

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

August 2025



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for 600 San Pedro

On June 12, LACDMH was invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony for 600 San Pedro, L.A.'s largest permanent supportive housing development to date. Led by Kevin Murray, President and CEO of the Weingart Center Association, many showed up to provide support, including L.A. City Mayor Karen Bass, L.A. County 1st District Supervisor Hilda Solis, and more. After the acknowledgements, there was a tour of the building to view the inside of the beautiful units. The brand-new, 17-story building features over 300 fully furnished units, including mobility-accessible and sensory-impairment units. Special thanks to the Weingart Team for making this possible and sharing this wonderful achievement with us. Referral agencies may submit applications to 600SanPedro@barkermgt.com or (714) 221-5618.



Hearts For Sight: Increasing Access to Nature and Community

Over 80,000 Los Angeles County residents who are blind and visually impaired may lack access to the great outdoors; and miss experiencing the immense beauty of our local mountains, parks and coastal areas. A recently completed capacity-building project by LACDMH's ARISE Division's Access for All Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) set out to create safe opportunities and increase the blind and visually impaired community's access to healthy recreation and mental wellness resources in Los Angeles County.

The highly successful capacity-building project, Expanding Mental Wellness Opportunities for People Who Are Blind and Low-Vision, filled an unmet need. The project's awarded contractor, Hearts for Sight Foundation, is led and staffed by people with lived experience. This nonprofit organization's mission is "to break down barriers to health and fitness that restrict the blind and visually impaired, so that they may pursue physical, mental, and emotional wellness." Well-attended programs offer nutrition counseling, adaptive fitness, individual and group mental health services, and community engagement.

[Learn more about Heart For Sight's impact.](#)



Mundo Maya: Culture and Community Healing

Los Angeles County is home to vibrant indigenous Central American and Mexican communities, including the largest populations of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Oaxacans. Residents speak at least 36 distinct languages, reflecting a rich tapestry of cultural heritage. For 25 years, the Mundo Maya Foundation, a dedicated local nonprofit, has worked tirelessly to preserve cultural knowledge, celebrate identity, and promote wellbeing among these communities.

Thanks to the ARISE Division's Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC) Latino Subcommittee projects, Mundo Maya has engaged over 400 individuals in sacred Mayan ceremonies and healing circles. The organization has surveyed and convened more than 200 cultural leaders and community members, producing impactful public service announcements that have reached over 85,000 Maya K'iche, Chinantec, Zapotec, and Spanish speakers.

[Read more about this project.](#)

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:

- Dr. Wong was quoted in a [**LA Daily News**](#) story about the federal defunding of 988's LGBTQ+ services in July and L.A. County's efforts to bridge the gap to provide suicide prevention and mental health services to this community. The story was also carried by **Pasadena Star News, San Gabriel Valley Tribune, Press-Telegram** and other publications.
- [**ABC 7**](#) featured LACDMH's Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing training program to clinicians, empowering them to provide this unique therapy to relieve trauma-related distress.
- LACDMH was mentioned in a [**StateScoop**](#) story about the early success of L.A. County Homelessness Prevention Unit's predictive analytics pilot, which identified individuals at risk of becoming homeless so they can be linked to resources to maintain housing.
- [**LAist**](#) and [**Pasadena Now**](#) covered the Board of Supervisors' unanimous motion for LACDMH to look into improving the CARE Court program, including streamlining the referral process, educating first responders about the program, expanding community outreach, and improving petitioner and family inclusion after a referral is submitted.

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