

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Skid Row Area Children Services

Current mental health services provided to children residing in the skid row area of downtown Los Angeles are currently offered thru:

1. **Community Counseling Services** which is contracted with the Department of Mental Health and provides:
 - individual therapy;
 - group therapy;
 - family therapy; and
 - case management services

2. **Downtown Mental Health Center:** This agency is a directly operated DMH site which primarily serves adults, but offers children services thru:
 - **CalWORKs Program:** Funded by DPSS, it provides mental health services to adults and their children thru:
 - family therapy, and
 - case management services: assisting with linkage and referral for housing, medical and dental care, education, and other essential services.

 - **CalWORKs Homeless Families Project:** Also funded by DPSS, this project is in its third year in the skid row area. It was founded with the direct support of Supervisor Gloria Molina's office, and in collaboration with DPSS, and LAHSA. The objective of the project has been and remains to identify, and assist with relocation of families outside of skid row, and ultimately into permanent housing. Currently the project serves 100 families with 265 children. Services provided are:
 - Individual (for parents) and family therapy; and
 - Intensive case management services: assisting with linkage and referral for emergency shelter, education, medical and dental care, and other essential services.
 - Co-location of DPSS EW's assists with benefit (re)establishment.
 - LAHSA provides transportation services and housing assistance.

 - **Skid Row Family Outreach Team:** Collaboration with DPSS, LAHSA, and DCFS, all member agencies have designated staff to conduct street outreach, screenings and assessments aimed at identifying families in skid row and linking them to needed services, including emergency shelter, and mental health treatment.

Proposed Mental Health Service Enhancements for Skid Row:

- 1. Homeless Outreach Team – Transitional Age Youth:** This street outreach team will specifically target adolescents and young adults in the skid row area, linking them to mental health, housing, and other essential services.
- 2. Engagement Center –** This is being proposed as a co-location of mental health staff at the Midnight Mission aimed at early identification of families and others that may be new to skid row, and at providing mental health support and linkage to other critical services. The Engagement Center will be open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday thru Saturday.
- 3. 23/7 Center –** will expand the hours of operation of Downtown Mental Health Center from a business hours operation to 24 hours/7 days per week. After hours operations (beyond 5 p.m.) will focus on crisis intervention.