

July Newsletter



A Quick Look:

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July is BIPOC Mental Health Month

Founded in honor of advocate Bebe Moore Campbell, this month raises awareness about the unique mental health experiences of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities. It's a time to recognize cultural strengths, address systemic barriers, and promote healing through culturally responsive care. Learn more at mhanational.org.

Our Vision:

To build a behavioral health system that is inclusive, organized, centered on the individual and family, and is committed to advocating for and providing comprehensive mental health and substance use disorder services for people across Doña Ana County, New Mexico.

Contact Information:



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Our Next Meeting

August 19th (Tuesday)

11:30AM-1PM

Virtual Only

July Highlights

July General Meeting

Thank you to Deandra Rodriguez for highlighting the Youth Crisis Convening, a youth-led project by FYI+ that is reshaping crisis response in Doña Ana County. Rooted in cultural humility and lived experience, this initiative empowers young people to co-create solutions around mental health, substance use, and systemic inequities.

Check out the YCC One-Pager on the next page!

Contact:

Deandra Rodriguez (she/her)
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Back to School

LC3 & FYI+ are proud to join the Village of Hatch Coalition for the 2nd Annual Back to School Event and Resource Fair on Wednesday, July 31, 2025, from 11 AM–3 PM at Hatch Valley High School. Ahead of the event, our team partnered with Hatch stakeholders, Success Partnership, and others to fill backpacks with school supplies and resources—all to be distributed free to local families.

Mindfulness & Self Care

On July 24, LC3 and the Doña Ana Village Association (DAVA) partnered to host a Mindfulness and Self-Care training for behavioral health and substance use providers in Radium Springs. Led by the National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA), the session focused on practical, evidence-based strategies to manage stress, prevent burnout, and build emotional resilience. This training is part of LC3's ongoing commitment to reach rural communities across Doña Ana County and support the well-being of those who care for others.



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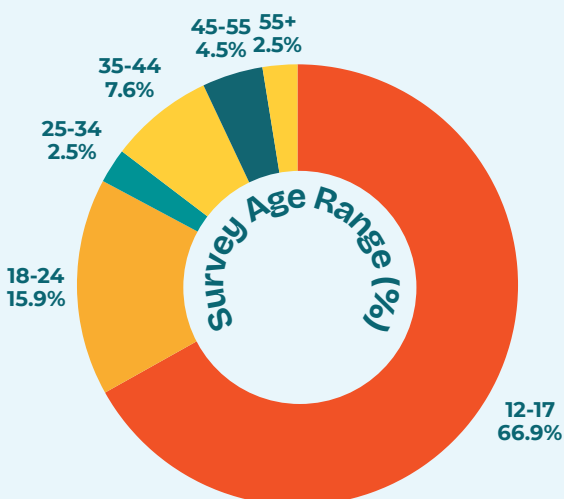
Virtual Only 2

Youth Crisis Convening Project

The Youth Crisis Convening Project, organized by Families and Youth Innovations Plus (FYI+), is a community-driven, youth-led effort to understand, address, and transform the systems that respond to youth in crisis throughout Doña Ana County. This initiative created a platform to work with youth—not just for them—to co-design a Youth Crisis Response Model that reflects their lived experiences with mental health challenges, substance use, and systemic inequities, and to shape solutions that are culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and accessible.

Survey Demographics

- **157** respondents for crisis response survey
- Over **80%** were youth respondents ages 12–24
- **Majority** identified as female
- **Majority** identified as Hispanic/Latino or multiracial
- **Majority** of respondents reside in Zip-codes: 88081, 88012, 88001



Youth Vision

Core Design Principles

A calm, supportive place where they feel safe and not judged



Anonymous, free access to peer support, counseling, and basic needs



Being seen and heard without assumptions



Peer relationships, trusted adults, and welcoming spaces are powerful lifelines.



Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Crisis Now Response Model Elements

Someone To Contact



Someone To Respond



Safe Place For Help



For the development of the framework for a Youth Crisis Response Model in Doña Ana County, this proven SAMHSA model was used as the guiding foundation

Engagement

Organized distinct convenings for adults and youth to accommodate varying schedules, address transportation challenges, and create spaces that felt emotionally safe and welcoming.



Youth-facilitated focus groups, youth convenings, and presentations. Grounded in trauma-informed care and cultural humility.



Prioritized accessibility for youth of all racial and gender identities, geographic locations, and socioeconomic backgrounds. Outreach spanned Las Cruces, Chaparral, Hatch, Anthony, and rural areas to meet youth where they were.



Summary

Youth in Doña Ana County are calling not just for services, but for transformation. Their stories and insights offer a bold, necessary challenge to existing systems—and a clear invitation to do better. This model was designed by youth, for youth. It centers healing relationships, cultural humility, and accessible care. Through collective action, we can build a system where all young people feel safe, supported, and empowered during moments of crisis.

LC3 BOARD Vacancies



COMMITMENTS:

- Attend LC3 Board Meetings (1st Tuesday of each month, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)
- Attend LC3 General Meetings (3rd Tuesday of each month, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM)
- Participate in LC3 events and trainings when possible
- Serve as an LC3 Collaborative Ambassador
- Demonstrate a commitment to improving behavioral health offerings, access, and outcomes in Doña Ana County through continuous quality improvement and collaboration

PURPOSE OF LC3:

"Provide individual with lived experiences, family members, providers and others an opportunity to participate in the LC3 Collaborative to build the Ideal Behavioral Health System for the citizens of Dona Ana County using the Collective Impact strategy"

The term of office for all Board of Directors shall be three years, or in the case of an Board of Directors member filling a vacancy (Proxy), the remainder of the replacement term. An individual may not serve more than two consecutive terms on the board*. Board member may be nominated to the board again after a 3 year hiatus.

Nominations Close
8/12 at 12PM MST,
Announced in August
General Meeting on
8/19



[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/LC3BOARDNOM](https://tinyurl.com/LC3BOARDNOM)

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Coming Up...



LC3, Village of Hatch Coalition & HVPS 2nd Annual Back-to-School Event & Resource Fair

Local Collaborative 3 (LC3) is excited to team up with the Village of Hatch Coalition for their 2nd Annual Back-to-School Event and Resource Fair on Wednesday, July 31, 2025, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Hatch Valley High School Commons Area. This free, family-friendly event is all about setting students up for success as they head into the new school year. Community partners will come together to provide school supplies, immunizations, sports physicals, eye exams, and haircuts—all at no cost and available while supplies last.

LC3 will be on-site with a table to connect families to essential behavioral health resources, youth leadership opportunities, and local advocacy efforts. Whether you're a parent, caregiver, student, or community member, you'll find valuable information and supportive services that promote wellness and resilience.

We're proud to be part of this celebration of education, health, and community connection—and we hope you'll stop by to say hello, grab some resources, and help us spread the word about the power of collaboration in building stronger, healthier communities.

Your Community



National Night Out August 5th, 2025 (5-9PM)

National Night Out, the annual community-building event that brings together neighbors, first responders and service-based organizations, will be held 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, 2025, in Downtown Las Cruces.

The free and family-friendly event encourages neighbors to spend time outside interacting with each other and with first responders from throughout Las Cruces and Dona Ana County. Several local organizations and non-profits will also be on hand to share information on the services they provide.

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TAKE OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT HERE:

Help Shape Behavioral Health Services in Doña Ana County!

We want to hear from you! Your feedback is essential in identifying the behavioral health needs, challenges, and opportunities in our community. By completing this survey, you'll help improve access, quality, and coordination of care for youth, veterans, and underserved populations. Your input will guide future programs and local initiatives.



**Take the survey today and make a
difference!**

All responses are confidential.

Survey participants will be entered into a drawing for prizes (to be announced).

To take the survey, click or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/2025LC3CNS>



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A SPECIAL THANKS



DR. J ROCKY ROMERO, LMSW (HE, HIM)
PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
NATIONAL LATINO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION (NLBHA)



BRIAN SERNA, LPCC, LADAC (HE, HIM)
CEO/FOUNDER OF
SERNA SOLUTIONS
SERNA SOLUTIONS LLC



ENRIQUE LÓPEZ-ESCALERA, JCL, STL, MSW (HE, HIM, HIS)
GEMAS DE VIDA LLC

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THIS PAST MONTH'S TRAINERS FOR SHARING THEIR TIME, EXPERTISE, AND DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY. YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND COMMITMENT STRENGTHEN OUR WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACROSS OUR REGION. THANK YOU!

LC3 WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO THE DOÑA ANA VILLAGE ASSOCIATION (DAVA) FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN MAKING OUR RECENT MINDFULNESS AND SELF-CARE SESSION SUCH A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE. YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US BRING THIS OFFERING TO LIFE AND CREATE A WELCOMING SPACE FOR CONNECTION, REFLECTION, AND HEALING IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED COLLABORATION AND THE HEART YOU BRING TO EVERYTHING YOU DO.

WE ALSO WANT TO EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST APPRECIATION TO THE INCREDIBLE TRAINERS WHO HAVE JOINED US OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. ENRIQUE LÓPEZ-ESCALERA, BRIAN SERNA, AND DR. J ROCKY ROMERO—THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR TIME, WISDOM, AND PRESENCE WITH OUR COMMUNITY. EACH OF YOU BROUGHT SOMETHING UNIQUE AND POWERFUL TO THE TABLE, AND YOUR ABILITY TO SPEAK TO BOTH THE PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL SIDES OF WELLNESS MADE A LASTING IMPACT. FROM MINDFULNESS AND ETHICAL PRACTICE TO CULTURAL HUMILITY AND LEADERSHIP, YOUR TEACHINGS HAVE LEFT US INSPIRED AND BETTER EQUIPPED TO CARE FOR OURSELVES AND THOSE WE SERVE.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS JOURNEY WITH US. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THIS IMPORTANT WORK TOGETHER.



LC3 THANKS YOU & ...

its supporters, Families & Youth Innovations Plus, the Paso del Norte Foundation & the Health Care Authority & its training partners



HEALTH CARE
AUTHORITY

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