



2013



Dr. Marvin Southard

Mental Health

☎ (213) 738-4601
☎ (213) 386-1297
✉ info@dmh.lacounty.gov
🌐 www.dmh.lacounty.gov

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Two-thousand and thirteen was both a year of expansion and preparation for the Department. I won't use the metaphor of building a plane while flying it, but maybe it would be apt to use a freeway metaphor: We started repaving our freeway while increasing traffic volume and cutting commute times.

During 2013, we and our community partners laid the groundwork for the Health Neighborhoods which we will use in 2014 and beyond as our means for integrating primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment services for each specific community in LA, and gaining community assistance in addressing the social factors that determine health outcomes. We also prepared for the startup of our electronic medical records system which will begin to go live this January. With our justice partners, we laid the groundwork for programs for diverting mentally ill people out of the criminal justice system.

But at the same time we poured these foundations, we also served 70,973 people in evidence-based mental health prevention and early intervention programs; served 32,538 individuals in the context of Healthy Way LA health services; intervened in 4,310 instances of potential school violence; completed all of the requirements of the Department of Justice for our Probation treatment programs. We also won our second consecutive local Emmy for our stigma reduction efforts; were recognized in a State audit as producing outstanding outcomes from our MHSA programs; fielded over 2,400 phone calls from family members in all eight Service Areas; and tripled our outreach to faith communities to connect mental health and spirituality in our recovery efforts.

Partnership with agencies and communities was the key to both our expansion and our preparation work in 2013. Partnership will be the key to our implementation success in 2014 and beyond.