

As we navigate the [potential closure of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall](#), the Department of Youth Development stands firm in our commitment to harm reduction for youth. Our focus remains on the wellbeing and successful reentry of all justice-involved youth, and we will continue to work closely with our partners to ensure that their needs are met during this challenging time.

DYD is actively engaged in conversations with justice partners to explore every avenue for releasing as many young people as possible from these facilities. We are committed to ensuring a seamless continuum of care for all youth, whether released or relocated, through continued access to essential reentry resources and support systems, including Credible Messenger mentorship.

In conversations with young people, community members, and County partners, I continue to be encouraged and inspired by the dedicated work being done to prevent justice system involvement and strengthen reentry support for young people. Please continue reading to see updates from the Department of Youth Development's efforts this month.

Youth Reentry: Expanding Programming in Halls and Camps

This month, the Inner-City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) began providing biweekly drumming lessons to youth detained in juvenile facilities. This would not have been possible without the Department of Arts and Culture and the wonderful team of partners that brought it to life.

DYD is also exploring new partnerships to provide a range of services, including vocational training, career counseling, athletic and physical activities, therapeutic arts engagement, life coaching, and life skills such as financial literacy.

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Youth Reentry: Supporting Girls and Gender Expansive Youth

DYD is in the process of expanding Credible Messenger mentorship to Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) as well as girls and gender expansive (GGE) youth at the Dorothy Kirby Center.

Our team is also working to advance the decarceration of GGE youth through efforts to increase alternatives to detention and incarceration. This includes a Care First Community Investment (CFCI) funded demonstration project for community-based housing models to support GGE youth and their families and prevent their detention. We are grateful to the dozens of housing and placement providers who participated in listening sessions in late January to provide important feedback to these strategies and proposed models.

Youth Diversion Expansion

DYD is excited to partner with four community-based providers to expand access to youth diversion services across the County!

Volunteers of America: Azusa, Baldwin Park, Irwindale, and neighboring communities

Helpline Youth Counseling: South Gate, Downey and neighboring communities

Alma Family Services: Atwater Village, Boyle Heights, Cypress Park, Downtown Los Angeles, Eagle Rock, East Hollywood, Echo Park, El Sereno, Glassell Park, Highland Park, Lincoln Heights, Los Feliz, MacArthur Park, Mount Washington, Pico-Union, Silver Lake, Westlake and neighboring communities

Centinela Youth Services: Athens Park, Harbor Gateway, Inglewood, Watts and neighboring communities

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Youth Development

This month, the Youth Development team hosted the first Los Angeles County Youth Mentorship Alignment Convening in partnership with the Foster Together Network! This was an incredible opportunity for County departments to come together and strategize on improving youth outcomes through mentorship initiatives.