

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

June 2022



Message from the Director

Dear DMH family,

As you are aware by now, today is my last day as your Director. I am filled with emotion and mostly pride as I reflect on the past 5 1/2 years and all we were able to accomplish together. We effected real change for so many people and across so many systems despite truly unprecedented challenges.

As Director, I tried to lift up our DMH family to encourage a progressive and thoughtful culture that would optimize our impact and success together. With this in mind, I am confident to leave you in the capable and caring hands of Dr. Lisa Wong who is officially assuming my role tomorrow (in about 6 hours to be exact!).

Lisa and I have been working for months to ensure a seamless transition both internally and for the people we serve. Of like mind and heart, she knows that workplace wellbeing and client services must always be prioritized by DMH leadership.

Hats off to Lisa and Heart Forward always,

Jon

Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.
Director

P.S.: If you did not have a chance to attend the June 10 event, please watch the recording [here](#). And rest assured that as long as we keep our commitment to helping provide people, place, and purpose to those in need, we will surely cross paths again someday; stay connected!



Join Us for the Community Launch of Hollywood 2.0

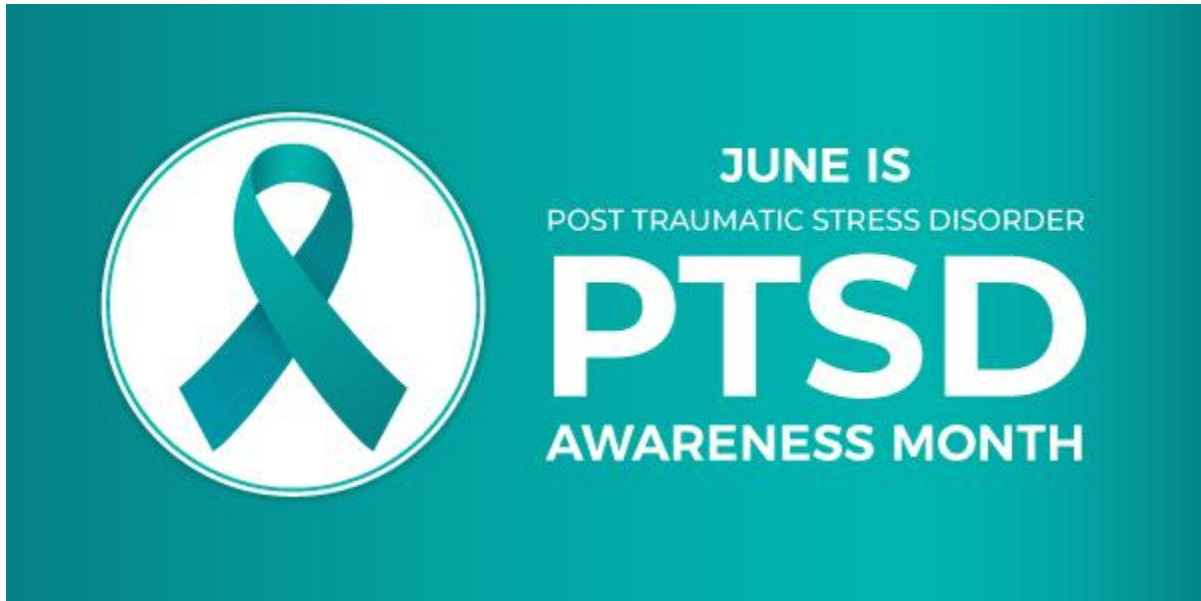
LACDMH and [Hollywood 4WRD](#) invite residents, businesses, organizations, agencies, and community members of the Hollywood area to join us for the “Hollywood 2.0” [virtual launch event](#) on Monday, July 11, from 3 to 4 p.m. “Hollywood 2.0” is a pilot project that utilizes robust grassroots engagement and partnership to provide comprehensive, community-based care and services for those experiencing mental illness and homelessness in the Hollywood region. This meeting will focus on the project’s purpose and goals, outline LACDMH and Hollywood 4WRD’s roles, discuss next steps, and highlight the ways that Hollywood community members can get involved. Learn more about this innovative care model [here](#). We look forward to seeing you on July 11!



Celebrating Juneteenth

On June 17, we joined Supervisor Holly Mitchell and other County agencies in the 2nd Annual Juneteenth Celebration & Resource Fair, where our staff provided mental health support and outreach to event attendees. The [event](#) also featured live entertainment, giveaways, and other on-site services such as COVID-19 vaccination and information about record expungement, tenant protections, and immigrant rights.

Juneteenth celebrates the official end of slavery in the United States with the issuing of General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865. [Learn more](#) about this holiday's history, significance, and traditions.



To raise awareness about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs has declared June as [National PTSD Awareness Month](#) and is sharing information and resources about this condition and its available treatments. To help raise awareness and educate the public, the VA is hosting a [virtual walk](#), promoting its online [self-screening test](#), highlighting [resources](#) to help with acute and chronic challenges, and encouraging the public to spread the word about PTSD.

In addition to the VA's information and services, LACDMH also stands ready to support those affected by trauma and PTSD, and L.A. County residents can get support 24/7 through our Help Line at (800) 854-7771 or by texting 'LA' to 741741. Veterans and military families affected by PTSD can also seek help through our [Veteran Peer Access Network](#), which released its [inaugural annual report](#) earlier this month.



LACDMH Welcomes New Psychiatrist Interns

On June 16th, LACDMH and the Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science's Department of Psychiatry welcomed the entering class of Psychiatry Interns. After their first year is completed, these interns will advance and continue their training as psychiatry residents. They will be working and learning the skills needed to serve our clients across multiple sites and settings. The interns are (left to right) Samouel Hanna, M.D., Max Guan, D.O., Brooke Stroffolino, M.D., So Min Lim, D.O., Maxwell Olumide Okunola, M.D., and Evan Bogdan, M.D. Please join us in welcoming them into the LACDMH family!



Cultural Traditions and Connections

The following article is from [Cultural Traditions and Connections](#), a space featuring voices from LACDMH's diverse communities.

“About Pride Month”

By Rebecca Gitlin, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist and LGBTQ+ Services Specialist

June is Pride Month, which is a time to uplift and celebrate sexual and gender diversity in our communities. For many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, Two-Spirit (LGBTQIA2-S), and other sexually and gender diverse individuals, Pride Month is a reminder of the importance of visibility, community, and acceptance. This month also represents political resistance for many LGBTQIA2-S community members, as we continue working toward a society that is free from discrimination, bias, and victimization toward diverse genders and sexualities.

Pride Month commemorates the 1969 Stonewall Uprising, which took place in New York City. At the time, police harassment toward LGBTQIA2-S community members – drag queens, sex workers, and transgender and gender non-conforming people in particular – was not

uncommon. LGBTQIA2-S bars and other gathering spaces were often at risk for police raids and mass arrests. On June 28, 1969, patrons at the Stonewall Inn responded to a police raid with resistance, leading to five days of protest and other political action. The Stonewall Uprising is credited for spearheading the Gay Liberation Movement, which ultimately led to modern-day LGBTQIA2-S liberation movements.

[Read more.](#)

Let's get social @LACDMH!



Thank you for taking the time to read and engage with this issue of **“Connecting Our Community,”** a monthly newsletter focused on the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health’s updates and priorities. Visit dmh.lacounty.gov for more resources.

We welcome your comments, story ideas, and recommendations at pio@dmh.lacounty.gov.