

Underlying Needs: A Strengths/Needs-Based Service Crafting Approach

DATE & TIME:

February 27, 2026

9:00AM - 1:00PM

Participants must have reliable internet access and audio/visual capability to participate in this training. Sign-in begins 15 minutes prior to the training time. All participants must arrive during the sign-in period. Late arrivals will not be admitted.

PLACE:

Web Broadcast – MS Teams

REGISTRATION:

<https://eventshub.dmh.lacounty.gov>

DESCRIPTION: This training will increase participants' knowledge about underlying needs and how underlying needs are behind behaviors. Participants will recognize that focusing on children's behaviors obscures the needs behind the behavior and that trying to change the behavior without addressing the needs behind it is unlikely to be successful. The training will include describing the criteria for a strong needs statement, the importance of supporting the team to reach an agreement about the child's needs, and an opportunity to practice writing strong needs statements. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to explore how they can incorporate the family's culture, strengths and needs to develop tailored services and supports that are unique for each child and family.

TARGET AUDIENCE: DMH staff and contracted mental health providers rendering services to children/youth in the child welfare system and/or in the community.

OBJECTIVES:

As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to:

1. List at least two strength-based approaches when engaging children, youth and families.
2. Describe underlying needs and how these needs manifest in children and youth as behaviors.
3. Describe how the child and family's culture, strengths, and underlying needs are used to develop individualized treatment plans.
4. Prepare individualized treatment plans incorporating services and supports to meet the child or youth's needs.

CONDUCTED BY:

Maria Vargas, LCSW

COORDINATED BY:

Brian Yager - Training Coordinator
byager@dmh.lacounty.gov

DEADLINE:

February 27, 2026 or when capacity is reached.

CONTINUING EDUCATION:

4.0 hours for BBS, BRN, CCAPP-EI
4.0 CE for Psychologist

COST:

NONE