

# SPRING 2026 Connecting

*A newsletter for the friends and supporters of L.A. CADA*

## A Bridge Worth Building: The Journey to Find Fidel a Home

*By Carlos Escobedo Alhambra Outreach Team*



*Audrey Marcos, Outreach Navigator and Michelle Blanco, Outreach Navigator with Fidel*

was reluctant to share his personal information. But the team kept showing up. They kept meeting him where he was, literally and figuratively, until the bridge of trust was strong enough to hold the next step. On March 25th, 2026, that trust paid off. Fidel signed a new housing application and agreed to work with a Department of Health Services (DHS) caseworker named Shantal, who reviewed his medical and mental health history and determined that an Enriched Residential Care (ERC) facility would be the best fit for him. ERC facilities are assisted living homes that provide around-the-clock support for individuals with physical and mental health needs, offering not just a roof, but the care and structure that someone like Fidel genuinely requires to thrive.

The team then accompanied Fidel through every step of the process, from an in-person intake assessment to a facility tour in Skid Row, where Fidel was honest about his concerns. He liked the facility, but knew that being in that environment could put his recovery at risk. Rather than pushing him to accept what was available, the team listened.

When the Alhambra Outreach Team first met Fidel Perez, he was living on the streets of Alhambra, wheelchair-bound, a double amputee, and deeply distrustful of the people trying to help him. At 58 years old, Fidel had been referred to housing programs multiple times over the years, but nothing had ever stuck. For a man who had been let down so many times, trust didn't come easily, and that was something the team had to earn.

That process of earning trust is at the heart of what L.A. CADA's outreach work is all about. Outreach workers are staff members who go directly into the community, onto streets, into encampments, and to known locations where vulnerable individuals spend their time, to build relationships and connect people to the services and housing they need. It is slow, patient, and deeply human work. And in Fidel's case, it made all the difference.

Over the course of several months, the team located Fidel, lost contact when he disappeared from a temporary care placement, and went back out to find him again, canvassing the city at his known locations, refusing to give up. When they found him again on December 29th, 2025, Fidel was still guarded. He worried about people stealing his identity and



*Fidel at his new Home*



A message from  
**JUAN NAVARRO**  
Chief Executive Officer, L.A. CADA

## Building Bridges to Behavioral Health

Have you ever heard that people build too many walls and not enough bridges? It's an enduring metaphor because it's true. We tend to isolate ourselves in times of struggle, and alcohol, drug, and mental health challenges are among life's most painful. Isolation. We get it. Why share personal information when behavioral health disorders have such a punishing stigma? Why reach out when there's not enough affordable resources? And what about systems that have been insensitive to deep-rooted individual needs? That's why we need to build bridges to people; too many remain separated from treatment by economic, social, and structural barriers.

As a movement, the behavioral healthcare field has actively built new bridges to care. Those bridges have names: evidence-based practices (universal access to what works), harm reduction (you may not quit today, but you can take steps toward recovery), trauma-informed care (unresolved emotional pain impacts recovery), and many other approaches proven effective by scientific research. Yet, the federal government tells us that 23.4% of Americans still need mental health treatment, and roughly 16.8% require substance use care. We know more bridges are needed.

L.A. CADA not only uses bridges built by the behavioral health field; we have built many of our own. One is called the Greater Whittier LGBTQ+ Center, established in 2024 to offer community treatment to an historically marginalized population in need. Enhanced Care Management or ECM is another new bridge. This L.A. CADA project provides coordinated care for the agency's most vulnerable Medi-Cal participants, particularly those experiencing homelessness, justice-involved individuals, and pregnant mothers – no one has to navigate complex systems alone. The bridge is formed with bricks of daily street outreach to find, build trust with, and ultimately house L.A. County's disadvantaged residents. The mortar is accessible facilities, including Recovery Bridge Housing which provides more than 400 beds in 14 programs throughout L.A. County where unhoused people can establish sobriety and mental stability.

We're also working with government to improve existing infrastructure. California is undertaking a comprehensive transformation of Medi-Cal through CalAIM – a system that reshapes how behavioral health services are funded and delivered across the state. Providers are being called to move away from siloed, one-size-fits-all treatment models. We're responding with integrated, whole-person approaches that form a bridge of community partnerships to address a patient's clinical needs, together with equally vital requirements for housing, food, transportation, jobs, legal support, and social connection.

But are the bridges holding? As the public increasingly demands proof of treatment effectiveness, we're answering that question, too. Today, measurable, outcomes-based recovery goals and objectives are assessed to document each patient's recovery progress. And there's no toll charge to treatment. L.A. CADA is here for you at (562) 906-2676.

*Juan Navarro*

# Service Beyond Self - Centering Lived Experience in Community Leadership

By : Nolan Ross Samé-Weil, MBA-HCM, CADC II, ICADC (Director of Development)

Working at L.A. CADA offers the privilege of witnessing the resilience and humanity of those we serve. Their stories remind us that meaningful change occurs when communities unite, systems listen to those most affected, and lived experience is valued as a source of wisdom and leadership.

This belief guides my approach to both professional and volunteer service.

In 2024, I was appointed by Long Beach City Councilmember Cindy Allen to serve on the City of Long Beach Equity & Human Relations Commission, representing District 2 and its approximately 53,670 residents. The commission fosters understanding, advances equity, and addresses discrimination and human relations issues citywide.

Serving on the commission has reinforced the importance of creating spaces where diverse voices are heard and respected. Equity is not an abstract concept; it is grounded in the daily experiences of people facing barriers related to race, identity, housing, healthcare, disability, language, and economic opportunity. Communities thrive when individuals feel valued and empowered to help shape decisions that affect their lives.

Earlier this year, I was reappointed by Mayor Rex Richardson as an At-Large member of the Equity & Human Relations Commission. This role has deepened my commitment to advancing dialogue, understanding, and inclusion across Long Beach, while allowing me to learn from fellow commissioners, community members, and advocates dedicated to equity.

In 2026, my commitment to community engagement expanded when Los Angeles County Supervisor Janice Hahn appointed me to the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, representing Supervisorial District 4 and its approximately 2,083,832 residents.

This opportunity is deeply meaningful to me. With lived experience in recovery, the



Nolan Ross Samé-Weil, MBA-CM, CADC II, ICADC (Director of Development)



City of Long Beach - Equity & Human Relations Commission members

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## A Bridge Worth Building: The Journey to Find Fidel a Home

By Carlos Escobedo Alhambra Outreach Team

They advocated for him. And they found him another option. On May 6th, 2026, Fidel completed a virtual intake assessment for Woodruff Care Home in Bellflower. Two days later, on May 8th, he moved in. Today, Fidel is settled, safe, and doing well. He has expressed his gratitude to the Alhambra Outreach Team for their persistence and their willingness to truly meet his needs, not just on paper, but in practice. The team continues to follow up with him to make sure his placement remains a good fit, and they stand ready to help him navigate any future transitions. Fidel's journey is a testament to what becomes possible when people refuse to stop building bridges, even when the path is long, even when trust has to be rebuilt from scratch, and even when the first bridge doesn't hold. At L.A. CADA, we believe that every person deserves a place to call home, and that sometimes, the most important thing we can do is simply keep showing up until we get them there. The Alhambra Outreach Team provides street-based case management and housing navigation services to unhoused individuals in the Alhambra area. For more information about L.A. CADA's outreach programs, please contact us at (626) 626-3652.

## Ask Dr. Holmes...

**Dr. Randy Holmes** is Board Certified in Addiction Medicine and Family Medicine, and is on the staff at PIH Health. He also serves as Chair of the California Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM),

and is a Public Policy Committee member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

Questions may be emailed to [administration@lacada.com](mailto:administration@lacada.com).



**Q:** As the demand for behavioral health services continues to grow across Los Angeles, what do you believe is the most important shift happening in how we treat individuals with substance use and mental health disorders? How is LACADA ensuring our clients receive the most effective and compassionate care possible?

*—Concerned Person in Recovery*

**A:** Dear Concerned,

The most important shift in treating behavioral health disorders in Los Angeles is the transition from a fragmented, crisis-reactive system to an integrated, data-driven model of continuous care. Both substance use disorders (SUD's) and mental health disorders are treated in silos, meaning the care is fragmented and not coordinated

The shift we are seeing does several things: 1) it breaks up the silos and merges mental health, addiction, and physical medicine. 2) It prevents crisis, focusing on proactive outreach instead of emergency room visits. 3) It ensures continuity by tracking outcomes across different care facilities.

The Key Drivers of change here in LA are: 1) CalAIM Implementation which standardizes medical necessity criteria to ease access to treatments. 2) Community based teams deploy mobile crisis units directly to vulnerable populations. 3) Data integration connects county health networks to prevent individuals from slipping through the cracks.

The expected outcomes include: 1) Lower mortality from overdose deaths through medication-assisted- treatment. 2)

Better housing stability by linking psychiatric stabilization directly to supportive housing, 3) Reduced incarceration by diverting individuals from jails into specialized clinical recovery centers.

The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) has changed operations, documentation, and billing for local clinics. Payment reform allows clinics to use a fee- schedule reimbursement model. No Wrong Door Policy allows clinics to now bill for assessments and care before a formal psychiatric diagnosis is established. Administrative streamlining has helped reduce documentation requirements by allowing clinicians to focus less on paperwork and more on face-to-face patient clinical hours.

Mobile Crisis Response teams (LACDMH) are helping with de-escalation and stabilization. Our Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams and Alternative Dispatch Teams help steer people away from incarceration and toward clinical paths. The final issue we face in LA County is budgetary. Funding from State and Federal sources continues to be uncertain and needs to be stabilized before we can see continued improvement in these efforts.

LACADA is committed to working within the existing framework of treatment providers to build a lasting system of care. Most of these new innovations have already been implemented within LACADA's integrated care model. We look forward to building upon what has already been established.dignity, complexity, and long-term wellbeing.

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW  
IS IN NEED OF MENTAL HEALTH OR  
SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES,  
PLEASE CALL US AT  
(562) 906-2676.**



*City of Long Beach - Equity & Human Relations Commission*

LGBTQIA2S+ community, and the ongoing impact of HIV/AIDS, I recognize that health disparities rarely exist in isolation. HIV intersects with challenges such as stigma, behavioral health needs, substance use disorders, housing instability, poverty, discrimination, and barriers to quality healthcare. The history of HIV/AIDS is deeply connected to the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It is a story of loss, but also of courage, activism, innovation, and compassion. Individuals and communities cared for one another, challenged injustice, and turned grief into action. While significant progress has been made, our work continues. Communities of color, LGBTQIA2S+ individuals, people experiencing homelessness, and people who use

substances continue to face disproportionate impacts and limited access to prevention, treatment, and support services. Addressing these disparities requires more than data and policy expertise; it demands listening to those directly affected and ensuring their experiences inform solutions.

Throughout my career, I have believed that lived experience matters. It brings humanity to policy discussions and reminds us that behind every statistic is a person deserving dignity, compassion, and opportunity. Representation is important, but it must be paired with humility, collaboration, and a willingness to learn from others.

At L.A. CADA, I work alongside colleagues who embody these values daily. Whether supporting recovery, strengthening families, addressing behavioral health, expanding access to care, or advocating for healthier communities, our work is grounded in the belief that healing is possible and everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.

Although my service on these commissions is independent of my role at L.A. CADA and does not represent the organization's positions or endorsements, it reflects values central to my personal journey and the mission that inspires our work: equity, inclusion, compassion, and hope.

Public service is not about recognition, but about responsibility. It means showing up, listening intentionally, and working with communities to build systems that are more responsive, just, and humane. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to these conversations and remain hopeful about what we can achieve by centering lived experience, embracing our shared humanity, and committing to a future where everyone, regardless of identity, HIV status, or past challenges, has the opportunity not only to survive but to thrive.



*Nolan Ross Samé-Weil, MBA-CM, CADC II, ICADC  
(Director of Development) at Long Beach Pride*

# Expanding Support and Recovery Services for Youth in Custody

*By Norma Pachuca Senior SUD CATC III*

One of the Youth Department's key accomplishments is the expansion of substance use treatment services across Camp Rocky, Camp Afflerbaugh, and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. This expansion strengthens our ability to go beyond early intervention services and provide a more comprehensive, treatment-focused approach for youth in custody. It reflects a continued commitment to meeting young people where they are and ensuring they have access to meaningful support during a critical time in their lives. Through this work, we are currently serving over 200 youth across all three sites with a dedicated team funded by SAPC, working alongside our existing early intervention services.

This program is built to support youth through individualized, culturally responsive, and trauma-informed care. Every young person begins services with a full assessment that helps staff better understand their needs, strengths, and goals. From there, a personalized plan is created that addresses substance use challenges, emotional and mental health needs, family relationships, and future planning such as school or employment goals. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, services are designed to reflect each youth's lived experience and provide support that is relevant and practical.

A core part of this work is creating a safe and supportive environment where youth can begin to heal and build skills for long-term success. Staff use evidence-based approaches that help young people understand triggers, develop healthier coping strategies, and improve decision-making skills. Services also focus on emotional regulation, communication, and building healthier relationships. The goal is not only to address substance use, but to support overall growth and stability so youth feel more prepared for life beyond custody.

Family involvement and reentry planning are also central to the program. Families play an important role in long-term recovery, and the program works to keep them engaged through education, support, and planning opportunities. At the same time, reentry planning begins at the start of services, not at



*Stock Photo of Juvenile Facility*

the end. Youth are connected early on to community-based treatment providers, school programs, job training opportunities, and other supportive services. This helps create a smoother transition back into the community and ensures continuity of care so youth do not lose access to support after release.

The program also recognizes that many of the youth we serve face overlapping challenges, including poverty, trauma, housing instability, and limited access to healthcare. Because of this, services are designed to be equity-centered and responsive to the needs of marginalized populations. Staff provide intensive case management and advocacy to help reduce barriers and ensure youth are connected to the resources they need to succeed. This includes support for youth involved in foster care systems, those impacted by community violence, and those who may have experienced long-term systemic inequities.

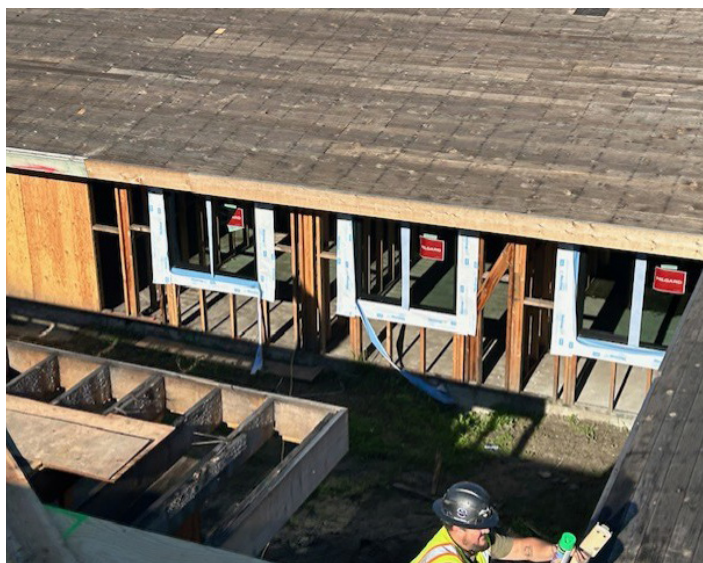
Expanding this program is an investment in both public safety and youth rehabilitation. By addressing substance use through a holistic, individualized, and equity-centered approach, juvenile halls can become environments of transformation rather than confinement. This will not only support recovery but also empowers youth to build stable, healthy, and productive futures.

*Check out...*  
the back cover for  
upcoming L.A. CADA  
events!

# A New Beginning Is Coming to Lynwood

By Priscilla Rodriguez, L.A. CADA Community Engagement Manager

L.A. CADA is preparing to open its newest residential treatment facility in Lynwood this summer, expanding access to substance use treatment and recovery services for individuals across Los Angeles County. Expected to open in late August or early September, the new campus will provide 100 residential treatment beds, including 25 dedicated beds for transitional age youth (ages 18–24).



*Lynwood facility under construction*

The facility will offer a full continuum of residential care, including medically supported detoxification, individual counseling, group therapy, case management, and 24-hour support. Thoughtfully designed indoor and outdoor spaces, dining areas, and community gathering spaces will provide clients with a safe, welcoming environment focused on healing and long-term recovery.



*Lynwood facility under construction*

The new Lynwood site represents a significant investment in expanding treatment opportunities for individuals experiencing substance use disorders, particularly those facing housing instability or involvement with the criminal justice system. Upon successful completion of treatment, clients will have access

to L.A. CADA's network of more than 400 supportive housing beds throughout Los Angeles County, helping them continue their recovery journey with stability and ongoing support.

As construction nears completion, L.A. CADA continues working closely with the City of Lynwood and community partners in preparation for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and facility tours for local leadership. The organization looks forward to becoming a trusted community partner while providing life-changing services for residents throughout the region.

## **Leave Your Mark on the Lynwood Legacy Walk**

Community members can support the new facility through the Lynwood Legacy Walk, an engraved brick campaign that will create a permanent walkway honoring recovery, hope, and community support. Personalized engraved bricks are available from \$250 to \$2,500, with proceeds helping expand recovery services for those in need. Whether honoring a loved one, celebrating a recovery milestone, or sharing a message of encouragement, every brick becomes a lasting symbol of hope for individuals beginning their journey toward healing.

Scan the QR code to see more information.



# A Journey of Strength and Transformation

By Lupe Zermeno, Director of CPMP

From the very beginning of her journey in the Community Participant Mother's Program (CPMP), Priscilla's story has been one of resilience, courage, and unwavering love for her children. As a mother raising twins while navigating recovery, she faced challenges that would overwhelm many—but she chose to push forward, day after day, with determination and hope for a better future.

Through the CPMP program, Priscilla found more than just treatment—she found structure, accountability, and a support system committed to helping her rebuild her life. Designed specifically for mothers, CPMP provides comprehensive services that address both recovery and family stability. Participants engage in substance use treatment, parenting education, life skills development, and structured programming that encourages personal growth while strengthening the bond between mother and child. The program requires active participation, commitment, and accountability—ensuring that each individual is not only supported, but also empowered to make meaningful, lasting change.

Balancing the demands of motherhood with the expectations

of treatment is no easy task. There were moments of exhaustion, stress, and uncertainty—but even in those moments, Priscilla remained committed. She embraced healthier coping skills, actively participated in programming, and stayed focused on the future she wanted to create for herself and her children. Over time, her transformation has been remarkable. Priscilla has developed a stronger sense of self, greater confidence, and a renewed sense of stability. Through the program, she has not only made meaningful progress in her recovery, but has also created a nurturing and structured environment where her children can thrive. She has demonstrated that it is possible to prioritize healing while continuing to show up fully as a mother. Her journey is a powerful reflection of the life-changing impact of L.A. CADA's CPMP—one of the only programs of its kind, offering mothers the opportunity to heal, rebuild, and remain connected to what matters most: their families. Within this program, women are given access to supportive services, structured activities, and opportunities that foster independence, strengthen parenting skills, and prepare them for long-term success, all while maintaining connection with their loved ones and working toward stability and reunification.

Priscilla's story is a testament to what is possible when determination meets the right support system—one that not only treats addiction, but restores dignity, rebuilds families, and creates hope. Today, she stands as an inspiration, showing that lasting change is achievable and that a brighter, healthier future is within reach.

"When I was sentenced to five years, I was overwhelmed by fear and hopelessness. Yet, deep down, I held onto a small spark of faith that if I could just make it into this program, everything would eventually be alright. That faith was tested when I gave birth to my twin daughters while incarcerated and they were immediately taken to the NICU to fight for their lives. As a mother, it was killing me knowing that my babies needed me and I could not be there. However, the team at CPMP stepped in to become the bridge between me and my children. By facilitating hospital visits and arranging for my daughters' therapists to come directly to the facility, they ensured I was present for their medical needs and the milestones I feared I would miss. Because of that support, I didn't just watch them take their first



Priscilla at her Chaffey Graduation

# The Boulevard

*Joe Amaya, Development and Logistics Manager*



*L.A. CADA Staff Gathering together for a photo before the Long Beach Pride*

The morning sun on Ocean Boulevard possesses a specific, relentless clarity, baking the asphalt long before the first downbeat of bass carries over the water. To stand at the intersection of this mid-May heat and a sea of synthetic rainbow nylon is to witness a very particular kind of Southern California choreography. But the May 17th procession shifted the narrative weight for the contingency from L.A. CADA. While the organization was marking an impressive eighth consecutive year navigating the parade route with a float, the structural presence felt less like familiar festival real estate and more like a deliberate, mechanical insistence on visibility. Sponsoring a float for nearly a decade is an exercise in institutional stamina, a physical manifestation of a promise made to the city year after year.

The logistics of keeping a float in rotation for eight years are notoriously unglamorous. They require months of recurring administrative clearance, literal heavy lifting, and the precise coordination of people who spend their workdays navigating the quieter, often heavier landscape of community health. Yet, when the ignition caught and the vehicle began its slow, halting crawl into the corridor of onlookers, the ambient friction of preparation gave way to something entirely different. From the elevated deck, the crowd emerged not as a monolith of spectators, but as an electric, pulsing collective.

As the float rolled forward, enveloped by the continuous roar of the streets, the performance of the parade dissolved into a more profound realization. For an organization like L.A.

CADA, sustaining this specific, scaled presence over eight years is an act of translation. It takes the abstract language of institutional allyship, the policy handbooks, the welcoming signage in quiet lobbies, and brings it into the bright, vulnerable light of the public square. To stand on that platform, summer after summer, is to declare that solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community cannot merely be an indoor exercise; it must be lived out in the open, alongside the exact population the organization is tasked to serve. Ultimately, the enduring presence of the float

operates as a crucial piece of civic architecture, building bridges of trust and visibility where alienation so often resides. For an individual navigating the isolation of recovery or identity, encountering a major behavioral health provider celebrating under a



*L.A. CADA staff during the parade*

# A Journey of Strength and Transformation

By Lupe Zermeno, Director of CPMP

steps—I was the one there to teach them, guide them, and hold their hands. That support saved our bond and gave me my life back.

Beyond that, the program provided essential enrichment and developmental opportunities for my girls while simultaneously fostering my own growth. Because they prioritized both my daughters' futures and my professional development, I was able to channel my resilience into my education, and I recently earned my Associate of Arts degree in Sociology. There were so many late nights spent doing homework with them right by my side; in many ways, I feel like they achieved this degree just as much as I did. Receiving this recognition with them there to witness my hard work was a moment I will never forget. By finishing this degree, I am officially breaking the cycle. My daughters will now have the privilege of checking 'college and above' when they fill out forms about their parent's education.

Completing my degree while navigating the realities of recovery and motherhood is a testament to the fact that with the right support, we can rewrite our stories. My daughters are so smart, funny, and beautiful, and I am so grateful that this program allowed me to be the mother they deserve. They say it takes a village, and this program has become mine. As I prepare to head home, I feel ready to give my daughters the life they deserve, armed with the educational opportunities this program has provided me. I know now that I can do anything with my children by my side, and I am showing them every day how strong and resilient their mother is. I am deeply proud of the mother and the person I have become, just as I am proud of my children. As I write this, I am holding my sleeping babies in my arms, and I know that we are going to be alright." -By Priscilla Arellano

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## Bridging Services, Strengthening Recovery

By Lina Vasquez Lead Mental Health Advocate



MHA assisting client with completing Social Services application

medical professionals working together as a united front-dedicated to navigating complex clinical challenges alongside clients, celebrating each milestone as a step forward on the bridge to healing, hope, and long-term recovery.

For clients at Safe Haven, Building Bridges means connecting clients to a path to stabilization and supporting them with the first steps into their recovery journey. We meet clients where they are and build passageways to a network of services aimed at rebuilding, recovering, and thriving.

As a veteran, I carry on a commitment to serving L.A. CADA with pride and respect for our clients while bridging gaps between hospitalizations, clinics, and transitional housing. Although the team I lead looks different these days, the mission remains: help clients regain emotional stability, create linkage between client and psychiatric care, and advocate for clients' rights and needs.

Safe Haven has given me the opportunity to do just that by using my experience as a leader and social worker to present a weekly support group called Case Management Power Hour. During these support groups I provide pertinent information like navigating Social Services, 211 L.A, benefit protections, and support with linkage to organization like SAHMSA and the National Alliance on Mental illness. The mission wouldn't be possible without a skilled team consisting of mental health advocates, clinicians, and

# *The Boulevard*

*Joe Amaya, Development and Logistics Manager*

cloudless sky is a quiet disruption of old scripts. It functions as an unmistakable signal of safety; an assurance that here is a place where they are not merely tolerated, but fundamentally understood.

For the uninitiated, it is easy to view such organizations through the narrow lens of clinical transactions; as entities that merely distribute services within rigid office hours. But healing is rarely a clinical event; it requires the messy, joyful construction of a shared world. By returning to these streets with a float year after year, L.A. CADA suggests that true community care cannot happen from a distance. It requires showing up, marching through the heat, and walking the walk on the very pavement where life unfolds.

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## **L.A. CADA's Journey to Enhanced Care Management**

*By Nolan Ross Samé-Weil, MBA-HCM, CADC II, ICADC (Director of Development)*

This July, L.A. CADA will launch its Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Program, expanding access to coordinated, person-centered care for eligible Medi-Cal members throughout Los Angeles County.

Enhanced Care Management is part of California's CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) initiative, which focuses on improving health outcomes by addressing the whole person—not only medical needs, but also behavioral health, housing, and access to community resources. After more than two years of planning, collaboration, and partnership development, L.A. CADA is proud to begin offering ECM services through contracts with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan, while continuing discussions with additional managed care plans to expand access in the future.

The ECM Program is designed to support individuals with complex health and social needs, including those experiencing homelessness, individuals living with serious mental illness or substance use disorders, justice-involved individuals transitioning back into the community, children and youth involved in child welfare, and pregnant or postpartum individuals who qualify for enhanced support services.

Using a multidisciplinary approach, L.A. CADA's ECM team works alongside participants to coordinate medical and behavioral health care, connect them with housing and community resources, navigate healthcare systems, and develop individualized care plans that reflect each person's unique goals and strengths. By providing personalized support and care coordination, ECM helps remove barriers that often make accessing services difficult.

The launch of Enhanced Care Management marks an important milestone in L.A. CADA's continued commitment to expanding integrated behavioral health services and improving access to care for underserved communities. By addressing the factors that influence long-term health and recovery, ECM complements the organization's existing substance use treatment, recovery support, housing, and behavioral health programs while strengthening the continuum of care available to clients.

### **How to Access ECM Services**

Individuals, families, healthcare providers, and community partners can refer eligible Medi-Cal members to L.A. CADA's Enhanced Care Management Program. To learn more, determine eligibility, or begin the enrollment process, contact the ECM team at (562) 777-7517 or [ecm@lacada.com](mailto:ecm@lacada.com). Eligible individuals may also request a referral through their Medi-Cal managed care plan.

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*Youth department staff with School staff families and awardees after the ceremony*

## Youth Department Celebrates 2nd annual Scholarship Ceremony

*By Alejandro Godinez, Communication Coordinator*

*On May 26, 2026, L.A. CADA's Youth Department had the privilege of hosting its annual scholarship ceremony, celebrating the achievements and future goals of youth in our programs. For the second year, the Youth Department awarded scholarships to support youth as they continue their educational journeys and pursue their goals beyond high school.*

*This year, four youth were selected to receive \$1,000 scholarships to help further their education. Additional youth applicants were also recognized with runner-up awards of \$250 in appreciation of their dedication, participation, and commitment to the program. Each awardee was celebrated for their hard work, resilience, and the positive steps they continue to take toward their future. The scholarship ceremony was made possible through months of dedication, fundraising efforts, and community support. Leading up to the event, L.A. CADA hosted fundraising opportunities including the Posada Lotería event at Muévalelo Downey and the RYSE 5K Dream Run at Whittier Narrows. These events helped bring the community together while supporting opportunities that directly benefit youth.*



*Scholarship Awardee Jazara J. With her Family*



*Janet Landa Guzman, Prevention Coordinator, Valeria Sandoval SUD Counselor, Samuel R., Sofia Martinez, Program Assistant and Alejandro Godinez, Communication Coordinator*

The celebration included dinner, presentations, and an opportunity for youth to be recognized alongside their families, counselors, school representatives, and L.A. CADA staff. The gathering highlighted the impact of the Youth Department's prevention, treatment, and support services while showing the importance of having a strong network of encouragement around young people. L.A. CADA extends a heartfelt thank you to all sponsors and community supporters who helped make this event possible: The Yakels, Sober Babes Club, Nolan Ross & Company, Arlene Vasquez, Jazmin Davalos, Monica Soto, First Pacific Bank, AHF, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), UCLA Health, Pretty Hands Punches, Optimal Health & Wellbeing, Wellcare, and Brightlife Kids.

Without the generosity and partnership of our sponsors, this celebration would not have been possible. Their support helps create meaningful opportunities that empower youth, encourage education, and invest in the next generation of community leaders. L.A. CADA's Youth Department remains committed to supporting youth in reaching their goals and creating pathways toward brighter futures.

## Upcoming Events

### TOP GOLF EVENT

September 19th, 2026



**SAVE the Date**

**"DRIVING the GREEN for RECOVERY"**  
**A Charity Topgolf Fundraiser**

Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 | 10:00am-1:00pm  
Topgolf Montebello | 100 Topgolf Dr, Montebello, CA 90640

Join us for a high-impact morning of fun, connection, and giving in celebration of **National Recovery Month**! Together, we'll raise awareness and support recovery programs across Los Angeles County, empowering individuals and strengthening our community's path to healing. **GIVE. GOLF. GROW.**

**L.A. CADA**  
A Path to Recovery and Healthy Living

Stay tuned for tickets and sponsorship details.



**SAVE the Date**

**L.A. CADA's premier National Recovery Month**

**2ND ANNUAL "BREAKING BARRIERS: Conference on Overdose Awareness"**

Wednesday, September 2, 2026 | 9:00am-4:00pm  
The California Endowment  
1000 N Alameda St, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Bringing together public health leaders, providers, advocates, and community members to explore innovative strategies in overdose prevention, harm reduction, and equitable access to care.

**L.A. CADA**  
A Path to Recovery and Healthy Living

Stay tuned for your exclusive invitation and full event details. This is a limited capacity event.

### 2ND ANNUAL BREAKING BARRIERS EVENT

September 2nd, 2026



# L.A. CADA MERCH

L.A. CADA's Online Store is more than a place to shop, it's a way to proudly show support for recovery and community healing.

Every product is branded with pride and purpose so that supporters can wear their values while spreading awareness.

**EVERY PURCHASE HELPS  
SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS!**

Go to  
<https://store.lacada.com/>  
or Scan QR code  
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TOP (l-r): Full-Hooded Sweatshirt; Women's T-Shirt; Pull-Over Hooded Sweatshirt; Polo, Flat Bill and Snapback Cap.  
BOTTOM (l-r): Women's Tee; Beanie Cap.

## APPAREL | HATS & CAPS | DRINKWARE | BAGS & ACCESSORIES





## L.A. CADA's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) Program

### WHOLE-PERSON SUPPORT for COMPLEX HEALTH NEEDS . . .

*"Because your health journey deserves a team that walks with you — every step of the way."*

### What is Enhanced Care Management (ECM)?

Managing your health can be hard — especially if you're dealing with more than one challenge, like a chronic illness, substance use, or not having stable housing.

**L.A. CADA's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) is here to help.**

ECM is a **free benefit for Medi-Cal members**. It gives you a team to help with your medical care, mental health, substance use needs, and everyday support — all in one plan. With ECM, you don't have to do it alone.

### Who can get ECM?

You may qualify if you have Medi-Cal and one or more of the following:

- No home or unstable housing
- Struggles with substance use
- Just released from jail or prison
- Ongoing physical or mental health needs
- Pregnant or recently had a baby and need extra support
- A child or youth with special needs or involved in foster care

### What does ECM help with?

You'll get a Lead Care Manager who helps organize all your care.

Your team may include a Community Health Worker, a nurse or clinician, and others who understand your full story.

### Here's what we can help with:

- Scheduling doctor and dentist visits
- Support for mental health and substance use
- Coordinating between your doctors and clinics
- Help for families and caregivers
- Referrals for housing, food, jobs, and legal support
- Transportation to appointments
- Help with medicines and refills
- Services for youth and families
- Pregnancy and postpartum care
- Health education and coaching
- Support after leaving jail or prison
- A care plan made just for you

### Why Choose ECM?

Whether you're living with diabetes and depression, working on recovery, helping your child get care, or starting fresh after homelessness — **ECM connects all your care, makes it easier to access, and puts YOU at the center.**

### Ready to Get Started? We're here to help . . .

Contact (562) 777-7517, or email [ecm@lacada.com](mailto:ecm@lacada.com) to enroll, or speak with your Medi-Cal plan provider to find out if you're eligible.



**Enhanced Care Management (ECM)**  
Whole-Person Care | Compassionate Support | Better Health Outcomes

Follow Us on  
Social Media



# YOUTH OPIOID RESPONSE



**YOR CALIFORNIA AIMS TO ENHANCE  
THE CAPACITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF  
PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND  
RECOVERY SERVICES.**

## FREE EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

### AVAILABLE FOR:

- YOUTH
- PARENTS
- PROFESSIONALS
- COMMUNITY MEMBERS

## LEARN AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH/ SPANISH

- FACTS ABOUT OPIOID USE
- HOW TO PREVENT AN OPIOID OVERDOSE
- WHAT IS MAT (MEDICATIONS ASSISTED TREATMENT)

## WHAT ARE OPIOIDS?

### A CLASS OF DRUGS THAT INCLUDE:

- PRESCRIPTION PAIN MEDICINES: MORPHINE, OXYCODONE, HYDROCODONE, FENTANYL
- ILLEGAL DRUGS: HEROIN
- PAIN RELIEVERS

## CONTACT US

- ✓ Via email: [lacadayouth@lacada.com](mailto:lacadayouth@lacada.com)
- ✓ Visit us :  
10210 Orr & Day Road, Suite B  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
- ✓ Call us:  
(562) 348-0083
- ✓ Follow us on IG @youth\_fam

THIS SERVICE IS SUPPORTED BY A FEDERAL GRANT UNDER THE STATE OPIOID RESPONSE PROGRAM, WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES.



### LEARN MORE

[www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention](http://www.hhs.gov/opioids/prevention)  
[www.lacada.com](http://www.lacada.com)





**WHAT IS CENS:** CENS provides referrals to Los Angeles County residents who need substance use disorder treatment services to a treatment provider in their area

## Connecting you to Substance Use Disorder treatment services!

### WHAT DOES CENS OFFER?

- Screening to determine if you have an Substance Use Disorder
- Coordinated treatment services based on your needs
- Guidance through the SUD system of care
- Appointment scheduling for assessment with a treatment provider of choice
- Transportation arrangements to treatment provider locations.



### HOW CAN CENS HELP?

CENS connects you to SUD treatment services that are right for you.

We offer substance use education, workshops for individuals and groups, recovery support, and harm reduction services.

CENS also links you to other essential services such as food, housing, mental health, legal services and more.

**Office Hours:** Monday- Friday 8AM-5PM

**Email:** [CENS@Lacada.com](mailto:CENS@Lacada.com)

**Location:** 9300 Santa Fe Springs Rd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

### We Serve the Following Cities:

Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Cerritos, City Terrace, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, East La Mirada, East Los Angeles, East Whittier, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Los Nietos, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, Walnut Park, Whittier Narrows, Whittier-Unincorporated

**Contact us at: 1-844-804-7727**  
to learn more about no-cost treatment services available.

\*Some services and treatments require pre-authorization for eligible youth and adults.



**¿QUÉ ES CENS?:** CENS proporciona referencias a los residentes del condado de Los Ángeles que necesitan servicios de tratamiento para trastornos por consumo de sustancias a un proveedor de tratamiento en su área.

¡Le conectamos con servicios de tratamiento para trastornos por consumo de sustancias!

### ¿QUÉ OFRECE CENS?

- Evaluación para determinar si usted tiene un trastorno por consumo de sustancias.
- Orientación a través del sistema de atención SUD
- Programación de citas para la evaluación con el proveedor de tratamiento elegido.
- Organización del transporte hasta los centros donde se presta el tratamiento.



### ¿CÓMO PUEDE AYUDAR CENS?

CENS le conecta con los servicios de tratamiento de SUD adecuados para usted.

Ofrecemos educación sobre el consumo de sustancias, talleres para individuos y grupos, apoyo para la recuperación y servicios de reducción de daños.

CENS también le conecta con otros servicios esenciales como alimentación, vivienda, salud mental, y mucho más

**Office Hours:** Monday- Friday 8AM-5PM

**Email:** CENS@Lacada.com

**Location:** 9300 Santa Fe Springs Rd.  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

### Prestamos servicio en las siguientes ciudades:

Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Cerritos, City Terrace, Commerce, Cudahy, Downey, East Los Angeles, East Whittier, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Habra Heights, La Mirada, Lakewood, Los Nietos, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill, South Gate, Vernon, Walnut Park, Whittier Narrows, Whittier-Unincorporate

**Contáctenos en: 1-562-273-0462**

para obtener más información sobre los servicios de tratamiento gratuitos disponibles.

\*Algunos servicios y tratamientos requieren autorización previa para jóvenes y adultos que cumplan los requisitos.

**SAPC** | Substance Abuse  
Prevention and Control



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
**Public Health**

**L.A. CADA**  
A Path to Recovery  
and Healthy Living

## OUR Mission

is to save lives, unite families, inspire hope, and uplift communities through integrated health services that enhance the quality of life.



Please make it **YOUR Mission** by donating today.

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## LOCATIONS

[www.lacada.com](http://www.lacada.com)

### CORPORATE OFFICE

12070 Telegraph Rd, Suite 207  
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562.777.7500

### Community Outreach Program

3675 Huntington Dr., Suite 101, Pasadena, CA 91107  
626.314.2818

### Downtown Outpatient and HIV Services Center

426 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213.626.6411

### Downtown Outpatient

307 Central Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90013  
213.372.5233

### Hollywood HIV Services Center

6838 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90028  
323.461.3161 ext. 3818

### L.A. CADA on Main Street

10924 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90061  
323.880.8159

### Long Beach Outpatient and Community Services Center

5861 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90805  
562.676.4259

### WELLNESS CENTER:

1.844.804.WELL (9355) & QA  
11015 Bloomfield Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562.906.2676

### Santa Fe Springs Outpatient and Community Services and CENS

11015 Bloomfield Ave., Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562.906.2676  
CENS Toll Free: 1.844.804.SPA7 (7727)

### Valley Homeless Community Outreach

2826 Valley Blvd., Alhambra, CA 91280

### Youth and Family Services

10210 Orr and Day Rd, Suite B, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670  
562.348.0083

### 4th Street Field-Based Outpatient

1401 E. Fourth St., Unit A, Long Beach, CA 90802  
562.606.2664

### The Whittier LGBTQ Center

7639 Painter Ave., Whittier, CA 90602  
562.261.5611

## OUR MISSION

is to save lives, unite families, inspire hope, and uplift communities through integrated health services that enhance the quality of life.

## OUR VISION

is a world where people achieve optimum health and wellness by having unrestricted access to healthcare and recovery services.

## OUR VALUES

embrace the empowerment of people through compassion, perseverance and respect. We provide a wide range of services thanks to a collaborative approach compatible with healthy communities, dedicated partners, and unique foundation





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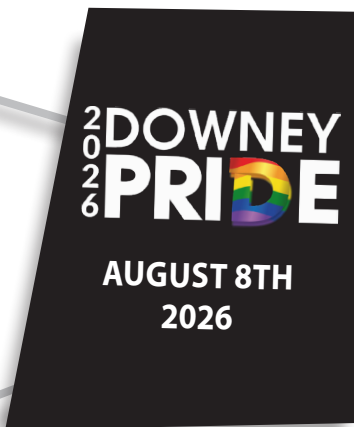
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**Facebook** @losangelescentersforalcoholanddrugabuse  
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*Coming up ...*



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE EVENTS ABOVE, email [Events@lacada.com](mailto:Events@lacada.com)