



High Desert Mental Health Center Opens in Lancaster

LACDMH's Service Area 1 was proud to celebrate the opening of the High Desert Mental Health Center with Fifth District County Supervisor Kathryn Barger and other County departments on December 11 in Lancaster.

The new High Desert clinic features a Crisis Residential Treatment Program (CRTP), Crisis Stabilization Unit and Mental Health Hub to provide a broad range of supports in an integrated, wholistic setting for people experiencing mental health challenges. It's a major milestone in Los Angeles County's commitment to building a compassionate, modern and integrated system of care. The project was supported and funded from multiple sources, including County general funds and more than \$43 million awarded from

California's Mental Health Services Act and the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program.

[Read more about the new facility.](#)



Hollywood Mental Health Cooperative Opens in New Space

The Hollywood Mental Health Cooperative team celebrated its ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sunset Boulevard on Thursday, October 30 and was acknowledged with a certificate from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to mark the occasion. The event was emceed by Carolyn Kaneko, Mental Health Program Manager II, and Karla Bennett, Mental Health Program Manager II.

The event featured remarks from Third District County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath; Jazmine Garcia Delgadillo, Health Deputy for First District County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis; LACDMH Director Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D.; and a client testimonial. Attendees were later treated to a tour around the new clinic space.

[Explore what Hollywood 2.0 offers.](#)



Hollywood 2.0 Celebrates November Open House

The Hollywood 2.0 program hosted its second open house of 2025 at the Preserve, an event and co-working space in Hollywood, on November 11. LACDMH's community-based, compassionate neighborhood care brought together the Hollywood community for food, fun and updates. The event was hosted by LACDMH and Hollywood 4WRD.

The November update provided new details on the program's success. There have been 6,601 clients served through the mental health center; 126 members in the Fountain House Clubhouse; and 152 clients placed in interim housing with 89 more in A New Dawn and 86 others in project-based housing.

[Continue reading about more updates.](#)



LACDMH Launches Office of TAY to Address Wellbeing Needs of Teens and Young Adults

On November 24, LACDMH officially launched the Office of Transition Age Youth to promote the wellbeing and mental health of young people between ages 16 and 25. By coordinating and centering services around this population's specific needs, the Office of TAY will increase access to services, reduce stigma and barriers, and empower them to lead healthy, thriving lives.

The launch took place at LACDMH Headquarters and featured remarks from Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D., LACDMH Director, Mary Barraza, Senior Deputy Director of Prevention and Child Wellbeing Services and Erica Reynoso, Ph.D., Countywide Chief for the Office of TAY, highlighting this program's purpose and mission.

[Learn more about TAY's launch & "Cope Safely" screening.](#)



**Veteran & Military
Family Services**

NEW LOCATION!

**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Behavioral Health Center**

Veterans & Military Family Services' New Location

The Veterans & Military Family Services (VMFS) are excited to announce the opening of our new location at the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Behavioral Health Center**: 12021 Wilmington Ave., Building 18, Suite 4D, Los Angeles, CA 90059. Our team is ready to welcome you, and you can reach us directly at (424) 454-5425. Services also remain available at our headquarters in Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, Downtown Los Angeles, ensuring multiple access points to care and support for our community.

For those seeking emotional support or referrals to our program, please call (800) 854-7771, option 3, to connect with one of our agents, or visit dmh.lacounty.gov/veterans for more information.

LACDMH in the NEWS



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:

- In a [Los Angeles Times](#) article about mental health issues in the Thai American community, Director Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D., was quoted about progress, barriers and opportunities in providing services to underserved populations, such as recruiting a diverse workforce and training staff in cultural competency. Cultural competency unit program manager Sandra Chang, Ph.D., was quoted in an [accompanying article](#) regarding language access services.
- [Los Angeles Times](#) covered L.A. County beginning an effort to reinstate 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline's specialized services to LGBTQ+ youth through the "press 3" option, which was shut down by the federal government earlier this year.
- [MLB.com](#) and [DodgerBlue.com](#) covered the L.A. Dodgers' partnership with LACDMH to host a Veterans Day batting practice event on Nov. 11 for veterans and their families. During the event, participants enjoyed fun activities, interacted with former Dodger players, got private tours of

Dodger Stadium and received wellbeing resources from our Department.

- [LAist](#) and [L.A. Daily News](#) ran stories about L.A. City Controller's report on police responses to mental health crises, which included a statement advocating for SMART units, LACDMH's co-response team with LAPD, to lead responses in unarmed mental health crisis calls.



SAVE THE DATE:
Multicultural Mental Health Conference
March 16-17, 2026

[Click here to view flyer.](#)



SAVE THE DATE:
17th Annual Integrated Care Conference
April 21-22, 2026

[Click here to view flyer.](#)

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](#).