

Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT)

Addressing Mental Health Crises with Rapid Personalized Care

The Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) recognizes that each mental health crisis is unique and requires a thoughtful, specialized response. When situations are addressed with intervention methods that do not adequately care for the individual experiencing the crisis, the risk of greater danger and adverse consequences increases – for both the client and responder. The Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT) is one example of how the Department uses alternatives to law enforcement-based interventions to respond to clients’ needs.



Specialized Teams Ready to Help

The Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT) provides non-law enforcement-based mobile crisis response for clients experiencing a psychiatric emergency in the community. A service offered through LACDMH’s ACCESS Center, PMRT consists of LACDMH clinicians designated to perform evaluations for involuntary detention of individuals determined to be at risk of harming themselves or others, or who are unable to provide food, clothing or shelter for themselves. PMRT enables successful triage of each situation involving mentally ill, violent or high-risk individuals. PMRTs also receive community calls that do not rise to the level of direct services; in these situations staff provide information, referrals and other kinds of alternative support. More than 23 entities send referrals to PMRT, making it a critical source of care and response across LA County. In FY19-20, the PMRTs served more than 20,000 clients.

Crisis Response With Better Outcomes for Clients

Often times, law enforcement-based interventions during a crisis situation involving an individual experiencing psychiatric mental health issues can increase the risk or danger to the individuals or those assisting. PMRTs’ specialized triage of each situation yields engagement, support and recovery-focused interventions from mental health clinicians. PMRT provides caring, deescalating and less traumatizing approaches to crisis intervention—and whenever possible avoids outcomes that involve hospitalization, incarceration or additional injury. PMRTs’ tactics support clients and their families through trust and attention, and ultimately contribute to reducing stigma surrounding mental health and accessing help.