

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Community Assistance Recovery Empowerment Program (CARE): Program Update

Martin Jones, Jr., LCSW, Countywide Chief
Department of Mental Health CARE Program
Monday, January 26, 2026, 5:30pm-7:00pm
CARE Court Town Hall

CARE Summary

CARE was successfully implemented in Los Angeles County on December 1, 2023.

Regional offices were established in each of the eight (8) Service Areas.

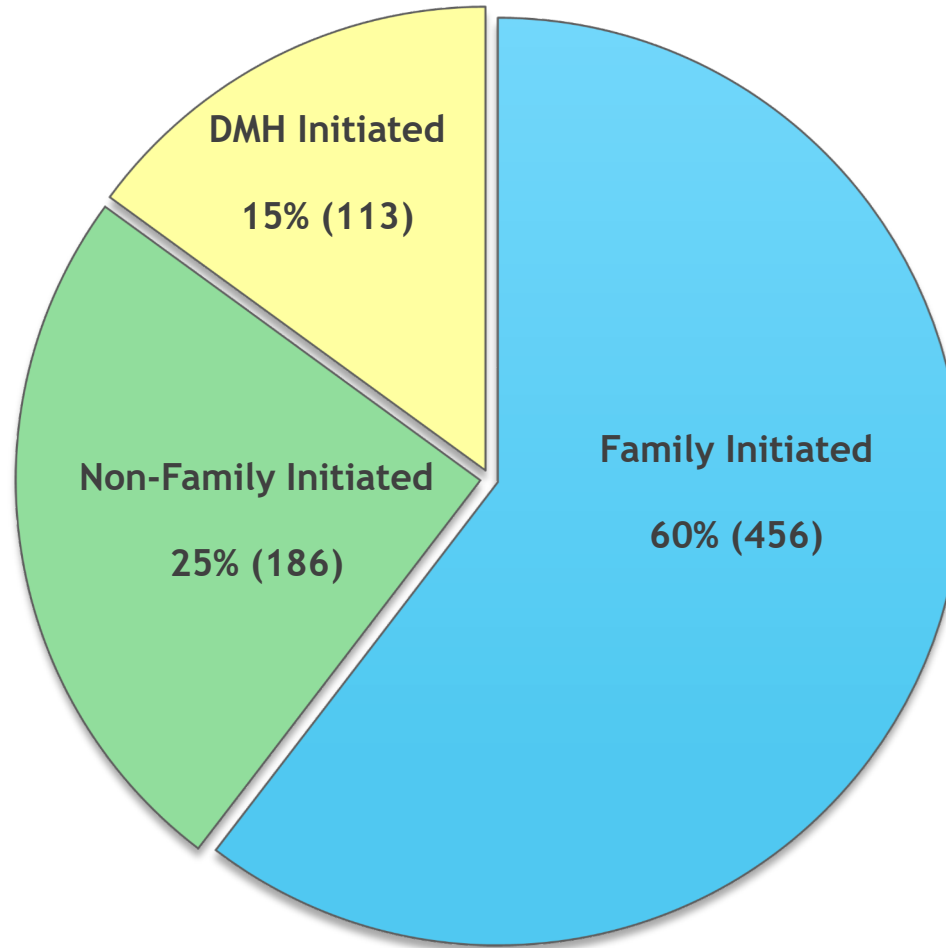
All Service Areas have the capacity to provide the full spectrum of CARE services.

The CARE process is a voluntary Civil Court proceeding which is collaborative and supportive in its approach.

The court proceedings are held at the Norwalk Court in person or virtually. A legal self-help center is also located and available at this site.

Petition Distribution

Source of Petitions



Total: 755

Active Petitions: 428

Data as of 1/15/2026

Reason for Petition Dismissals

- ▶ Client Stable in Current Treatment: 78
- ▶ Unlikely to benefit (Needs Higher Level of Care): 72
- ▶ Does not Meet CARE Court Criteria (Diagnosis): 53
- ▶ Moved Out of County/Resides Out of LA County: 28
- ▶ Incarcerated: 26
- ▶ Unable to Locate Client: 20
- ▶ Declined to Participate: 15
- ▶ Petitioner did not Participate: 12
- ▶ Graduated (Care Plan/Agreement Completed): 7
- ▶ Petition Withdrawn: 5
- ▶ Deceased: 4
- ▶ Mets Criteria for AOT: 4
- ▶ Impairment Criteria not Met: 3

Total Dismissed: 327

Initial Living Status Upon Petition



HOUSED: 556



UNHOUSED: 163



JUSTICE SYSTEM: 36

Program Outcomes

- ▶ CARE Agreements: **167**
- ▶ CARE Plans: **6**
- ▶ Respondent Initiated Program Extension: **16**
- ▶ DMH Initiated Program Extension: **3**
- ▶ 12-Month Graduation: **7**
- ▶ 3rd Quarter Scheduled Graduation Hearings: **25**

Non-Petitioned DMH Referrals

- PMRT/START/MET
- Full-Service Partnership (FSP)
- Department of Health Services (DHS)
- Public Guardian
- Promoting Health Preventing Homelessness
- Court Linkage
- Hollywood 2.0
- DMH Outpatient Clinics/Legal Entities
- Harbor Interfaith
- HOME
- LAPD
- PIH Whittier Hospital
- DMH Enhanced Care Management
- Hollywood Mental Health Court
- Department of State Hospitals
- College Medical Center
- West Los Angeles VA Hospital
- McKinley Mental Health Facility
- Ventura County Behavioral Health
- Board of Supervisors
- Family
- Self
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Community Bridge Housing Court
- Homeless Liaison - Signal Hill
- Huntington Hospital

Total Non-Petition DMH Referrals: 333

SB 317

Number of Suitability
Requests: **722**

- ▶ SB 317, under 5978 (b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code states " A court may refer an individual from misdemeanor proceedings pursuant to section 1370.01 of the Penal Code to CARE Act proceedings."
- ▶ Judges at Hollywood Superior Court, commonly referred to as Mental Health Court, routinely refer Penal Code 1370.01 defendants to be evaluated by DMH's CARE Team as to their suitability to participate in the CARE Court Program.
- ▶ DMH engages in active in-reach in Justice settings to build therapeutic rapport and participate in discharge planning.

Community Outreach

- ▶ Self-Help Calls: 135
- ▶ Face to Face Consults at Court: 239
- ▶ Number of Structured Power Point Presentations: 112
 - ▶ Total Number of Participants: 4,570
- ▶ Number of CARE Information Dissemination Events: 55
 - ▶ Total Number of Community Members: 6,345

CARE Court Office Hours

- ▶ All Languages Welcome
- ▶ All Petitioners receive an email in advance of the meetings
- ▶ Open to the Public via DMH Instagram post
- ▶ Can receive education, support, and guidance around the CARE Court process

▶ [Click Here to Join Meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24739976616595?p=okVA20WwkB6n8N5s1x)

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/24739976616595?p=okVA20WwkB6n8N5s1x>



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
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CARE COURT OFFICE HOURS

Every 4th Thursday | 4 - 5 PM

The CARE (Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment) Court Program is hosting office hours where community members can ask questions and learn more about the program. Office hours will take place on the 4th Thursday of every month from 4 - 5 PM.

Scan the QR code to join virtually:



(English) (Spanish)

For more information, contact us by email at CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov.

CARE Resources and Links



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ABOUT DMH ▾ OUR SERVICES ▾ FOR PROVIDERS ▾ EVENT CALENDAR GET HELP NOW!

CARE COURT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

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CARECourt

LA County Caring Together

The **Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court** is a [new state law](#) meant to address and treat those with severe mental health disorders, such as schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders, by allowing a court to order behavioral health treatment in community-based settings.

Web: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/court-programs/care-court/>

Email: CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov

By focusing on a holistic, person-centered approach, CARE Court aims to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration for individuals and promote long-term recovery through a civil court process. This holistic approach seeks to create a safe, supportive, and healthier community for all residents.

CARE Court is intended to be a path towards recovery for a very specific population of adults.

The goal of the program is to divert individuals with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders from more restrictive settings (such as conservatorships or incarceration) into the community with a supportive Care Agreement or plan to meet their individual needs.

Voluntary treatment is always available and preferred to court involved/ordered treatment.

While the County of Los Angeles is part of the second legislative group/cohort, early implementation will allow us to optimize the resources and services offered across our departments during this state of emergency on homelessness and early CARE implementation.

CARE Court will begin accepting petitions on **December 1, 2023**, but help for community members does NOT have to wait. Residents and family members can access other LACDMH programs, services, and resources today through our website, calling our 24/7 Help Line at (800) 854-7777, or calling/texting the [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#).

Explore the below sections for more information about CARE Court; program details will also be posted on [L.A. Court's website](#) soon. If you have additional questions about CARE Court, email CARECourt@dmh.lacounty.gov.

HOW CARE COURT WORKS

WHO IS INVOLVED IN CARE COURT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS