

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

EMERGENCY OUTREACH AND TRIAGE DIVISION

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



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

Presentation to the Civilian Oversight Commission on May 18, 2023

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BACKGROUND

On July 9, 2019, the Board of Supervisors directed the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to establish a Family Assistance Program (FAP). The Family Assistant Advocates FAA are trained professionals from DMH who immediately respond to the scene of a fatal use of force incident. The goal was to have teams present with the investigators during the notification of next of kin to provide support and mental health services, and appropriate resources to the impacted families. Their role is to assist the families with coping, healing, and recovering from these traumatic incidents. DMH began implementing the FAP in August of 2019.

Implementation:

1. DMH developed an application that allows families to apply for funds, become vendors, or allows DMH to work directly with the mortuary.
2. Provided mental health services on scene when families were available at the incident when there was an officer involved shooting
3. DMH conducted joint responses with LASD when appropriate
4. DMH conducted home visits to provide mental health and other social services to families
5. Assisted families with Mexican Consulate and to coordinate documents to ensure families provided a power of attorney to families in LA in order to transfer the deceased to his/native country
6. Assisted families out of state in obtaining funds for cremation and ultimately obtain the remains of their loved ones.
7. Prepared yearly reports

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BACKGROUND

Challenges:

1. Many families just accepted funds and declined other services
2. Some families had lawyers and did not want services
3. Some families had lawyers but accepted financial assistance
4. Pandemic impacted the delivery of in-person services

Collaboratives:

1. Developed a collaborative with LASD Homicide Bureau
2. Developed a collaborative with LASD In Custody
3. Medical Examiner- Coroner
4. Public Health – Office of Violence and Prevention
5. Other Social Service Agencies

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM DISPOSITIONS

TOTAL INCIDENTS=151

	19-20 (Aug-Jun)		20-21		21-22		22-23 (Jul-Apr)	
FAA DISPOSITION	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	COUNT	%	COUNT	%
FAA ASSISTED FAMILY	20	44%	22	56%	12	29%	13	52%
UNABLE TO CONTACT FAMILY	11	24%	4	10%	4	10%	6	24%
FAMILY DECLINED FAA ASSISTANCE	6	13%	7	18%	8	19%	2	8%
LEFT MULTIPLE MESSAGES W/FAMILY/CORONER/OFFICER	5	11%	5	13%	14	33%	3	12%
NO NEXT OF KIN	3	7%	1	3%	4	10%	1	4%
TOTAL	45		39		42		25	

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY TYPE OF DEATH

TOTAL INCIDENTS=151

TYPE OF DEATH	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Total
COMMUNITY OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING	15	6	9	4	34
IN CUSTODY (JAIL/HOSPITAL)	27	30	32	20	109
IN CUSTODY COMMUNITY	3	3	1	1	8
Total	45	39	42	25	151

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BY ETHNICITY & GENDER

TOTAL INCIDENTS=151

ETHNICITY	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Total	%
BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN	13	7	10	9	39	26%
CAUCASIAN	9	11	4	6	30	20%
LATINO	23	19	26	9	77	51%
ASIAN	0	2	1	1	4	3%
UNKNOWN*	0	0	1	0	1	1%
Total	45	39	42	25	151	

* Family declined disclosure

GENDER	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	Total	%
FEMALE	5	2	3	0	10	7%
MALE	40	37	39	25	141	93%
TOTAL	45	39	42	25	151	

FAMILY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNERAL EXPENSES

TOTAL INCIDENTS=151

FAP EXPENSES SUMMARY FY 2019 - 2023				
FY	# OF FAMILIES	BURIAL COST	OVERHEAD	TOTAL
19-20*	4	\$ 25,309.00	\$ 3,705.00	\$ 29,014.00
20-21	14	\$ 115,918.34	\$ 30,620.00	\$ 146,538.34
21-22	3	\$ 18,332.00	\$ 2,583.00	\$ 20,915.00
22-23**	15	\$ 79,470.00	\$ 12,682.00	\$ 92,152.00
TOTAL	36	\$ 239,029.34	\$ 49,590.00	\$ 288,619.34
*This is not a complete FY (August 2019- June 2020).				
**This is not a complete FY (July 2022-May 2023).				
These expenses are based on the FY paid and not the FY the incident occurred.				

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