



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Leaders to Dedicate Mental Health Urgent Care Center

On Wednesday, August 27, Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas will join county and healthcare leaders for a ribbon cutting ceremony to dedicate the Martin Luther King Jr. Mental Health Urgent Care Center on the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center Campus in Willowbrook.

The newly refurbished two-story, 8,000-square-foot facility, which opens to the public September 4, is the latest milestone towards the completion of a wellness community that brings preventive and emergency care services to the region.

The Urgent Care Center also will be an important component of County diversion efforts to redirect mentally ill offenders away from jails, where people with untreated illnesses currently constitute a substantial portion of the population. Preventive services will be offered to those who suffer from mental illness and may be at risk of being arrested. Individuals who have a mental illness and are detained by police, may be brought to the Urgent Care Center for evaluation, stabilization and diversion into treatment programs.

“We look forward to opening this mental health center so that more residents can receive the services that will improve their lives,” Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas

said. “These types of services go a long way toward saving taxpayer dollars and effectively keeping people out of jails, off the streets and into rehabilitation.”

The center will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will offer a variety of services including psychiatric evaluation and assessment, crisis intervention, medication support and medication management. Adults and adolescents can receive treatment, alcohol and drug counseling and prevention, domestic violence screening and referrals to other community resources where people can seek help. While there is an emphasis on serving the indigent and Medi-Cal patients, no one will be turned away.

The center will be run by Exodus Foundation for Recovery which has been providing psychiatric services in Southern California since 1989. The Urgent Care Center brings additional medical services to the Martin Luther King Jr. Medical Center Campus, which already include the MLK Outpatient Center and Center for Public Health. The hospital is scheduled to open next year.

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