



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 8, 2025

CONTACT

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***MENTAL HEALTH & PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS LAUNCH WEBPAGE TO
PREPARE PUBLIC FOR CONSERVATORSHIP LAW CHANGES IN 2026***

Senate Bill 43 re-defines “gravely disabled,” providing more access to critical care.

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Los Angeles County Departments of Mental Health (LACDMH) and Public Health (DPH) recently launched a [webpage](#) dedicated to providing more information to residents, clinicians, law enforcement, and other stakeholders about Senate Bill 43, a new law that expands the definition of “gravely disabled” under California’s Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act.

Considered the biggest change to California conservatorship law in more than 50 years, in addition to mental health disorders, the new definition of *grave disability* adds individuals with a severe substance use disorder or a co-occurring mental health disorder and severe substance use disorder who are unable to provide for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, and added considerations around personal safety or necessary medical care.

“This modernization of conservatorship law is a major step to providing critical care to our most vulnerable residents and we have been diligently working to prepare for county-wide implementation on January 1, 2026,” said LACDMH Director Dr. Lisa H. Wong. “In partnership with the Department of Public Health, we are committed to both educating and providing life-saving care for County residents. These changes are critical to providing residents with the services and resources they need to thrive.”

To collaboratively launch Senate Bill 43, LACDMH and DPH partnered to enhance and increase public awareness and education of the upcoming changes through downloadable materials, social media posts, and community outreach presentations. Materials are available in several threshold languages, including English, Spanish, Korean, Armenian, Tagalog, and Traditional and Simplified Chinese.

Senate Bill 43 passed in 2023 and amended the LPS Act to provide better care to individuals facing mental health and severe substance use challenges. The new law is part of a statewide effort to modernize California's mental health and substance use disorder services.

LACDMH and DPH are hosting community education events with Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) ADA support and ASL, Korean and Spanish translations. The sessions are hosted by LACDMH's Service Area Leadership Teams (SALT) and Underserved Cultural Communities (UsCC). The public is invited to learn more about Senate Bill 43 and its impacts by attending any of these community meetings below:

Thursday, Oct. 9
2 to 4 p.m.

Service Area 3 Leadership Team
Meeting Link: [Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Email: salt3@dmh.lacounty.gov

Thursday, Oct. 14
1 to 2:30 p.m.

Joint Outreach & Engagement
In-Person Only Meeting
155 Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90026
Email: communitystakeholder@dmh.lacounty.gov

Thursday, Oct. 16
1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Service Area 4 Leadership Team
Meeting Link: [Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Email: salt4@dmh.lacounty.gov

Tuesday, Oct. 28
3 to 5 p.m.

Service Area 5 Leadership Team Virtual Meeting
Meeting Link: [Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Email: salt5@dmh.lacounty.gov

Thursday, Nov. 6
10 a.m. to noon

Black & African Heritage UsCC Virtual Meeting
Meeting Link: [Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Email: bahuscc@dmh.lacounty.gov

Wednesday, Nov. 12
10 a.m. to noon

Access 4 All Virtual Meeting
Meeting Link: [Join the Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)
Email: access4alluscc@dmh.lacounty.gov

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About the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH)

As the nation's largest public mental health department, we ensure access to care and treatment for our most vulnerable residents in a region nearing 10 million people. With an annual budget exceeding \$4.4 billion and over 7,600 budgeted positions, LACDMH is dedicated to hope, recovery, and wellbeing for everyone across the County. For more information, visit dmh.lacounty.gov or follow @LACDMH on [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(X\)](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

About the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health is committed to promoting health equity and ensuring optimal health and well-being for all 10 million residents of Los Angeles County. Through a variety of programs, community partnerships and services, Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health. Nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health comprises nearly 4,500 employees and has an annual budget of \$1.2 billion.