

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

June 2025



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



LACDMH Takes Action for Mental Health L.A. County During May Is Mental Health Awareness Month

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) celebrated May is Mental Health Awareness Month with the Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County campaign. The annual celebration highlights the importance of mental health to all communities throughout Los Angeles County and is in partnership with the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA).

The Take Action movement promotes wellness and wellbeing while sharing the vast array of resources and services provided by the nation's largest behavioral health department. The Take Action events bring communities together in wellness and encourages everyone to pay attention to their own needs and those around them.

[Read more about the Take Action events.](#)



LACDMH Celebrates Pride Month

On June 1, the City of West Hollywood kicked off Pride Month with its annual WeHo Pride Parade — and LACDMH was proud to be part of it. Marching alongside over 100 organizations, LACDMH staff brought energy, creativity, and care as they made their way down Santa Monica Boulevard toward the City's Rainbow District.

Our vibrant float featured LGBTQIA2-S+ flags, colorful balloons, and ten original artworks hand-painted by LACDMH staff from all eight Service Areas, the ARISE (Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Solidarity, and Empowerment) Division, and our Transition Age Youth (TAY) community. Following the float, staff carried banners representing Countywide Programs, LGBTQIA2-S+ Champions, and Service Areas 1-8.

LACDMH also hosted a wellness table where staff shared mental health resources, passed out free giveaways, and invited participants to plant a seed in soil — a simple, symbolic way to reflect on growth, healing, and tending to one's mental health.



Mental Health Promoters Serve Los Angeles County Communities with Heart

Since 2011, mental health promoters, serving as independent contractors, have conducted outreach and engagement, educational workshops, and linkage and referrals with underserved Spanish-speaking families and community groups throughout Los Angeles County as part of the *Promotores de Salud* Mental Health Program. This Spanish-language program with contractors is going to sunset on June 30, 2025, but its services and resources will be continued through the United Mental Health Promoters (UMHP) program.

Successes and lessons learned from the Spanish language program informed the development of the UMHP program, currently comprised of over 100 LACDMH staff in the Anti-Racism, Inclusion, Solidarity, and Empowerment (ARISE) Division. In 2020, the Board of Supervisors voted to expand the program and officially establishing UMHP to engage the diverse communities of Los Angeles County: Black/African Heritage, Asian Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, Eastern European/Middle Eastern, Latino, LGBTQIA2-S, and Individuals with Disabilities. This multicultural, multilingual workforce serves diverse communities with heart. Promoters conduct outreach, assist with events, facilitate 90-minute workshops on 13 key topics in mental health, stigma reduction, and increase access to care.

These resourceful, dedicated staff build trust with community members, speak the same language, and share their passion for mental wellness.

For more information on the United Mental Health Promoters Program and to request a presentation, please visit:

dmh.lacounty.gov/mental-health-resources/united-mental-health-promoters.



Service Area Clergy Collaboratives Visit Holocaust Museum

LACDMH Gloria Mendez, Psychiatric Social Worker II and Brian Navarro, Psychiatric Social Worker II, led the Service Areas 4 and 5 Clergy Collaborations to Los Angeles' Holocaust Museum in Pan Pacific Park on May 22. The event's highlights were hearing from Joe Alexander, a 102-year-old Holocaust survivor, artifact donations, and a museum tour.

Alexander, a U.S. resident since 1949, was a 16-year-old Polish Jew when the Nazis invaded in 1938. His family was forcibly displaced to the Warsaw Ghetto before he was sent to the first of

many concentration camps. Throughout his time in different concentration camps, Alexander went face-to-face with the “Angel of Death,” Josef Mengele, at Auschwitz. He was sorted by the German officer into a group to be led off for death but miraculously snuck his way from the extermination line into another line for forced labor. Alexander also persevered through death marches and forced labor to survive the war.

An emotional audience dabbed at tears as a stoic Alexander rolled up his left sleeve to reveal a tattooed identification number and shared his harrowing tales of overcoming death through hope before being rescued by U.S. soldiers in Landsberg am Lech in 1945.

[Read more about Joe Alexander's story and Abel Acuna's donations.](#)



A Home with a History of Purpose: Harvest House Transformed Through CCE - Preservation Program

In April of 2023, LACDMH was awarded \$97,549,144 from the California Department of Social Services to implement the

Community Care Expansion (CCE) – Preservation program and secured \$11.2 million in Mental Health Services Act funds to use as the required program match.

The CCE program was established by Assembly Bill 172 and provides \$805 million in funding for acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation to preserve and expand licensed adult and senior care facilities that serve Social Security Income/State Supplementary Payment and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants applicants and recipients, including those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The CCE – Preservation program contains two subprograms: Capital Projects (CP) and Operating Subsidy Payments (OSP). CCE-CP funds contribute towards renovations and physical upgrades to facilities and CCE-OSP funds help ensure the ongoing operation of facilities through operating subsidies. LACDMH partnered with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) to administer the capital projects component of the program. After months of planning, on January 22, 2024, LACDA released a solicitation in partnership with LACDMH to award the CCE-CP funds.

[Read more about the Harvest House 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 interviewed by [Fox LA](#) about our Department's Take Action for Mental Health L.A. County campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month; the Take Action campaign was also covered by [Power 106](#), [KLOS-FM](#), [San Fernando Sun](#) and additional outlets throughout May.
- LACDMH's CARE Court program was featured by [Spectrum News](#); in the story, CARE team members talked about their day-to-day duties and the unique challenges and opportunities of their work.
- [Pasadena Now](#) and [Pasadena Weekly](#) covered the Sycamores groundbreaking in Altadena to renovate buildings for youth mental health and crisis stabilization services.
- LACDMH was included [Secret Los Angeles'](#) list of resources to provide mental health support for those impacted by recent and ongoing events, including wildfire recovery and civil unrest.

Let's get social @LACDMH!



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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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