



## PROGRAM GOALS

- Timely and comprehensive strength-based assessment of children and families
- Earlier identification of mental health, developmental, educational, and health conditions
- Increased cooperation between families, caregivers, providers of services and DCFS
- More appropriate placement decisions for children
- More consideration given to sibling, relative, and community placements
- Earlier access to developmental, medical, educational and mental health services for children and families

## What is MAT?

Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) is an exciting collaborative effort between the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and community-based mental health provider agencies. It is designed to ensure the immediate and comprehensive assessment of children and youth entering out-of-home placement. The MAT Program has been operational countywide as of October 2009.

### MAT Assessments address the following areas:

- Child and family strengths and needs
- Caregiver strengths and needs
- Education
- Mental Health
- Medical & Dental
- Developmental
- Hearing/Language
- Vocational

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

When a child is newly detained, he/she is eligible to receive a Multidisciplinary Assessment Team (MAT) assessment through DCFS. The MAT assessment was designed to ensure that all child and family strengths and needs are assessed when a child/youth enters foster care.

This assessment is meant to help a family meet the needs that the child(ren) may have that place this family in danger of a lengthy separation. The information gathered by this assessment will be used to determine what interventions and services are most needed by the child(ren) with the intention of using this information for the most appropriate placement of the child while ensuring that his/her needs will be met.



## DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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## PARTICIPANTS IN THE MAT PROCESS:

- Parents
- Caregivers
- Children (as appropriate)
- DMH MAT Assessor
- DCFS MAT Coordinator
- Service Providers
- DCFS CSW and/or DI
- Public Health Nurse
- Other CSAT members

Fesia Davenport  
Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles County

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### Department of Mental Health

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## MAT Agencies:

- Alafia Mental Health Institute
- Alma Family Services
- Almansor
- Amanecer Community Counseling
- Asian Pacific Family Center
- Aviva Family and Children's Services
- Bienvenidos
- Child and Family Center
- Child and Family Guidance Center
- ChildNet
- Children's Bureau
- Children's Institute, Inc.
- Children's Hospital Los Angeles
- Counseling 4 Kids
- DiDi Hirsch
- Drew Child Development Corporation
- El Centro de Amistad
- ENKI
- Five Acres
- Foothill
- For the Child
- Hillside
- Kedren Community Mental Health Center
- Masada
- McKinley
- Optimist
- Pacific Clinics
- Pathways
- Penny Lane
- Personal Involvement Center
- Prototypes
- SFVCMHC, Inc.
- South Central Health and Rehab Program
- SHIELDS for Families
- St. John's Child and Family Dev Ctr
- Star View Community Services
- Stirling Behavioral Health Institute
- Sycamores
- Tessie Cleveland Community Services
- The Guidance Center
- The Help Group
- The Village Family Services
- The Whole Child
- TIES for Families
- VIP
- Vista del Mar
- Wellnest



LACDMH  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
MENTAL HEALTH  
*hope. recovery. wellbeing.*

**MULTIDISCIPLINARY  
ASSESSMENT TEAM  
(MAT)**

***If You Are in Crisis and  
Need Help Right Away,  
Call Toll-Free, 24/7 Access Helpline:***

**1-800-854-7771**

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>