



▶▶ **DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
DIRECTOR'S UPDATE:
MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
February 23, 2023**

Connie D. Draxler, Acting Chief Deputy Director
Department of Mental Health



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
MENTAL HEALTH**
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▶▶ DMH HIRING EFFORTS TO DATE

- FY 2021-22: 519 new hires/promotions
- From July 2022 – January 2023: 505 new hires / promotions
- Clinic Programs: (Adult Outpatient, Child / Family Outpatient, Full Service Partnership)
 - ◀ For the month of January 2023:
 - 28 positions filled
 - 80 positions pending hiring transactions (candidates selected/pending/start dates pending)
 - 183 positions currently in stages of recruitment (actively interviewing)



▶▶ DMH HIRING EFFORTS: LEADERSHIP POSITIONS JANUARY 2023

◀ Program Manager I (San Fernando Child and Family Services)

▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Declarations & Proclamations

- LA City Mayor's Declaration Local State of Emergency December 12, 2022
- LA County Board Motion in Support of the Local Emergency December 20, 2022
- LA County Proclamation of Local State of Emergency January 10, 2023
- LA County Declaration of Emergency for Homelessness-Implementation Actions February 7 , 2023

▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Directives

- January 10, 2023 – Board declares a local emergency on homelessness
- Directives:
 - ◀ Contracting and Procurement – expedite processes
 - ◀ Hiring – expedite recruitment and hiring, reduce vacancy levels
 - ◀ Housing – accelerate timelines for creation of licensed beds, IH and PSH, increase funding for local subsidies and coordinate with local cities on construction of PSH
 - ◀ Services – accelerated access to mainstream county services
 - ◀ Spending – identify strategic uses of restricted funding and any legislative relief required to use funding as proposed
 - ◀ Communication and Outreach – develop and implement a communication plan to interact with cities and public

▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Strategic Missions

- January 23, 2023 CEO Homeless Initiative Recommendations
- Adopt 3 Strategic Missions (PEH Missions)
 - ◁ Encampment Resolution
 - County will collaborate with Councils of Government and cities to address encampments (outreach, offer of IH, matching to PSH and supportive services)
 - ◁ Housing
 - Increase interim and permanent housing placements

▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Strategic Missions

◁ Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services

- Coordinate the provision of field based mental health and substance use disorder assessments and services with outreach workers and interim housing providers.
- Reduce wait times for services, when they exist, by **prioritizing the delivery of mental health and substance use disorder services to PEH** unless otherwise prohibited.
 - All things being equal between two constituents seeking services, and if legally permissible to do so, County health and social safety net departments would prioritize PEH unless doing so would exacerbate homelessness in the County or jeopardize the life or health of others.



▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Hiring

- Hire without an examination for positions that meet a designated mission
- Authorize departments to hiring and retention incentives for positions with a direct connection to a designated mission
- Add emergency positions and special step placements
- CEO must **confirm in writing** that positions meet designated mission and that funds are approved
- DHR is working on the protocols

▶▶ Local Emergency for Homelessness: Spending

- Direct the Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch to advocate for solutions at the State level to create flexibility with MHSA funding to include individuals experiencing homelessness and those involved in the criminal justice system, as well as remove silos and other restrictions that create barriers and prevent counties from effectively spending MHSA funding where it is needed, when it is needed, and in what form it is needed.
 - ◀ Report back due 3/9/23
- Delegate authority to the CEO to increase or decrease allocation amounts to County departments and agencies and across service types for any Board approved budgeted funding sources administered by the Homeless Initiative

Thank you



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