



# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.  
Director

Curley L. Bonds, M.D.  
Chief Medical Officer

Rimmi Hundal, M.A.  
Chief Deputy Director

## **Department of Mental Health (DMH) Updates for the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Executive Committee Meeting (April 23, 2026)**

**Report Response:** The following reports were submitted by DMH in March 2026.

- **Protecting the Privacy of Transgender Los Angeles County Residents (Item 20, Agenda of March 3, 2026) [Link](#)**
  - This report provides departmental plans to implement Senate Bill (SB) 497, including staff trainings to ensure compliance with the law and to maintain privacy protections.
  - In July 2024, DMH implemented security measures to ensure proper handling of sensitive medical information, including reproductive and gender affirming health care, which includes redacting of Protected Health Information (PHI) prior to release unless specifically authorized by the client.
  - DMH has updated its list of approved acronyms and terms for use within the clinical record to include gender affirming key words which will further ensure that when searching clinical records for redaction, the HIM team can ensure it is catching all sensitive information prior to release.
  - All DMH staff are required to take Transgender, Gender Diverse or Intersex (TGI) evidence-based cultural competency training for the purpose of providing trans-inclusive health care for individuals who identify as TGI and includes the importance of privacy protections and protocols for grievances and appeal rights related to failure to provide trans-inclusive healthcare. All staff are required to take this training by June 30, 2026, and will be required to re-take the training every two years.
  - DMH's Quality Assurance Health Information Management (HIM) team will be conducting a webinar for all HIM and Keeper of Records staff on the importance of safeguarding information and the proper release of records.
  
- **Implementing the Further Countywide Expansion of Mentorship Programs Serving Black Girls and Other At Risk Children (Item 16, Agenda of June 27, 2024) [Link](#)**
  - This report provides an update on the progress of expanding the mentorship program that services black girls and other at-risk children

- FOTC-LA continues to cultivate existing partnerships with Year 1 and Year 2 DCFS offices (SPAs 3, 4, 6, and 7) to support expansion and implementation goals.
- The program is now fully operational in all Year 1 and Year 2 offices and expansion areas, engaging 11 DCFS offices, including the DCFS Women and Girls Program and more than a dozen community-based organizations (CBOs), such as the Boys & Girls Club of Pasadena.
- The newest office, which will service SPAs 2 and 5, has recently hired its first mentors (friends) and begun enrolling children, while the SPA 1 office is prioritizing its final push for enrollment.
- FOTC-LA Core Mentorship Referrals and Enrollment as of February 27, 2026: 444 referrals; 164 enrollments (73 of whom are black girls); and 24 in process of enrollment (four of whom are black girls).

- **Support for Youth through the Soluna App (Item 16, Agenda of November 18, 2025)**

- [Link](#)

This report provides an update on strategies, timelines, and goals developed in collaboration with various departments and other partners, to expand Soluna’s reach among Los Angeles County youth. Soluna is a free digital mental health and wellness platform funded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as part of the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI). The platform is available to all California youth ages 13–25 and can be accessed through both mobile and web applications.

- Integrated Outreach and Partnership Strategy: DMH and its partners have identified additional youth-facing departments and initiatives to support outreach efforts, including the Department of Arts and Culture, the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC), the Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD), the Ombudsperson for Youth in Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs (STRTPs) within the Auditor-Controller’s Office, and the LA County Superior Court.
- Strategic Pathways and Coordination: DMH and partners have developed a strategy of four partnership pathways designed to leverage the unique operational strengths of participating departments including Community Engagement and Resources, Virtual Staff Trainings, Closed-Loop Referrals, and Bi-Directional Referral Partnerships.
  - DMH distributed a survey to participating departments to identify engagement opportunities and align Soluna outreach with existing programs and service models.
- Implementation Activities: Several departments will be implementing several activities to introduce Soluna to the youth populations they serve including staff trainings to increase the familiarity with the app in order to share it with youth; material distribution of mini-cards, flyers, and posters in English and Spanish at

- tabling events and locations where youth frequent; digital integration into official department websites, social media platforms, and digital newsletters; and introducing the Soluna app to each department's network of providers.
- Community College Partnership: DMH is leveraging existing initiatives and partnerships to introduce Soluna to students and campus communities. The Soluna team has been invited to participate in tabling and outreach activities at multiple May as Mental Health Month events on community college campuses in each Services Area.

**Motions:**

In March 2026, there were no approved by the Board with reports to be **submitted by** DMH.

**Protecting the Privacy of Transgender Los Angeles County Residents**

**(Item 20, Agenda of March 3, 2026)**

**Purpose:** To protect Transgender, Gender-expansive, and Intersex (TGI) people, their families and the communities that support them after the recent federal proposed changes to federal programs that support gender affirming care.

**Improving the Mental Health of Los Angeles County's Youth**

**(Item 14, Agenda of March 17, 2026)**

**Purpose:** Promotes the expansion of mental health supports and services for youth by directing DMH to fund the existing alcove centers and explore options to financially support additional alcove/alcove like centers throughout LA County.

**Reforming and Integrating Mental Healthcare within the County's Homeless Services System**

**(Item 18, Agenda of March 17, 2025)**

**Purpose:** To enhance collaboration and communication between the County's Behavioral Health and Homeless Services Systems; expand FSP to street field teams and HSH; and other actions including enhancing data sharing, relationships with the MCP, and other actions.