



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT

LACDMH Public Information Office
(213) 738-3700
pio@dmh.lacounty.gov

LACDMH LAUNCHES NEW OFFICE OF TRANSITION AGE YOUTH TO AMPLIFY VOICES & SUPPORT WELLBEING OF TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS

LOS ANGELES, CA — The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) today launched the Office of Transition Age Youth (TAY) to promote the mental health and wellbeing of young people, between ages 16 and 25, transitioning to adulthood. The program specifically focuses on connecting and engaging with youth, including those experiencing homelessness, through various human services systems by linking them to mental health, housing and other essential services.

The Office of TAY launched alongside a screening of the short film “Cope Safely” at LACDMH Headquarters. The film amplifies the voices of three youths and explores the realities of coping with mental health and substance use challenges. The film was made in partnership with UCLA’s Center of Excellence and Kids in the Spotlight, an organization that helps foster youth heal and grow from trauma through the power of storytelling and filmmaking.

“Transition Aged Youth (TAY) is a priority population for the Department of Mental Health. Therefore, we are excited to announce the establishment of the Office of TAY, bringing together our TAY services under one team to support this important population,” said LACDMH Director Dr. Lisa H. Wong. “Ensuring that today’s youth are supported and prepared to handle life’s biggest challenges, the Office of TAY will serve as a central hub for coordination, policy development and youth engagement with programs and initiatives that are informed by lived experience and guided by the principles of prevention, inclusion and empowerment.”

The Office of TAY's core services are provided through field-based teams; however, many other vital services are offered, including youth drop-in centers, substance use disorder support, workforce and job development, and the Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP). The Office of TAY field-based teams can be reached by

phone, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (213) 738-6194; by email at AskTAY@dmh.lacounty.gov; or through the LACDMH 24/7 Help Line at (800) 854-7771.

Once contacted, the TAY intake specialist will connect with the youth to find their eligibility for EESP and additional services. The shelter program provides a 60-day temporary shelter, a warm, clean and safe place to sleep, hygiene facilities, hot meals, and case management services. Additionally, the TAY field-based teams can provide ongoing mental health services while the youth reside at the EESP. They can also connect youth to ongoing mental health care, substance use counseling, other program referrals, and employment support, as needed.

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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](#).