

***** MEDIA ADVISORY *****

Funding to Allow the Most Vulnerable Angelenos to Live Safely in the Community
Walk on Skid Row to Learn about L.A. County Department of Mental Health HOME Program Work

- WHAT:** A walk on Los Angeles Skid Row, an area currently served by L.A. County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Homeless Outreach Mobile Engagement (HOME) team, to illustrate the need for the CA Legislature and Governor to provide critically-needed mental health and homelessness assistance funding to L.A. County. CA Senator Henry Stern, L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, and LACDMH Director Dr. Jonathan Sherin will introduce reporters to key members of the HOME program who have firsthand experience with “relentless engagement” and contact-driven care of the most vulnerable among us.
- WHEN:** Friday, June 11 at 10:30 a.m.
Please RSVP media attendance to (213) 738-3700
- WHERE:** Downtown Mental Health Center (meeting place)
529 Maple Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90013
- WHO:** Henry Stern, State Senator, 27th District
Kathryn Barger, L.A. County Supervisor, 5th District
Dr. Jonathan Sherin, L.A. County Director of Mental Health
- WHY:** The Legislature has put forth a three-year, nearly \$2.5 billion proposal to support building a full continuum of behavioral health infrastructure to address the deficit in available psychiatric beds and community-based treatment options for behavioral health. The proposal also includes \$150 million to support teams much like the HOME Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot (OCP). The budget enhancement will provide a surge of services to care for 1,000 of the most vulnerable Angelenos over the next five years.

LACDMH HOME OCP addresses the plight of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with untreated serious mental illness. The innovative treatment approach was designed for those who, all too often, never receive care or housing due to their inability to recognize their illness. The pilot uses a multidisciplinary approach lead by the LACDMH HOME teams. These teams conduct community outreach and engagement to evaluate, treat and house people suffering from severe mental illness. The OCP creates an avenue to pursue outpatient guardianship for individuals with serious mental illness who are experiencing homelessness, gravely disabled and, due to their illness, cannot voluntarily seek treatment.

Working with Supervisor Barger and LACDMH Director, Dr. Jonathan Sherin, Senator Stern is pushing to add funding in the state budget to extend and expand the HOME program’s capacity to provide much needed specialty psychiatric care on the streets of L.A. The aim of the pilot is to provide treatment, housing, and support for unsheltered residents of Los Angeles County who suffer with serious untreated mental illness utilizing the support and interventions of the HOME team.

To learn more about some of the work HOME outreach team does, watch here:
<https://vimeo.com/423325765>