

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

February 2025



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



LACDMH Supports Wildfire Recovery Efforts

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) staff have been on the ground from the very first morning of the wildfires on Jan. 8 providing mental health support and in the recovery efforts at the Disaster Recovery Centers, evacuation centers and repopulation centers in Altadena, Pacific Palisades, Pasadena, Westwood and Malibu.

County staff worked alongside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), State agencies, County departments, City departments and nonprofits to provide relief to people who lost anything and/or everything in the devastating fires.

LACDMH had more than 250 clinicians, community health workers, clinical pharmacists and other staff provide immediate and long-term recovery. Due to how the fires spread, people had very little notice before evacuation, so they were often missing medications, clothing and personal items. Staff provided these essential items, immediate mental health support and long-term resources.

[Continue reading about our recovery efforts.](#)

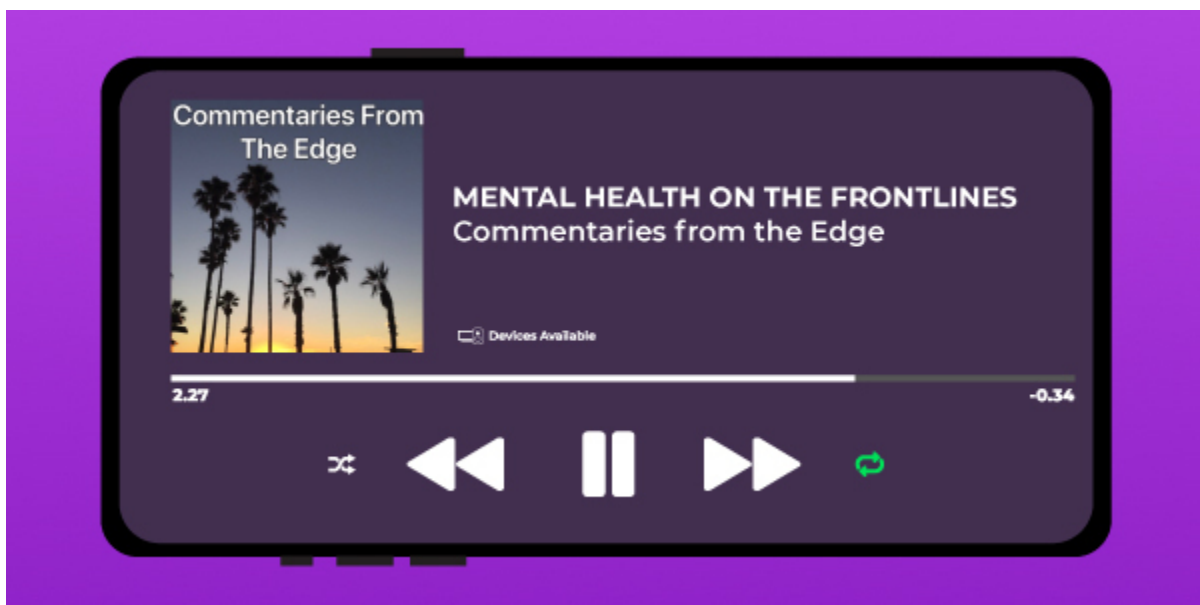


Hollywood 2.0 Gets A Brand New (Digital) Look

To enhance awareness and engagement with our Hollywood 2.0 pilot program, we have launched a microsite highlighting its resources and accomplishments. At Hollywood 2.0's new webpages (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), viewers can learn more about the program's services for

people experiencing homelessness and severe mental illness in the Hollywood community. The microsite also features the program's background, project timeline, accomplishments so far, and the network of partners collaborating with us on this vital effort.

We encourage you to explore this site, learn about the services and resources available, and get involved in our movement to provide comprehensive, compassionate, and community-based care for Hollywood's vulnerable individuals and families and support their recovery into wellbeing, stability and purpose.



Mental Health on the Frontlines **Episode 9-12 Available**

Episode #9: In Los Angeles, California, there exists a "City within a City" where its citizens live and die on the streets. The numbers are

staggering. At the last approximate count, over 75,000 people are struggling to survive unhoused, and thousands are dying each year. In response to this humanitarian crisis, LACDMH launched a pioneering and innovative initiative known as street psychiatry — a program often referred to as a “radical solution.” This approach provides critical medical and therapeutic care directly on the streets, creating a kind of outdoor emergency room.

On this episode, we hear from Aubree Lovelace, Chief Administrator of the HOME (Homeless, Outreach, Mobile, Engagement) Team. The HOME Team comprises psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, and peers who dedicate their efforts to saving lives as part of their daily work. In upcoming episodes, several HOME Team members will share their experiences confronting the most critical situations among those living on the streets. They work with individuals experiencing severe mental illness who are unable to meet their most basic needs.

[Read more about the HOME team interviews.](#)



Our ongoing efforts to promote mental health awareness and assist the most vulnerable among us continue to receive positive attention in the media. In case you missed it, check out some highlights of the excellent stories and representation by our subject matter experts:

- [LAist](#) and [Southern California News Group](#) (which includes L.A. Daily News, Pasadena Star-News, Daily Breeze, Press-Telegram and additional outlets) highlighted the recent expansion of LACDMH's field intervention teams, increasing our department's capacity to respond to mental health crises throughout the County and significantly reducing wait times for in-person support.
- Miriam Brown, deputy director of our Emergency Outreach and Triage Division, was interviewed by [NPR](#) about residents' mental health needs during L.A. County's wildfire response and recovery efforts.
- [KFF Health News](#) featured LACDMH's dispatch of mental health workers to evacuation shelters and recovery centers during the wildfire disaster and interviewed our director Dr. Lisa H. Wong. The story was also carried by Southern California News Group's media outlets.
- Multiple media outlets highlighted LACDMH's services and resources for those impacted by the wildfires, including [L.A. Times](#), [KTLA 5](#), [CBS Los Angeles](#), [KCRW](#), and [AARP California](#).
- [Antelope Valley Press](#) covered the groundbreaking of the High Desert Mental Health Campus, featuring two facilities that will provide community care and crisis services to the Antelope Valley once completed. James Coomes, our Service Area 1 Chief, was interviewed in this article.



Join Us for a Global Day of Unplugging

The **16th Annual Global Day of Unplugging** takes place from sundown on March 7 to sundown on March 8. This daylong observance encourages people to disconnect from technology and cultivate healthier digital habits.

[Research shows](#) shows that excessive screen time negatively affects wellbeing by reducing exercise, disrupting sleep, and limiting social interactions — all of which impact physical and mental health. To counter the “always online” culture, the first Global Day of Unplugging was launched in 2009, inspiring people to disconnect and reconnect with loved ones and their communities.

To help participants embrace offline experiences, the event offers over [200 activity ideas](#) and a list of [unplugged gatherings](#) happening on March 7 and 8. For more information and tips on fostering a healthier relationship with technology, visit globaldayofunplugging.org.



Click on image above for *Who Do I Call for Help* Resources

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.