



Connecting Our Community Returns

We're back! The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) is proud to present the revival of its Connecting Our Community newsletter. As the nation's largest mental health department, LACDMH will share its latest news, information, and updates that impact the residents and communities in our care through this bi-monthly online publication.



LACDMH & Univision Partner for Mental Health

On Wednesday, February 7, the LACDMH kicked off a 12-week partnership to promote mental health. Subject matter experts Sandra Chang, Ph.D., and Rebeca Hurtado, LCSW, MPA, are being featured on Univision's Spanish-language morning show, "Despierta Los Angeles," with host Sanelly Quintero.

The morning show segments with Univision 34 will run into July and cover a variety of topics, including families, community, and LGBTQ. Additionally, two-minute radio segments on KLVE (a Univision property) will air concurrently, and 30-second vignettes will be aired on Univision's many social media platforms and website properties.



Mental Health Commission Holds Town Hall in Lancaster

On Thursday, January 25, the L.A. County Mental Health Commission held a Town Hall at the Antelope Valley Fair and Event Center in Lancaster, allowing plenty of room for local community-based organizations, residents, clients, and families to attend and voice

concerns to the 16-member commission.

Special guests included LACDMH Director Dr. Lisa H. Wong and Anders Corey, Health Deputy for Fifth District County Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Dr. Wong acknowledged progress in mental health service expansion in the Antelope Valley, such as the opening of the first mental health center for kids, and also announced the first Peer Resource Center in Antelope Valley, scheduled to open next summer.

[Continue reading about the town hall.](#)



LACDMH Partners with LAist to Host *Queer LA LIVE: Joyful Music*

LACDMH proudly partnered with Southern California Public Radio's LAist (89.3 FM) to host [Queer LA LIVE: Joyful Music](#) at the Crawford Family Forum in Pasadena. LAist created Queer LA LIVE to open the conversation about LGBTQIA2-S life in the Greater Los Angeles area. Each Queer LA LIVE event shares a common theme — joy. This event

focused on joyful music.

DJ Funky Caramelo set the tone at the turntables before live performances by Danielle Lande and musical duo Brittany Campbell and Candace Quarrels of Mermaid. After their sets, they sat down to talk to Queer LA LIVE host Caitlin Hernández about their artistic beginnings, passion for music, and the challenges that come with being queer artists.

LACDMH is committed to supporting the well-being of the County's LGBTQIA2-S community by sponsoring events like Queer LA LIVE as well as providing resources and mental health support to those in need. To find resources catered to the LGBTQIA2-S community, visit our website at dmh.lacounty.gov/resources/lgbtq-resources.



Photo of Trung Du (left) and Ryan Nam (right) taken at Service Area 3 Peer Resource Center's Lunar New Year event in Langley Senior Center, February 14, 2024.

Monterey Park Tea Time Program Celebrates One Year of Service

LACDMH is celebrating the first anniversary of the Tea Time program in Monterey Park, which serves predominantly Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) older adults and provides hot green tea, snacks and mental health support. The program began as a crisis center in the Langley Senior Center for a community pained by the 2023 Lunar New Year mass shooting in Monterey Park, which killed 11 people and injured nine others.

One year beyond the shooting, the program has served as a beacon of support to a community still lamenting those who were lost in Los Angeles County's deadliest mass shooting. Twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trung Du, a Community Health Worker, and Ryan Nam, an Intermediate Typist-Clerk, both from the East San Gabriel Mental Health Center in Covina, visit the senior center to connect with seniors and hand out whatever freebies they can assemble.

[Learn more about the Tea Time Program.](#)



National Women's History Month

In recognition of Congress' declaration of March as **National Women's History Month (1987)**, LACDMH's Veterans Peer Access Network (VPAN) will honor all women who have served or currently serve in the U.S. Armed Forces.

In 1971, women made up one percent of the U.S. military and were not allowed to serve in combat or hold military occupational specialties, like infantry, artillery, and combat aviation. The trajectory of women in our military has changed. In 2022, women made up around 18% of the Department of Defense's active-duty force. Now, all jobs are open to women.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)



In case you missed it, check out these stories below that highlight LACDMH's involvement in promoting mental health awareness as well as the programs, resources, and services our department provides:

- The [Los Angeles Times](#) highlighted L.A. County's progress in addressing homelessness as a result of the County and L.A. City's state of emergency declaration, including LACDMH's accelerated efforts to recruit new staff.
- [Santa Monica Daily Press](#) and [Santa Monica Lookout](#) highlighted the launch of our therapeutic transportation program in Santa Monica to provide mobile mental health support and resources to that community.
- [UCLA Health](#) posted a story about its evaluation of the LACDMH's Outpatient Conservatorship Pilot project, citing the program's effectiveness in helping people experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness.
- [Fox 11 News'](#) recurring "Wednesday's Child" segment featured a youth in foster care who wants to pursue a career in mental health and was connected with LACDMH's Mental Evaluation Unit partnership with LAPD to learn more about the field.

Let's get social @LACDMH!



Thank you for taking the time to read and engage with this issue of **"Connecting Our Community,"** a bi-monthly online publication focused on the latest information and news from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Visit dmh.lacounty.gov for more resources.

We welcome your comments, story ideas, and recommendations at pio@dmh.lacounty.gov. You may adjust your subscriptions settings at this [link](#).