



## LACDMH Values

**Integrity.** We conduct ourselves professionally according to the highest ethical standards.

**Respect.** We recognize the uniqueness of every individual and treat all people in a way that affirms their personal worth and dignity.

**Accountability.** We take responsibility for our choices and their outcomes.

**Collaboration.** We work together toward common goals by partnering with the whole community, sharing knowledge, building strong consensus and sharing decision-making.

**Dedication.** We will do whatever it takes to improve the lives of our clients and communities.

**Transparency.** We openly convey our ideas, decisions and outcomes to ensure trust in our organization.

**Quality and Excellence.** We identify the highest personal, organizational, professional and clinical standards and commit ourselves to achieving those standards by continually improving every aspect of our performance.

**If you are in crisis and need help right away, call our 24/7 toll-free Help Line:**

**800.854.7771**

[dmh.lacounty.gov](http://dmh.lacounty.gov)



## ► Qualified Individual (QI) Assessment

### Contact

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



## Who is Involved in the QI Assessment?

It is the QI's responsibility to interview members of the CFT to obtain information for the assessment and recommendations. This will include, when possible:

- The child/youth/NMD
- The parent/caregiver
- The placing agency worker
- The current mental health provider, if applicable
- School/education personnel
- Regional center staff, if applicable
- Tribal representatives, if applicable
- Any other identified members of the CFT

## What Does the QI Assessment Address?

- Safety and risk factors
- Child's/youth's/NMD's and family's strengths and needs
- Review of past and existing placements, services, and supports
- Identification of additional needed services and supports
- Review and development of short- and long-term behavioral health goals that are in alignment with the transition/permanency plan
- Recommendation for placement, services, and supports

## About

As of October 1, 2021, the federal Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) and State Assembly Bill 153 (AB 153) required that all children placed into congregate care, such as a Short Term Residential Therapeutic Facility (STRTP) or Community Treatment Facility (CTF), receive an objective assessment, conducted by a Qualified Individual (QI). The QI is to determine the setting which will provide the child/youth/non-minor dependent (NMD) with the most effective and appropriate level of care in the least restrictive environment, consistent with the short- and long-term goals for the child/youth/NMD, as specified in the permanency plan.

## QI Assessment Referral Process

The referral for the QI assessment is made by the placing agency, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) or the Department of Probation (Probation), to the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) at the time a youth is being considered for placement in an STRTP/CTF, or has already been placed into an STRTP/CTF, or is needing to change placements from one residential facility to another. At that point, the QI has 30 days to complete the assessment and issue a recommendation. The final QI assessment is presented to the members of the Child and Family Team (CFT) and then a copy of the report is given to the placing agency worker to file with the court.