



District Attorney Launches Mental Health Division to Bolster Innovative Justice Efforts

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey has announced an expansion of her office’s efforts to help people living with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

The Mental Health Division brings together deputy district attorneys whose cases involve defendants who have been declared incompetent to stand trial or are seeking alternative sentences due to their mental illness.

The new division – the first of its kind in a prosecutor’s office in California and, possibly, the nation – was established effective in January.

“Our goal is to protect the public and to assist people in getting the mental health and other services they need to be productive members of our community,” Lacey said. “We also want to make sure that jails and prisons are reserved for the most serious and violent offenders.”

The new division builds on Lacey’s legacy of leadership in seeking a more just and effective criminal justice system for people living with mental illness. The division staff will seek opportunities to expand treatment and other community-based services for people whose untreated mental illness historically has resulted in longer periods of incarceration and mental deterioration.

The Mental Health Division will serve as a resource to deputy district attorneys faced with questions about potential diversion cases and motions made under Senate Bill 1810, the new pre-trial mental health diversion law. It also will provide training to attorneys and first responders, advocate for more community-based mental health resources and pursue legislation to enact meaningful criminal justice reform in California.



Joining District Attorney Jackie Lacey are LAPD Chief Michel R. Moore, Supervisor Kathryn Barger, and Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

An important internal policy component of this mental health continuum is Lacey’s directive that allows deputy district attorneys to consider a defendant’s mental health when deciding if they should participate in a diversion program.

“With this policy, I am encouraging my lawyers to make courageous decisions and do the right thing,” Lacey said. “We must make informed decisions to ensure public safety and help another human being in crisis.”

Since her election in 2012, Lacey has worked diligently to address the needs of those with mental illness. She formed what would become the County’s Mental Health Advisory Board with mental health and criminal justice professionals in 2013.

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
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Calendar of Events

Center Theatre Group

(213) 628-2772

www.centertheatregroup.org

Ahmanson Theatre

Through March 10 – Cinderella

Kirk Douglas Theatre

March 7 through April 28 – Block Party 2019

Mark Taper Forum

March 5 through April 21 – Lackawanna Blues

Grand Park

(213) 972-8080

www.grandparkla.org

Every Tuesday through Thursday (March through May) – Lunch a la Park Food Trucks

Every Wednesday and Friday (March through May) – Lunch a la Park Yoga reTREAT

The Music Center

(213) 972-7211

www.musiccenter.org

Walt Disney Concert Hall

February 23 – William Grant Still & The Harlem Renaissance

February 28 – Dudamel Conducts Mahler

March 1 – Dudamel Conducts Mahler

March 2 – Dudamel Conducts Mahler

March 3 – Dudamel Conducts Mahler

March 9 – William Grant Still & The Harlem Renaissance

March 9 – Dudamel & Yuja Wang

March 10 – Dudamel & Yuja Wang

MENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

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The advisory board created its “Blueprint for Change,” a 2015 report that mapped out a path to address issues within the mental health and justice systems.

In response to its recommendations, Lacey has provided free mental health awareness training to more than 1,400 first responders from smaller police agencies. The training shows first responders how to safely de-escalate encounters with people in a mental health crisis, improving the safety of the officers and the public.

In 2016, Lacey appointed the nation’s first mental health liaison for a local prosecutorial agency. The liaison worked in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders to address ways to safely help people in a mental health crisis stay out of the criminal justice system.

Visit <http://hr.lacounty.gov> for information on employment opportunities with the County of Los Angeles



Members of the Board

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Hilda L. Solis

First District

Mark Ridley-Thomas

Second District

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Third District

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Submissions to the DIGEST may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

Check out the DIGEST at:
<http://hr.lacounty.gov/about-the-county/>

Black History Month

Reflections by African American Department Heads



District Attorney Jackie Lacey

establish an occurrence in which all Americans could be educated on the origins, struggles, and the achievements of African Americans throughout United States history.

And even though his name might not be readily recognizable, he undoubtedly left a legacy that we are still are acknowledging and celebrating over 40 years later.

The significance of his story is not lost on me. As the first female elected District Attorney in Los Angeles County who is also African American, I appreciate individuals like Mr. Woodson whose sacrifice and dedication created a pathway for individuals like myself to step into a role that was traditionally not held by a minority.

Let us not forget history’s “hidden figures”, such as Mr. Woodson, whose contributions helped establish a time of recognition and remembrance that we now celebrate as Black History Month.

The struggles and sacrifices of African Americans, as well as their significant contributions to our country, are subjects I think about continuously. However, during the month of February, I especially take the opportunity to purposely reflect upon our history, and learn about the myriad ways we have worked for the betterment



Fire Chief Daryl L. Osby

of human kind. I also reflect upon those African Americans and others whom fought, sacrificed, and in some instances died in order to create opportunities for me that didn’t always exist for African Americans. In celebration of Black History

Month, I have a renewed commitment to ‘Pay it Forward’ and a reminder that my life has significant purpose and a responsibility to carry on the legacy of opening doors for others.

As the first African American woman to sit as Executive Director at the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles, every day feels like a celebration of Black History Month. Black History Month means a time of remembrance, recognition and re-commitment.

Remembrance of the foundational role African Americans and our African ancestors played in the history, culture, and development of this nation and so many other nations around the globe.

Recognition of the steps, bridges, ladders and foundations that many African Americans and our African ancestors created and laid. Their efforts allow me and others to be who we are, be what we want, and be the first, but hopefully not the last.

Re-commitment to understanding and embracing our history. It is one of my most fervent hopes that future generations pick up the mantle and continue to push through the remaining boundaries and barriers.

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*Monique King-Viehlend
Executive Director
Community Development
Commission/Housing Authority
of the County of Los Angeles*

Join the County of L.A. —
March for Babies
Saturday, April 27, 2019
6:30 am Registration
8:30 am Start
Grand Park

<https://www.countyofla-mfb.com/>



Kitten Academy at Camp Scott Applauded

The Board of Supervisors recognized and honored the Kitten Academy at Camp Joseph Scott during its regular meeting at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

The Kitten Academy is an innovative eight-week program that emphasizes the importance of the human-animal bond and its impact on both emotional and mental well-being. The first-of-its-kind approach teaches probation youth new skills pertaining to animal care, as well as an appreciation and an understanding of animal behavior. The program, launched in November 2018 as a collaboration between the Probation Department, Department of Animal Care and Control (DACC), Department of Mental Health, Public Health, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and the Juvenile Court Health Services, pairs kittens in need of foster homes with probation youth to care for them. The youth provide kittens with the nurturing they need until a forever home is found and each kitten has graduated from the academy.

The kittens cared for at Camp Scott, the only all-girls probation juvenile residential treatment facility in Los Angeles County, are too young to be placed in animal shelters and require special care and nurturing. The girls learn how to feed, groom, handle, and socialize kittens that are as young as four weeks old with the help of the DACC staff and volunteers. The youth are also responsible for monitoring the kitten's weight and behavior and journal about their experiences. In addition to teaching responsible behavior, the Kitten Academy is providing the girls with valuable training to one day possibly work in an animal-related field.

The next litter of kittens are expected to be ready for adoption this month. To adopt a kitten or any animal that needs a home please call (562) 940-6898 or visit <http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>.

A generous grant from PetSmart Charities and Maddie's Fund help continue this program.

MY KITTY VALENTINE

WILL YOU BE MINE?



\$20 cat adoptions have been extended to February 28th!
#DACCARES

www.animalcare.lacounty.gov

February is American Heart Month



Donate A Toy Today!

Help us bring joy to children in low-income communities by donating directly from our Toy Loan AmazonSmile Charity Lists at <http://toydrive.lacounty.gov/>.

Choose a Toy Loan Center to support them directly via their AmazonSmile Charity List.

To learn more about the Toy Loan Program visit <http://Bit.ly/ToyLoanDonation> "Toy Loan. The program with a heart."

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Toy Loan is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.



Retirees

Congratulations for your many years of service to the County of Los Angeles

45+ Years

HEALTH SERVICES: Rosa Diaz, Elizabeth Valadez
INTERNAL SERVICES: Ricardo Paez
PROBATION: James L. Sanders
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Debra A. Currie
SHERIFF: Thomas A. McCleary
SUPERIOR COURT: Alicia Cruz
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, AGING & COMMUNITY SERVICES: Cynthia D. Banks

40+ Years

BEACHES & HARBORS: Roger Salazar
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Yvonne Williams
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Betty L. Maxwell
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Denise I. Ellis
HEALTH SERVICES: Leonela Bagdasarian
INTERNAL SERVICES: Sherry L. Leeth, Barbara Leung
MENTAL HEALTH: Alisha Dukes-Jacobs, Roderick E. Shaner, Luana J. Wilkerson
PROBATION: Henry B. Pedregon, Jr.
PUBLIC DEFENDER: Geraldine Peace
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Catherine M. Dias, Rosa Dominguez, Patrick H. Miles
SHERIFF: Bobby D. Denham
SUPERIOR COURT: Amirah S. Hendrickson, Bobbi Nolan
TREASURER & TAX COLLECTOR: Diana Miles-Browning

35+ Years

ASSESSOR: Juliet Abdel-Shehid
CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Fallon N. Cai
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Linda Chilstrom, William W. Hodgman, John K. Spillane
FIRE: John E. Davis, Julian E. Jimenez, William E. Lenzen
HEALTH SERVICES: Darlene Commack, Maria Crown, Maria F. Loya, Thypham D. Pham, Barbara I. Price, Adolfo Viramontes
INTERNAL SERVICES: Bruce D. Drury, Eileen B. Gomez
LACERA: Chris Rodriguez
MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER: Mary T. Macias
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Virginia E. Gandara, Sherry L. Turner
PUBLIC WORKS: Gary Hildebrand
SHERIFF: Warren R. Asmus, Alicia E. Ault, Connie E. Chandler, Albert Lapenson, John C. Stedman
SUPERIOR COURT: Lori-Ann Gertler

30+ Years

ASSESSOR: Clifton Sutton
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Angie A. Johnson

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Patricia L. Perez
DISTRICT ATTORNEY: Javier Beltran, Amy-Hannah Broersma, Aurora Y. Tanalega, Michelle R. Wallace
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HEALTH SERVICES: Frederic S. Bongard, Remy A. Cuesta, Shelda U. Escano, Chee S. Han, Frederick Lowder
MENTAL HEALTH: Torialai Zari
PROBATION: Joseph L. Casillas, Jr., Mavis McKnight
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Angel V. Brice, Carlos Cendejas, Juan A. Gutierrez, Elizabeth R. Torres
PUBLIC WORKS: Darrel D. Bozarth, Jonathan C. Hubbell, Mark C. Mischo, Christopher J. Stone, Wu F. Tan
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SUPERIOR COURT: Colleen Hendricks, Taryn A. McCullough, Debra J. Scacco
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR: Amlin P. Landers

25+ Years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES: Jacqueline A. Dean, Randolph M. Gracia
FIRE: Christophe P. McKernan
HEALTH SERVICES: Annie Anonas-Terna, Maria A. Iraheta, Juanita G. Kato, Eleanor M. Lynch, Davida E. Ng, Antonio V. Ocegueda, Gail D. Roberts, Lilia Stuart
INTERNAL SERVICES: Jocelyn P. Law, Joseph N. Sandoval, Sharon M. Washington
MENTAL HEALTH: Maria M. Hinojosa
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PROBATION: Donald F. Sayles
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES: Angelina Capps, Gaubriella Hayer, Baghdassar Sukiassians
PUBLIC WORKS: Rani V. Iyer
SHERIFF: John Dall, Rolando Deloa, Michael R. Doucet, Maria Falbisaner, Fernando Febles, Patrick J. Murphy, Donald R. Olson, Mara B. Rhone-Key, Tracy D. River, Eduardo Rivero, Jeffrey B. Sherfey, Leslie K. Sutton, Kristi J. Yeager
SUPERIOR COURT: Sandra E. Bires, Patricia Sanchez



LOS ANGELES COUNTY AFRICAN AMERICAN EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

Elevate.Educate.Empower

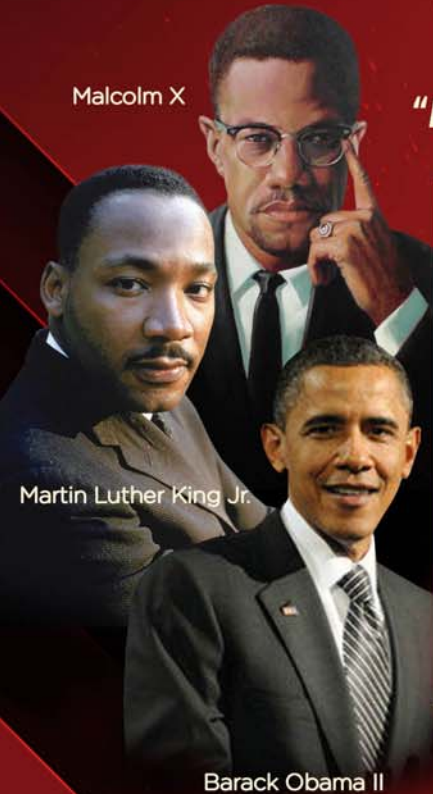


10th Year Anniversary

"Black Migration & Urban Realities"



Aretha Franklin



Malcolm X

Martin Luther King Jr.

Barack Obama II

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.I.N.G
BLACK HISTORY
MONTH *A Celebration*

Thursday, February 28, 2019

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Board of Supervisors Hearing Room 381
500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012



Master of Ceremonies
Roland Bynum



Special Guest
Sachi A. Hamai, CEO
Los Angeles County

Honorary Chair, Supervisor Janice Hahn
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Honorary Co-Chair, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor, Second District

Honorary Co-Chair, Scott Minnix
Director, Internal Services Director

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April Robinson, CSSD (323) 889-3237
Carol Cook, DCFS (818) 296-5620



This event is open to the public and we cordially invite you to attend.

Your Participation is Voluntary and Greatly Appreciated

The Los Angeles County African American Employees Association is a recognized 501 (c) (3) organization and a registered County employee organization.

www.LACAAEA.org 