights the importance of OVP's gun violence prevention work. The Department's Gun Violence Prevention Initiative also distributes free gun cable locks via mail, no questions asked and through pick up at community locations such as hospitals and libraries, and at community events including Gun Buy Back events hosted by Supervisor Hahn in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> OVP unpublished internal evaluation data

<sup>9</sup> Conner, Andrew, Deborah Azrael, and Matthew Miller. "Suicide case-fatality rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014: a nationwide population-based study." *Annals of internal medicine* 171.12 (2019): 885-895.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/ovp/GunSafety.htm>

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DMH also works year-round to raise awareness about suicide prevention. With funding through DMH, Didi Hirsch is the official 988-suicide crisis line provider for Los Angeles County, responding to calls, chats, and texts from community members who are in the midst of a mental health crisis. In fiscal year 2025-2026 the Los Angeles County 988 Call Center received 102,037 calls, texts and chats, 35,636 of which involved suicidal ideation. The Didi Hirsch Suicide Prevention Center, also funded through DMH, provides Suicide Prevention trainings and crisis services to thousands of people each year. Additionally, DMH provides emotional support services, substance abuse referrals, and veteran support services that are available to County residents via the Los Angeles County Help Line for Mental Health and Substance Use Services (800-854-7771) where caring listeners provide support, referrals, and resources to the community. From fiscal year 2025-2026, DMH's Help Line received 171,087 calls that ranged from crisis calls, referrals to services, and emotional support. DMH also hosted several suicide prevention events including the Korean American Suicide Prevention Summit (provided entirely in Korean) and the Parental Perinatal Mental Health Network for Transformation Event in collaboration with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), DPH, and DHS. These events targeted higher risk populations and provided training, resources, and support to over 100 participants. This suicide prevention month, DMH is co-hosting a two-day Suicide Prevention Summit with the Los Angeles Suicide Prevention Network on September 8<sup>th</sup> at the California Endowment<sup>11</sup> and on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Pasadena City

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<sup>11</sup> <https://eventshub.dmh.lacounty.gov/Events/Conferences/Detail/13919?skipSplashPage=true>

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College.<sup>12</sup>

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors do the following:

1. Proclaim September 2026 as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Los Angeles County to increase awareness of suicide prevention in order to help reduce the number of suicide deaths in Los Angeles County;
2. Proclaim September 8, 2026, as 988 Day; and
3. Direct the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Public Health to promote awareness of suicide prevention resources including the 988 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Line, Teen Line, the Trevor Project LGBTQ+ Suicide Hotline, and California Department of Public Health's Never a Bother Campaign.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://eventshub.dmh.lacounty.gov/Events/Conferences/Detail/13920?skipSplashPage=true>