

COUNTYWIDE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COORDINATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE **January 11, 2023** MEETING Meeting Conducted Via Microsoft Teams

MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Chair: Janice Hahn, Supervisor, Fourth District and Chair of the County Board of Supervisors

Natasha Alexander-Mingo, Chief U.S. Probation Officer
Erika Anzoategui, County Alternate Public Defender
David Cons for Martin Estrada, U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California
Beatriz Dieringer, California League of Cities
Ricardo Garcia, County Public Defender
Chief Adolfo Gonzales, County Chief Probation Officer, Vice Chair of CCJCC
*Nicole Gougis for Haydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney
Douglas Haubert, County Prosecutors Association
Cosme Lozano, President, Southeast Police Chiefs Association
Chris Margaris, Chief, Southern Division, California Highway Patrol
Irene Pelayo for Kelly LoBianco, Director, County Department of Economic Opportunity
Robert Philibosian, Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County
Kris Pitcher for Michel Moore, Chief, Los Angeles Police Department
Susan Pithey for Robert Bonta, California Attorney General
Maricela Ramirez for Debra Duardo, Superintendent, Los Angeles County Office of Education
Judge Kevin Rosenberg, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court
Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on Human Relations
*David Turla for Fesia Davenport, County Chief Executive Officer
Odey Ukpo, Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner
Judge Yvette Verastegui, Assistant Supervising Judge, Criminal Division, Superior Court
Joseph J. Williams for Robert Luna, Sheriff
Lisa Wong, Psy. D., Acting Director, County Department of Mental Health
Sharon L. Woo for George Gascón, District Attorney
Norayr Zurabyan for Dawyn R. Harrison, Interim County Counsel

*Not a designated alternate

I. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Janice Hahn, County Supervisor, Fourth District

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m. by Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair of the County Board of Supervisors and Chair of CCJCC. Supervisor Hahn welcomed attendees to the first CCJCC meeting of this year.

II. CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

Chair Janice Hahn, County Supervisor, Fourth District

Supervisor Hahn stated that two of her priorities this year with respect to public safety are addressing gun violence and enhancing the Alternative Crisis Response system.

She noted that gun violence is a complex problem that will require a multitude of complex solutions. The focus of her approach is on keeping guns off the street and investing in community-based programs. As an example, last year Supervisor Hahn hosted multiple gun buyback events throughout her District, funded violence intervention programs, and introduced new ordinances in the County to enhance gun regulations. She will continue with these efforts this year and stated that this committee can assist in addressing the problem of gun violence.

Alternative Crisis Response, which will be discussed in more detail under Agenda Item IV, provides help to people experiencing a mental health crisis. Specifically, it provides someone for individuals to call, someone to respond, and somewhere to go. Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams are deployed to meet the needs of people having a mental health crisis. In addition, the 9-8-8 telephone line, which went live last year, will also help to relieve law enforcement of responding to mental health crises.

Supervisor Hahn emphasized that it is important that there is coordination and collaboration in order for the Alternative Crisis Response system to be successful. This committee can assist with these efforts.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Chair Janice Hahn, County Supervisor, Fourth District

There were no requests for revisions to the minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting. Robert Philibosian of the Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County made a motion to approve the minutes. This was seconded by Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia.

ACTION: The motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2022 meeting was approved without objection.

IV. ALTERNATIVE CRISIS RESPONSE PROGRAM

Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D., Interim Director, Department of Mental Health
Jennifer Hallman, LCSW/MPA, Alternative Crisis Response Manager,
Department of Mental Health

Dr. Lisa Wong, Interim Director of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), provided an overview of the implementation and operationalization of the County's Alternative Crisis Response (ACR) program.

In June 2020, Supervisor Hahn introduced an alternative to law enforcement for crisis response motion that directed County leaders to reimagine the 911 system and develop non-law enforcement responses to emergencies. This motion was approved by the Board of Supervisors and created the ACR initiative as a partnership between DMH and CEO-ATI.

The Alternative Crisis Response unit within DMH is working to build partnerships with law enforcement. Two areas of significant focus are diverting appropriate calls from 911 to 988 and developing best practices for when law enforcement is needed during a mental health crisis.

Dr. Wong introduced Jennifer Hallman, ACR Manager, to provide more details about the ongoing efforts regarding ACR.

In October 2020, a federal bill established 988 as a national number for behavioral health crisis calls. In July 2022, 988 officially launched nationwide, triggering key program expansions in Los Angeles County. In November 2022, DMH officially assumed responsibility for ACR implementation in Los Angeles County.

Ms. Hallman stated that the objective of ACR is to have a robust, reliable, and timely 24/7 mental health alternative to law enforcement response for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. As Supervisor Hahn referenced, three aspects are:

- Someone to call: 988 is the preferred, no-wrong-door place to access crisis care countywide
- Someone to respond: Mental health field intervention teams (FIT) available 24/7
- Somewhere to go: Urgent Care Centers (Crisis Stabilization Unit)

In addition, an added element to these three is “Someplace to treat,” in which urgent appointments are available within 48 hours via centralized scheduling.

The aspiration for ACR is that individuals experiencing a mental health crisis in Los Angeles County are treated quickly, effectively, and with empathy at the least restrictive level of care to meet their short- and long-term needs in the mental health system as appropriate so that they can remain in their community.

Ms. Hallman discussed the three aspects of ACR in more detail:

Someone To Call

Services provided by Didi Hirsch 988 Crisis Hotline include:

1. 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, mental health crisis, substance use crisis, or emotional distress
2. Crisis intervention, risk assessment & de-escalation
3. Information sharing on resources to people in distress and their family and friends
4. Follow-up services to high-risk callers
5. Direct referral to DMH ACCESS for in-person response for third-party callers

Services provided by the DMH ACCESS Helpline include:

1. 24/7 entry point for mental health services in Los Angeles County
2. Anyone can call this line to request FIT dispatch

There are around 5,000 calls and texts each month through the 988 Crisis Hotline, which has about 400 trained counselors. Approximately 95% of the calls are safely resolved over the telephone.

There are close to 4,000 calls to the DMH ACCESS Helpline each month¹, which has 75 call center staff. Approximately 30% of calls result in field response dispatch.

Someone To Respond

Services Provided by FIT include:

1. Crisis intervention by a team of mental health professionals (e.g., clinician and peer) where the individual is most comfortable (e.g., home, school)
2. Evaluation of involuntary detention if needed & safety planning
3. Education and support for family members
4. Transport, or arrange for transport, to least restrictive setting, if needed
5. Referrals/linkage to ongoing mental health treatment

DMH Field Intervention Teams include 33 Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRTs) and one Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT). There are 5 to 10 PMRTs in operation after hours.

There are about 1,200 dispatches by FIT per month. Approximately 98% of FIT calls do not require law enforcement involvement, and 70% of the calls do not require 5150/5585.

Other Field Response Teams supported by DMH include 95 clinicians assigned with law enforcement and 15 therapeutic transport teams.

¹ This number may include multiple calls about the same crisis; the 30% dispatched is based off of the ~4,000 calls. Of the unique crisis calls referred for dispatch, ~78% are dispatched. Some calls are cancelled by the caller or unable to contact the individual in crisis.

Somewhere To Go

Services Provided by Crisis Stabilization Units include:

1. 24/7 intensive, short-term stabilization in a warm and less sterile/clinical environment
2. On-the-spot evaluations for therapeutic needs to avoid the need for inpatient services
3. Includes assessment, therapy, medication services and referrals
4. Services are less than 24-hours

There are nine urgent care centers/crisis stabilization units operating 24/7 throughout the County, with 118 chairs in the facilities. The average hours of service received is 15, and two-thirds of cases do not require inpatient hospitalization.

For inpatient care, there are 35 facilities and 2,400 beds.

Ms. Hallman shared that there are several fact sheets that DMH is seeking to distribute so that the public is more aware of the ACR services that are available. She asked for assistance from other Departments/Agencies in making these available to clients and other members of the public.

The priorities and initiatives for ACR in the coming year are:

1. Focus on equity in service access, experience, and outcomes
2. Expand Field Intervention Team availability to 24/7 countywide to ensure consistent response time under one hour for crisis calls
3. Partner with law enforcement agencies to coordinate services and enable “no wrong door” for mental health crisis response

The current initiatives associated with these three priorities are:

- Monitoring disaggregated program and operational data for any discrepancies in service experience
- Prioritizing program expansion based on ARDI equity needs data
- Contracting with providers to add more Field Intervention Teams
- Increasing capacity of DMH Field Intervention Teams by hiring more peers
- Developing dispatch board to coordinate Field Intervention Teams systemwide
- Planning to lease beds at hospitals for faster patient intake
- Working to develop standardized screening questions for triaging mental health crisis (911 vs 988 vs FIT vs Co-Response)
- Strengthening DMH-Law Enforcement collaboration

911 to 988 Diversion Example

Ms. Hallman discussed an example of what 911 to 988 diversion looks like in practice. Specifically, since February 2021, the LAPD and Didi Hirsch have been working on a program to divert 911 calls to Didi Hirsch mental health counselors so that those in suicidal crisis or severe emotional distress could receive appropriate treatment.

The types of calls that are suitable for diversion include:

- Suicide attempt
- Possible suicide attempt
- Mental health condition
- Possible mental health condition

In 2021, 1,660 LAPD 911 calls were diverted to 988, and 1,253 calls were diverted from January through November 2022.

85% of the calls do not require any type of in-person rescue, and 6% of the calls redirected back to LAPD 911.

LAPD 911 diverted calls see a higher proportion of high-risk callers, Latino and Black callers, and male callers.

ACR-Law Enforcement: Opportunities for Collaboration

Ms. Hallman discussed current challenges and opportunities for collaboration between ACR and law enforcement. These include the following:

- Challenge: Law enforcement officers are often the first and default responders for mental health crises
 - Opportunity: Free up law enforcement resources and prevent adverse outcomes by setting up diversion programs to address mental health crises within the mental health system (e.g., 988)
 - Opportunity: Set-up process for bringing in mental health teams when law enforcement is responding to an incident
- Challenge: No standardized screening tools and triage protocols to determine appropriate level of care for mental health crises
 - Opportunity: Establish a shared understanding of what the most appropriate, least restrictive level of care means
 - Opportunity: Develop standardized screening tools to use across the system to quickly and effectively dispatch to the right level of care
- Challenge: Inconsistent practices when both law enforcement and mental health response is needed during a mental health crisis field response
 - Opportunity: Set norms and best practices around handling mental health crisis calls requiring law enforcement support
 - Opportunity: Remove any other barriers for collaboration

Supervisor Hahn suggested that members of this committee may wish to visit the crisis stabilization centers to see the operations in practice. She also noted the importance of PMRTs and MCOTs as a mobile response that can meet people where they are.

Los Angeles County Public Defender Ricardo Garcia stated that his office can place ACR informational flyers in reception areas to help inform the public.

Mark Delgado, Executive Director of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), stated that his office will coordinate with DMH in outreach to the members of this committee for both on-site visits to crisis stabilization centers and informing the public about ACR services.

Los Angeles County Chief Probation Officer Adolfo Gonzales inquired as to whether juveniles can be assisted by the ACR services and if the informational flyers are available in different languages.

Ms. Hallman confirmed that the services are available to juveniles as well as adults. In addition, information flyers are available in Spanish and DMH is working on having them available in other languages.

Chief Cosme Lozano, President of the Southeast Police Chiefs Association, noted that law enforcement agencies have been working with DMH. He expressed support for continued cooperation so that law enforcement is not the default response in situations where the individuals may be better served by being placed in contact with mental health clinicians.

Robin Toma, Executive Director of the County Commission on Human Relations, stated that his office would also be interested in helping to provide information about ACR services to the public.

He noted that in many cases involving hate crimes or hate incidents, the individuals engaged in this behavior may exhibit signs of mental illness. It is therefore important to educate both community organizations in the response network to acts of hate as well as bystanders who may be witnesses.

Supervisor Hahn made a motion to form an Ad Hoc Work Group to develop best practices for DMH to partner with law enforcement agencies and others in support of Alternative Crisis Response and 988 implementation. Further, she asked that CCJCC staff work with DMH to convene this Work Group in coordination with the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and County Police Chiefs Associations, with quarterly updates to CCJCC.

Dr. Wong seconded this motion.

A public comment was made by Dr. Genevieve Clavreul.

ACTION: The motion to form an Ad Hoc Work Group to develop best practices for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to partner with law enforcement agencies and others in support of Alternative Crisis Response and 988 implementation was approved without objection.

CCJCC staff will work with DMH to convene this Work Group in coordination with the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, California Highway Patrol, and County Police Chiefs Associations, with quarterly updates to CCJCC.

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online under documents for this meeting at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

V. LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT ON HATE CRIMES

Robin Toma, Executive Director, County Commission on Human Relations

Robin Toma, Executive Director of the County Commission on Human Relations, provided an overview of the Los Angeles County Annual Report on Hate Crimes. This report covers 2021.

There were a total of 786 hate crimes in the County in 2021, which is the highest number recorded in nearly 20 years (since 2002). There has been a trend upward since 2013 (when the number was 384), and the 2021 total is nearly 23% higher than in 2020, when the total was 641.

The following are key findings in the report:

- 74% of hate crimes were of a violent nature, the highest percentage in at least 20 years.
- Hate crimes grew across all motivation categories, but the largest increase was in racial crimes, which jumped 17% from 406 to 473. Crimes targeting African Americans, Latino/as, Asians, and Middle Easterners all grew.
- Although they only comprise about 9% of the County's population, African Americans were again disproportionately targeted and comprised 46% of racial hate crime victims.
- There were 77 anti-Asian crimes, the largest number in at least 20 years. In nearly a quarter of these attacks, the victims were blamed for the pandemic.
- Sexual Orientation Crimes increased 15%, and 85% of them targeted gay men.
- Religious crimes spiked 29%, and the rate of violence was the highest on record. 74% of these attacks targeted Jews.
- There were 41 anti-transgender crimes, nearly tying the largest number ever documented. 93% of these crimes were violent, a rate much higher than racial, sexual orientation, and religious attacks.

- Hate crimes in which anti-immigrant slurs were used skyrocketed 48% from 56 to 83, the largest number ever recorded. Suspects used anti-immigrant language in nearly half of anti-Latino/a crimes and in 27% of anti-Asian offenses.
- Hate crimes committed by gang members increased 69%. 74% of these were racially motivated.

The largest number of hate crimes took place in the Metro Region Service Planning Area (which stretches from West Hollywood to Boyle Heights), followed by the San Fernando Valley Service Planning Area. However, if one accounts for population, the Metro Region had the highest rate followed by the West Region Service Planning Area (which includes parts of West Los Angeles, Santa Monica, Beverly Hills, etc.)

Mr. Toma discussed data relating to hate crimes by motivation². As noted, hate crimes based on race/ethnicity/national origin increased 17% in 2021. This comprised 58% of all hate crimes. Those hate crimes that were based on sexual orientation increased 15% in 2021 and comprised 17% of all hate crimes. Those based on religion increased 29% and comprised 14% of all hate crimes. Those based on gender (which includes anti-transgender crimes) increased 46% and comprised 6% of all hate crimes.

Data on racial hate crimes by known targeted group show the following: There was a 30% increase in hate crimes against Blacks, which comprised 46% of total racial hate crimes in 2021. There was a 10% increase in hate crimes against Latinos/as, which comprised 25% of total racial hate crimes. There was a 67% increase in hate crimes against Asian/Pacific Islanders, which comprised 16% of the total. Hate crimes against whites was 9% of the total racial hate crimes, although the number decreased by 14% from the previous year. Hate crimes against Middle Easterners was 2% of the total of racial hate crimes, but the number increased by 450% from the previous year.

One of the actions taken by the County Commission on Human Relations is the creation of the LA vs Hate initiative, which seeks to educate, engage, and promote unity and action against hate. This was launched in 2019 to address both hate crimes and hate incidents that may not rise to the level of a crime.

One feature of LA vs Hate is that it provides a countywide system for reporting acts of hate by calling 211 and receiving free assistance. Specialized care coordinators assist each person to make sure that they receive the help that they need. This can also be done online through lavshate.org.

There is also a network of community partners that directly assist individuals to ensure that they are not only getting the help that they need individually, but that policies and practices at schools, workplaces, and businesses are also being addressed.

² Note: Some cases contained multiple motivations. The total number of motivations does not equal the total number of hate crimes.

Training is provided within communities to help people be prepared to know what to do when they experience or witness acts of hate.

The Commission on Human Relations has been working with law enforcement agencies to ensure that victims of hate crimes and hate incidents have access to resources that are available to them. A CCJCC Work Group was created last year that includes representatives from the Sheriff's Department, LAPD, and Police Chiefs Association. Collaborative efforts with the Commission on Human Relations include the development of a training video and information for brochures.

In addition, the Commission is working with the Metropolitan Transit Authority on the LA vs. Hate initiative.

Supervisor Hahn noted that it is important that government representatives that interact with the public are familiar with the various telephone numbers and websites that provide resources to those in need. In this way, even if an individual calls the wrong number, they can get placed with the correct one.

ACTION: For information only.

The 2021 Annual Hate Crime Report can be accessed online at the website for the Commission on Human Relations located at: <https://hrc.lacounty.gov>

In addition, the website for LA vs. Hate is located at: <https://www.lavshate.org>

PowerPoint slides that were used for this presentation have been posted online under documents for this meeting at <http://ccjcc.lacounty.gov>.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 p.m.