


Presented By:  
 Keris Jin Myrick, Moderator  
 Catherine Clay  
 Joseph Cuevas  
 Reyna Leyva  
 David Snell

# HEART FORWARD PEER RESOURCE CENTER

LA County Department of Mental Health  
 2019 African-American Mental Health Conference




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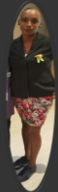
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## Catherine Clay



CHW: PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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## PEER RESOURCE CENTER




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## Opening Day



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## VISION

The vision for the Peer Resource Center is "Heart Forward". While the DMH Headquarters is focused on administrative tasks, the adjacent Peer Resource Center will concentrate on:

- Forming heart forward connections with every visitor.
- It will not only be an inviting, comfortable, safe, and non-judgmental environment for all who enter, but will also be a place with intention.
- Visitors will feel welcome and supported by staff and volunteers; they will feel assured that they will leave with the appropriate referrals they need in the community while also developing a positive connection with DMH and the peers at the center.

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## MISSION

- The mission of the Peer Center is to serve as an in-person 211 for DMH.
- The expectation is that visitors to the Peer Center will benefit from the experience and will "always leave with something" (e.g., information, resources, an appointment at a mental health program or social service agency, snacks, or simply, peace of mind).
- It serves as an opportunity to extend a warm and caring welcome to those seeking mental health information and resources. By using the experience and first-hand knowledge of peer staff and volunteers, the Center will cultivate hope, recovery and well-being in the surrounding community and throughout the County of Los Angeles.

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### Visitors can be referred and/or linked to services such as:

- Mental Health
- Food, Clothing
- Hygiene Facilities
- Housing Services
- Transportation
- Legal Services
- Benefits Establishment
- Temporary Shelter
- Education
- Job Training
- Volunteer and Employment Opportunities

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### Volunteers & Staff

The Peer Resource Center is run by volunteers and staff who share their lived experience and extend a warm and caring welcome to those seeking mental health information and resources.



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### Weekly Updates by Executive Team

- C. Bonds
- M. A. Brown
- C. Childs- Seagle
- C. Draxler
- D. Innes- Gomberg
- M. M. Mckay
- G . Polk
- J. Sherin
- Discipline Chiefs
  - Keris Myrick – Peer Services
  - Jorge Partida del Toro – Psychology
  - Yvette Willock - Social Services
  - LuAnn Sanderson – Nursing
  - David Ruskin - Psychiatry

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Women of The PRC fundraising demonstrate tackling Awareness of dual diagnosis!



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Attending conferences and bringing the consumers' voice!

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**Reyna Leyva**



CHW:PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST

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## Visitors

People who visit and participate in activities in the PRC include people who are:

- Experiencing homeless
- Seeking substance/drugs treatment
- Have mental health issues(sometimes experiencing a psychotic episode)
- Resources
- A place to rest
- Shelter for the day from the outside life, etc.

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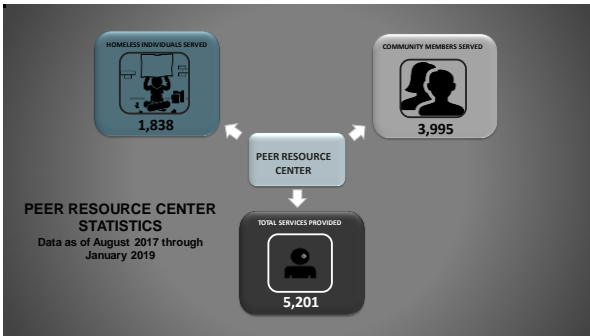
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## Number & Type of Services

Peer Resource Center	Count of Services
Transported	46
Other	406
Legal Services	69
Homeless	481
Crisis	29
Patient Rights	110
Employment Services	179
Housing	587
Social Services	389
Medical Services	84
MHS	431
Substance Abuse	10
Information/Resources	2268
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5201</b>

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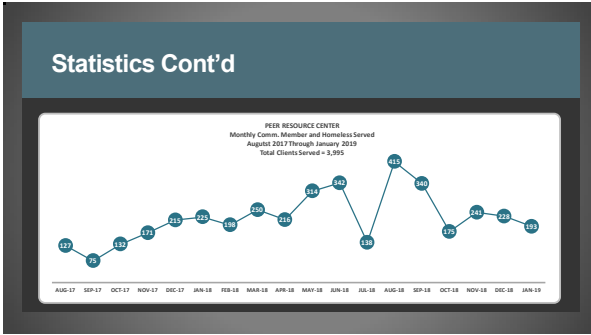
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## Jennifer Wright

Wellness Outreach Volunteer

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## Wellness Outreach Volunteer

Service Provided by community:

- Engaging the community
- Visiting the IMD Hospitals (Institution for Mental Disease)
- Ride along with staff
- Co-facilitate groups

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**David Snell**



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Challenges  
and  
Successes



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## FEAR



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## Determining the Road After Taking that First Step



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## CHALLENGES

Navigating through the system can be very challenging for some because it can be very confusing to one that has never done it before.



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## SUCCESS

The successes come from the clients who keep following the programs guideline, and who have come a long way to complete the road to recovery.



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Most of the clients who come through the Peer Resource Center have been very diligent in keeping their promise with appointments that we have made for them, because the road is long and we look forward to seeing our clients take that next step towards reaching their goal.

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## Joseph Cuevas



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### BUILDING CONNECTIONS & DEVELOPING SOCIAL SKILLS



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### Peer Resource Center Activities

- Chess Group
- Jewelry Group
- Art Group
- Poetry, Creative Writing
- Social Events
- Cultural Events

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### Peer Resource Center Activities

#### Hosting Community Events

- Holiday
- End of the Year
- Spring
- May Mental Health
- Halloween
- Native American
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Peer Resource Center Anniversary



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### Lessons Learned

- Developing Trust
- Social Skills
- Healthy Environment



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### Peer Resource Center



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### Q and A

## THANK YOU!

For More Information please contact:  
Peer Resource Center  
213.351.1934

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