

## MAT Agencies

- Alafia Mental Health Institute
- Alma Family Services
- Almansor
- Amanecer Community Counseling
- Aviva Family and Children's Services
- Child and Family Center
- Child and Family Guidance Center
- ChildNet
- Children's Bureau
- Children's Institute, Inc.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Counseling 4 Kids
- Didi Hirsch
- Drew Child Development Corporation
- El Centro de Amistad
- Five Acres
- Foothill
- For the Child
- Sycamores
- Hillside
- Kedren Community Mental Health Center
- Masada
- McKinley
- Optimist
- Pacific Clinics
- Pathways Community Services
- Penny Lane
- Personal Involvement Center
- Prototypes
- Providence St. John's Child and Family Development Center
- SFVCMHC, Inc.
- South Central Health and Rehab Program
- SHIELDS for Families
- Star View Community Services
- Stirling Behavioral Health Institute
- Tessie Cleveland Community Services
- The Guidance Center
- The Help Group
- The Village Family Services
- The Whole Child
- TIES for Families
- Vista del Mar
- Wellnest Emotional Health & Wellness

## 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)



► **Multidisciplinary  
Assessment Team  
(MAT)**



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



## What is MAT?

Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) is a collaborative effort between the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), and community-based mental health provider agencies. It is designed to ensure the immediate and comprehensive assessment of children and youth entering out-of-home placement. The MAT Program has been operational countywide as of October 2009.

### **MAT assessments address the following areas:**

- Child and family strengths and needs
- Caregiver strengths and needs
- Education
- Mental health
- Medical & dental developmental
- Hearing/language
- Vocational

## Program Description

When a child is newly detained, or is involved in a Voluntary Family Maintenance (VFM) case, is between the ages of 0-5 and placed in the home with parent, he/she is eligible to receive a Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) assessment through DCFS. The MAT assessment was designed to ensure that all the child and family's strengths and needs are assessed.

This assessment is meant to help a family meet the needs that the child(ren) may have that place this family in danger of a lengthy separation. The information gathered by this assessment will be used to determine what interventions and services are most needed by the child(ren) with the intention of using this information for the most appropriate placement of the child while ensuring that his/her needs will be met.

### **Participants in the MAT process:**

- Parents
- Caregivers
- Children (as appropriate)
- DMH MAT Assessor
- DCFS MAT Coordinator
- Service providers
- DCFS Children's Social Worker (CSW) and/or Dependency Investigator (DI)
- Public Health nurse
- Other CSAT members

## Program Goals

- Timely and comprehensive strength-based assessment of children and families
- Earlier diagnosis of critical medical and mental health conditions
- Increased cooperation between families, caregivers, providers of services and DCFS
- More appropriate placement decisions for children
- More consideration given to sibling, relative, and community placements
- Earlier access to medical, educational and mental health services for children and families

### **Department of Children and Family Services**

Sevana Naaman, LCSW, CSA III  
[naamas@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:naamas@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

### **Department of Mental Health**

[DMHMAT@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:DMHMAT@dmh.lacounty.gov)



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