☒ Cultural Competency

Working with At-Risk Gang-Involved Youth and Community

DATE & TIME: **November 10, 2026** **9:00AM – 12:00PM**

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 – Zoom**

REGISTRATION: **https://eventshub.dmh.lacounty.gov**

DESCRIPTION: This training will give participants a general overview of gangs, their evolution over the past 50 years, and current trends. It will enhance the providers' understanding of gangs and their associated culture and in turn, better assist them in providing mental health services to youth. In order to provide effective interventions, providers must possess a deep understanding of the dynamics, motivations and challenges faced by at-risk or gang-involved youth. This includes knowledge of gang structures, recruitment tactics, and the social factors that contribute to gang involvement. The training will include a discussion regarding the importance of basic therapeutic techniques in working with gang-involved youth like building trust, engaging in active listening, expressing empathy, and having a non-judgmental attitude. The complexity of working with LGBTQIA+ gang-involved youth will be addressed. Attendees will learn strategies to empower at-risk youth to make positive choices. Last, the importance of a long-term committed, patient, and holistic approach to working with gang-involved youth and the community will be also discussed.

TARGET AUDIENCE: DMH staff and mental health contracted providers rendering specialty mental health services to children, youth and families throughout Los Angeles County.

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

1. Describe 3 cultural risk factors for youth gang-involvement.
2. List 3 recruitment tactics used by gangs.
3. Describe 3 strategies to empower youth to make positive choices.

CONDUCTED BY: **Tina V. Padilla**

COORDINATED BY: **Brian Yager – Mental Health Training Coordinator**
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DEADLINE: **November 10, 2026**

CONTINUING EDUCATION: **3.0 hours for BBS, BRN**
3.0 CE for Psychologist

COST: **NONE**