DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

hope. recovery. wellbeing.

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 Director's Update – November 12, 2026

Development of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultations for Preschool

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) has historically supported early childhood mental health and wellbeing through prevention initiatives, including partnerships with the Department of Public Health's Home Visiting Programs and First 5 LA. More broadly, DMH addresses the behavioral health needs of young children and their families through directly operated and contracted service providers (Provider Directory - Department of Mental Health).

These services include evidence-based interventions, linkages to appropriate resources, and developmentally appropriate mental health supports designed to promote the social-emotional wellbeing of young children and strengthen family and caregiver relationships. Depending on the needs of the child and family, specialized mental health services may be delivered in the home, clinic, or other appropriate settings.

Mental Health Education and Care on School Campuses (K–12 and Early College-Age Transition-Age Youth)

DMH's School-Based Community Access Point (SBCAP) collaborates with schools and school districts throughout Los Angeles County to strengthen access to mental health early intervention, resources, and services for students and their families.

Through partnerships with educational institutions and community stakeholders, SBCAP supports school-based mental health initiatives, including outreach and engagement, mental health promotion, and connections to appropriate behavioral health services. Additionally, SBCAP is responsible for collecting and maintaining data from DMH's Outpatient Programs–Organizational Providers (OP-OP) that deliver school-based mental health services (directly clinical mental health services), referred to as School Mental Health Providers. SBCAP also collaborates with other DMH programs and community partners serving children and transition-age youth (TAY), including LA County Parks and Recreation and select community colleges, to expand opportunities for mental health promotion, engagement, and access to resources. DMH has regularly reported

updates on this Community School Initiative beginning in 2019, with the final report submitted on August 13, 2026.

Key accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2025–2026 include:

- Mental Health Education and Outreach: SBCAP reached more than 50,000 students and caregivers through mental health education workshops, outreach activities, and community engagement events.
- School-Based Mental Health Services: DMH's School Mental Health Providers partnered with 1,531 K–12 public schools across Los Angeles County, delivering mental health services to 14,480 unique students.

As of January 1, 2026, with the transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) prevention services are being overseen by the State. For questions or comments, please contact bhsainfo@cdph.ca.gov. Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA): Population-Based Prevention Program Guide

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me, or staff can contact Robert Byrd, Deputy Director Prevention Services at rbyrd@lacounty.dmh.gov.