



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

DMH FATHERHOOD WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

- On June 27, 2023, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion (Motion) directing the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board identifying service gaps and recommendations to improve public social service access for fathers. The Motion further directed the CEO to convene community stakeholders and relevant County departments to discuss ways in which the County can better serve fathers to access public benefits and remain involved in their children's lives.

BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

- Parenting education and support programs that cater to fathers' unique needs and challenges to help them develop their parenting skills.
- Launch public awareness campaigns that promote the value of involved fatherhood and challenges stereotypes related to traditional gender roles.
- Offer mental health resources and supports for fathers who may experience stress, anxiety, or depression related to parenting responsibilities.
- Develop social media messaging to outreach to this population.
- Create a two-way warm hand-off referral process with other agencies and include a listing of available services.
- Support community-based initiatives that engage fathers in their children's schools and activities.

DMH WORKGROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation #1: Enhance Multidisciplinary Assessment Teams (MAT) Children and Family Team Meetings (CFTM)

- DMH Response: Ensure father participation in the initial MAT CFTM; track father participation; include information on the importance of fathers on the lives of children; and evaluate the need for new policy

Recommendation #2: Outpatient Care Services (OCS) support groups for men

- DMH Response: OCS will establish support groups for individuals who identify as men at adult outpatient clinics throughout the County

Recommendation #3: Identify community agencies to co-host male centered Psychoeducational support groups

- DMH Response: Leverage existing CBO resources to encourage/promote increased access to formal mental health services to: African American/ Latino/Indigenous/API males across the County

RECOMMENDATION #1

- We are working to ensure fathers are routinely engaged and included in CFTs and other family meetings
- We are also enhancing our ability to collect and track data relating to fathers and/or other male caregiver involvement

RECOMMENDATION #2

- OCS successfully established support groups for individuals who identify as men at the adult outpatient clinics in all Services Areas

RECOMMENDATION #3

- Service Area 7 has developed extensive partnerships with CBO's, the Faith-Based community and other community partners to support and promote increased access to formal MH services to African American/Latino/Indigenous/API males
- We are planning to use this approach as model of expansion for developing partnerships of this nature countywide, in all Service Areas

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Is there a network of volunteers/ community stakeholders in your community that you have or can outreach to for support in working with young men, fathers, and mothers?
- Are there any local community-based organizations or businesses that might be willing to partner or sponsor this work?
- What local venues/event spaces might you be able to access to host a Fatherhood/Maternal MH event?
- What communication / feedback loops are necessary to help continue to improve the services we provide?
- Are there any specific needs or assistance that the department can provide to support you in this important work?

KEY STEPS
MOVING
FORWARD

Training

Fatherhood Well-Being Initiative DMH
Webpage

Tracking Form for Data Collection

Service Area Events Held Biannually
(two per year)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DMH Training

- Engaging Fathers and Other Adult Males in the Therapeutic Process
 - Email: CWDCoaching@dmh.lacounty.gov

National Fatherhood Initiative

- Father Engagement Academy™
 - <https://www.fatherhoodpractitioners.org>



QUESTIONS