

R95 Workgroup Meeting & Discussion Virtual Meeting

April 24, 2024

Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Bureau
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



Agenda

12:00 pm **Welcome & Updates-** Dr. Gary Tsai

12:10 pm

Focus Areas - Dr. Brian Hurley

Lowering Barriers to Care

Bidirectional Harm Reduction Referrals [2F-1]

Workforce Capacity Building

Addiction Medication Prescribing Clinician Incentive [1E]

1:25 pm **Next Steps**

1:30 pm **Adjourn**

Focus Area 2: Lowering Barriers to Care *Bidirectional Referrals Between Harm Reduction & Treatment Programs (2F-1, 2F-2)*

Dr. Brian Hurley
Medical Director and Division Chief, Clinical Services
Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

- Deliverable (Templates, Guidance, Resources) & Due Dates:
 - 2F-1 Executed MOU – Due 3/31/24
 - 2F Guidance for Bidirectional Referrals
(<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/docs/providers/r95/122123/2F-1-Guidance-for-Bidirectional-Referrals%E2%80%93SUD-Treatment-and-Harm-Reduction-Final.pdf>)
 - 2F-2 Verified Claims – Due 6/30/24
 - Claims Verification Form (*to be provided week of 1/29/23*)

Better Blending Treatment & Harm Reduction

- We know recovery is a continuum, but the separation and programmatic divide between treatment and harm reduction services is often wide and needs to be addressed to better match the continuum of SUD services with client experience.
- Better integrating treatment and harm reduction services within agencies is both a cultural and operational issue, with the cultural issue being the more challenging to address.
 - Achieving this goal will require addressing this from both angles and will require agency-level interventions on top of what SAPC focuses on given that agencies have different cultures and agency leadership know their culture best.
- **Ingredients for culture change at the agency-level**
 1. Knowing what we're dealing with – Opening the door for discussions to explore staff thoughts/feelings around this topic (e.g., individual/supervision/staff meetings, office hours, etc.) --> **ESSENTIAL FOCUS!**
 2. Leadership making the end goal clear – Aligning the agency and staff
 3. Evaluating progress – How do we know when treatment and harm reduction service are more integrated?
 4. Adjusting approaches as needed – Our evaluations will allow us to modify our interventions to more effectively achieve this integration

Harm Reduction Services



**Harm Reduction
Supplies Access**



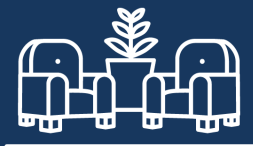
**Syringe Exchange &
Disposal**



**Naloxone and
Test Strips**



**Medications for
Addiction Treatment**



Drop-In Centers



**Linkage to Housing
Services**



Pharmacy Access



**Referrals for
Needed Services**

- **GOAL** → Meeting people where they are, both figuratively and literally
 - While brick and mortar locations are needed, mobile services that go out to people who are unlikely to go to brick and mortar locations are also needed

HARM REDUCTION SYRINGE SERVICE PROGRAMS

Harm Reduction Syringe Services Programs

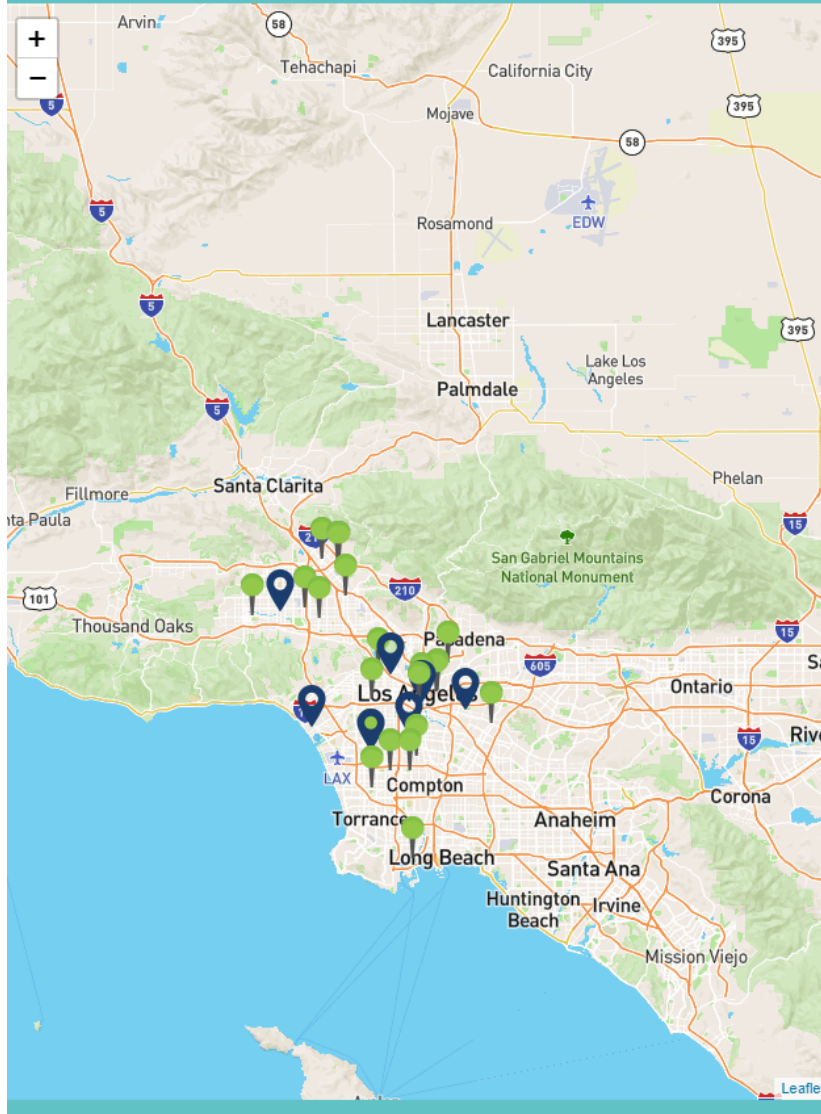
Harm reduction syringe services programs provide access to naloxone, safer injection and smoking supplies, and education which:

- Reduces the risk of fatal overdose
- Reduces the risk and spread of HIV infection
- Reduces the risk and spread of Hepatitis C
- Connects people to treatment and provides a gateway to recovery

Call to find out hours and days of operation.

SAPC's Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hub Network

- SAPC certified 16 harm reduction syringe services programs and contracts with 7 of these agencies (known as EOP Hubs)
- EOP Hub agencies are spread out over 26 field sites and 71 street-based outreach events every week
- **EOP Hub Network in FY 2022-2023**
 - **Over 3,500 lives saved** (overdose reversals) reported by EOP Hub service recipients
 - ~20,500 encounters serving nearly 11,100 individuals
 - Over 52,000 naloxone doses distributed
 - Over 14,000 fentanyl test strips distributed



Finding Harm Reduction Services

Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs

The Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs are LA County contracted syringe service providers who provide harm reduction services, peer-led education, and peer-led support services. Harm reduction services include conducting syringe exchanges, providing safer use supplies including safer smoking equipment, distributing naloxone overdose reversal kits, and connecting participants to other important services and programs such as:

- Education about overdose prevention and harm reduction practices.
- Naloxone distribution and education.
- Screening, care, treatment for viral hepatitis and HIV.
- Referrals to medications for addiction treatment, and other medical, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services.
- Fentanyl test strips distribution and education.


LA County EOP Hubs

[Click here to view EOP Hub Program Schedule \(PDF\)](#)

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/public/overdose-prevention.htm>


Los Angeles County Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs Schedule

Harm Reduction Syringe Service Programs

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Los Angeles Community Health Project (CHPLA) 1155 N. Western Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90029 323-380-5469 http://chpla.org/ Email info@chpla.org Storefront / fixed</p> <p>1151 N. Western Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90029 323-380-5469 http://chpla.org/ Email info@chpla.org Storefront / fixed</p> <p>CHPLA at LA LGBT Center 1625 N. Schrader Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90028 (Parking lot behind Center) 323-380-5469 http://chpla.org/ Email info@chpla.org *Mobile outreach</p> <p>CHPLA in Skid Row E. 6th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014 (between Wall St. & San Julian St.) 323-380-5469 http://chpla.org/ Email info@chpla.org *Mobile outreach</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>	
	<p>OPEN 7:00pm–10:00pm *Mobile outreach</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>		
		<p>OPEN 9:00am–11:00am *Mobile outreach</p>				<p>OPEN 7:00pm–10:00pm *Mobile outreach</p>	
<p>Scheduled hours are subject to change without notice. Please contact the participating agency to confirm service hours and locations. This program is supported in part by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health. Please contact Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) at harmreduction@ph.lacounty.gov</p>							

Los Angeles County Engagement and Overdose Prevention (EOP) Hubs Schedule

Harm Reduction Syringe Service Programs

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP) 652 E. Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90301 424-331-5799 https://aadapinc.org/health-intervention-program-hip/ Email treynolds@aadapinc.org Storefront / fixed</p> <p>660 E. Manchester Boulevard, Inglewood, CA 90301 424-331-5799 https://aadapinc.org/health-intervention-program-hip/ Email treynolds@aadapinc.org Storefront / fixed</p> <p>AADAP at BAART Medmark Clinic 11682 S. Atlantic Avenue, Lynwood, CA 90262 424-331-5799 https://aadapinc.org/health-intervention-program-hip/ Email treynolds@aadapinc.org Off-site location</p> <p>AADAP at Medmark Clinic 11900 S. Avalon Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90061 (white van in parking lot) 424-331-5799 https://aadapinc.org/health-intervention-program-hip/ Email treynolds@aadapinc.org Off-site location</p> <p>AADAP at Long Beach Multi-Service Center 1301 W. 12th Street, Long Beach, CA 90813 562-912-7915 https://aadapinc.org/health-intervention-program-hip/ Email treynolds@aadapinc.org Off-site location</p>		<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 10:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>	<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 10:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 9:00am–11:00am Off-site location</p>	<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 10:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 7:30am–10:00am Off-site location</p> <p>OPEN 9:00am–1:00pm Off-site location</p>	<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 10:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>	<p>OPEN 9:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p> <p>OPEN 10:00am–5:00pm Storefront / fixed</p>	
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LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC)

Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services

To submit executed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) as the deliverable for the capacity building payments supporting the cost of developing and negotiating MOUs formalizing partnerships between SAPC-certified harm reduction syringe services programs and SAPC contracted substance use treatment agencies, email each executed MOU to *both*: harmreduction@ph.lacounty.gov and sapc-cbi@ph.lacounty.gov with the subject "2F-1 Bidirectional Harm Reduction MOU"

Overview

SAPC-contracted substance use treatment provider agencies are eligible to receive capacity building payments for developing formal Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)-codified partnerships with SAPC-certified harm reduction syringe services programs (collectively "agencies"). These relationships are designed to align with treatment provider agency organizational shifts towards treating patients who may have non-abstinent goals of care and to formalize pathways for bidirectional referrals between substance use treatment agencies and programs certified by SAPC to offer harm reduction services.

SAPC recognizes the historic organizational and programmatic divide that commonly separates substance use treatment programs and harm reduction programs. Coordination of both treatment and harm reduction services will enable SAPC-contracted agencies to better match the continuum of SUD services with patient and community needs.

Agencies obtaining these incentive payments should commit to collaborating toward making the necessary cultural and operational shift in pursuit of coordination of both treatment and harm reduction services for the individuals they serve, as determined by the evolving needs of service recipients. Agency leadership should focus on the following ongoing activities in support of this commitment:

LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

- Maintaining discussions with staff (though individual/supervision/staff meetings, office hours, and other areas of staff supervision and development) to evoke staff's concerns and perspectives about the provision of harm reduction services for people who may or may not abstain from using intoxicants.
- Agency leadership's providing clarity that aligns the agency's strategic direction and staff efforts toward the goal of a comprehensive range of harm reduction and substance use treatment services available for patients and clients ("service recipients"), depending on their continually evolving needs.
- Develop and institute (1) processes that build the continuum of care across harm reduction and substance use treatment providers; (2) methods to evaluate the integration of said services; and (3) measure outcomes accordingly.
- Demonstrate ongoing adjustments that continue to advance this integration approach based on outcomes measured and feedback obtained from staff, harm reduction providers, and service recipients.

Agencies Certified by SAPC to Provide Harm Reduction Syringe Services

SAPC's Harm Reduction Syringe Services Program (SSP) Certification process is described in an information notice posted on <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/manuals-bulletins-and-forms.htm?tm#bulletins> (currently [SAPC-IN 22-09 Harm Reduction Syringe Services Program Certification](#)).

[RecoverLA](#) maintains a list of SAPC-certified harm reduction syringe service agencies: http://www.recoverla.org/staying_safe/syringe-exchange-also-known-as-needle-exchange.

SAPC-contracted harm reduction syringe service programs are designated as Engagement and Overdose Prevention Hubs (EOP Hubs) and are listed on SAPC's website: [Click here to view the list of EOP Hubs](#). SAPC EOP Hub agencies are required to obtain and maintain SAPC's certification as a harm reduction syringe services program.

LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

Email HarmReduction@ph.lacounty.gov with any questions or requests for more information about LA County's harm reduction services or for questions about connecting with an LA County certified harm reduction syringe services provider agency.

Considerations for Agencies that are SAPC-Contracted Substance Use Treatment Providers and SAPC-Certified as Harm Reduction Syringe Services Programs

Agencies that are contracted with SAPC to provide substance use treatment services and are also certified by SAPC to provide harm reduction syringe services may submit documentation describing intra-agency coordination of bidirectional referrals that include the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) components delineated below. These policies and procedures may be credited in lieu of an executed MOU towards the 2F-1 incentive units *only* when they have established MOUs with one fewer than the maximum number of MOUs with external partners listed in the current version of the Capacity Building Package posted in the current Rates and Payment Policy Bulletin (posted via <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/manuals-bulletins-and-forms.htm?tm#bulletins>)

To illustrate:

- Tier 1 SAPC treatment contractors may submit internal policies and procedures to count toward this incentive when they have already established two MOUs with external harm reduction syringe services programs (thus, the policies and procedures would count in lieu of the **third** MOU).
- Tier 2 SAPC treatment contractors may submit internal policies and procedures to count toward this incentive when they have already established three MOUs with external harm reduction syringe services programs (thus, the policies and procedures would count in lieu of the **fourth** MOU).
- Tier 3 SAPC treatment contractors may submit internal policies and procedures to count toward this incentive when they have already established four MOUs with external harm reduction syringe services programs (thus, the policies and procedures would count in lieu of the **fifth** MOU).

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Required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Components

SAPC requires that a formal, written agreement be in place between SAPC-contracted substance use treatment provider agencies with SAPC-certified harm reduction syringe services programs for this incentive. The written agreement shall include:

Established Communication Protocol

- Both parties shall have designated key points of contact within their respective organizations to coordinate communication and collaboration between organizations.
- Both parties have and will continue to arrange and conduct scheduled meetings that advance the aims of this agreement and have designated communication channels established to facilitate ongoing collaboration.

Established Referral Pathway

- Both parties shall have organized a clear referral process to connect service participants who are engaging in harm reduction services with substance use treatment services.
- Both parties shall have agreed upon criteria for low-threshold initiation of treatment services that support prompt and efficient linkage of SSP service recipients to substance use treatment available at a treatment agency.

Care Coordination

- Both parties shall have established and shall maintain protocols ensuring care coordination for service recipients served by the agencies.

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Inter-Agency Training

- Both parties shall have agreed on a plan for staff training that enhances mutual understanding of each of the agencies' respective goals, services, and treatment orientations consistent with the principles of harm reduction.

Information Security

- Both parties shall maintain confidentiality protocols compliant with all applicable privacy laws and regulations, including but not limited to HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2, that maintain confidentiality for patients, family members, and service recipient records.

Service Recipient Feedback

- Both parties shall have established a mechanism for obtaining feedback from service recipients regarding their experiences, including but not limited to successes and barriers of receiving services at the agencies.
- The agencies shall use the feedback to improve care coordination and service delivery.

MOUs must be submitted SAPC [in order to](#) validate incentive payments that support the cost of developing and negotiating MOUs that formalize partnerships between SAPC-certified SSPs and SAPC-contracted substance use treatment agencies. SAPC-contracted substance use treatment agencies shall submit copies of executed MOUs via email to *both*: harmreduction@ph.lacounty.gov and sapc-cbi@ph.lacounty.gov with the subject "2F-1 Bidirectional Harm Reduction MOU".

LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

- R95 Workgroup Meeting Dates & Agenda Topics:
 - Wed, 6/19/24: 11:00 am to 12:30 pm (during UM Meeting)
 - Agenda topics to be determined based on feedback, questions and concerns raised by providers
 - Wed, 6/26/24: 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm (R95 Workgroup Meeting)
 - Discussion: Troubleshooting submission of verified claims for new admissions at non-FBS sites.

LBC: Bidirectional Referrals Between Substance Use Treatment and Harm Reduction Services 2F-1, 2F-2

- R95 Workgroup Meeting Dates & Agenda Topics:
 - Wed, 4/24/24: 12:00 am to 1:30 pm
 - Identify Engagement Policy Implementation Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement
 - Wed, 6/26/24: 3:30 to 5:00 pm
 - Troubleshooting submission of verified claims for new admissions at non-FBS sites.

Focus Area: Addiction Medication (MAT) Prescribing Clinician Cost Sharing Start Up Funding (Workforce Development Capacity Building 1E)

Dr. Brian Hurley
Medical Director and Division Chief, Clinical Services
Bureau of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Addiction Medication Prescribing Clinician Funding Opportunity

- Start-up funding is available to all SAPC-contracted treatment agencies
 - Ratio of \$200,000 **per** 40 hours/week of clinician time
 - \$200,000 **per** FTE one-time start up funding spread over two years:
 - \$150,000 **per** 40 hours/week during Year 1 (FY23-24)
 - \$50,000 **per** 40 hours/week during Year 2 (FY24-25)
- Designed to be combined / matched with local agency funds, and sustained beyond two years through SAPC billing for medication services
- Currently capped at a max of \$200,000 (per 40 hours/week) per agency (regardless of Tier)

Addiction Medication Prescribing Clinician Funding Opportunity

- **New** Capacity Building 1E Payment: **Optional and strongly recommended**. This project is for start-up funds. Providers will be paid once an addiction medication (MAT) prescribing clinician implementation plan has been submitted and approved and can be paid before the implementation has been initiated / completed.
- To receive advance funds, complete and submit the designated invoice **along with** the required implementation plan.
- Agencies will need to submit quarterly addiction medication (MAT) prescribing clinician implementation updates for approval to avoid recoupment. Expenditure verification is not required.

Addiction Medication Prescribing Clinician Requirements

- Implementation Plan must include integrating prescribing clinician(s):
 - Physician, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant
 - Clinical Pharmacist's scope of practice does not include SUD dx and clinical pharmacists do not independently meet clinician requirements for this incentive program
- Start up funding is available as a ratio to 40 hours/week
- Example: 20 hours/week = $\frac{1}{2}$ of \$200,000 = \$75,000 year 1, \$25,000 year 2

Addiction Medication (MAT) Prescribing Clinician Implementation Plan

III. **Proposed Implementation of Addiction Medication Services**

Check the box corresponding when the following implementation items apply:

Use the drop-down menu below to indicate the number of hours per week your agency proposes to increase medical clinicians providing medical assessments and medical management at your agency:

Hours Per Week
 Choose an item. | hours per week

Note that hours per week can be inclusive of direct clinical services and of administrative time. Start-up funding is available to all SAPC-contracted treatment agencies at a ratio of \$200,000 per 40 hours per week of addiction medication prescribing clinician time, distributed as 75% in Year 1 and 25% in Year 2. The hours indicated via this item above will be matched against your invoicing for verification prior to disbursing start-up funding. At present, the cap on funding is \$200,000 per agency (regardless of tier).

Our agency attests that all required *non-methadone* medications described within [SAPC Information Notice 24-01 - Addiction Medication Access in the SAPC Treatment Network Attachment B - Required Addiction Medications](#) will be provided directly to patients at our agency.

Please indicate the date that your agency’s addiction medication policy (referenced in SAPC Information Notice

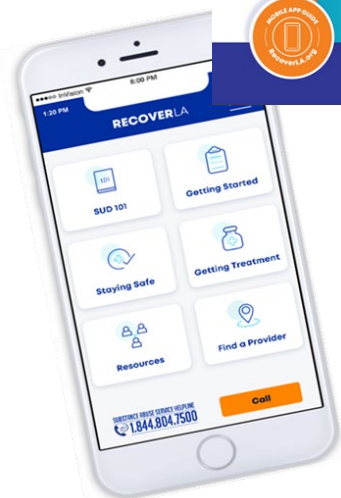
Technical Assistance

- SAPC published suggested duty statement for addiction medication prescribing clinicians and recommendation for implementation plan components via <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/payment-reform/workforce-development.htm>
- Recruitment resources:
 - CSAM Career Center <http://careers.csam-asam.org>
 - ASAM Career Center <http://careers.asam.org>
 - ACAAM Career Center <http://www.acaam.org/career-center>
 - AOAAM Career Center <http://jobs.aoaam.org>
- IMS Resources Published through SAPC-IN 24-01 [Attachment G - Incidental Medical Services](#)
- Technical assistance is available upon request

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/providers/payment-reform/workforce-development.htm>

RecoverLA:

A Los Angeles County Guide to
Substance Use Disorder Prevention
and Treatment Resources



Discussion

Visit RecoverLA.org on your smart phone or tablet to learn more about SUD services and resources, including a mobile-friendly version of the provider directory and an easy way to connect to our Substance Abuse Service Helpline at 1-844-804-7500!