CORE Strategy

Compassionate Outreach, Response, and Enforcement

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Why this item is before Council

Voluntary response remains the foundation but recurring severe cases need a clearer path to stabilization.

- Several State laws have changed recently significantly changing tools available to City teams to stabilize those in crisis.
- Most field tools are voluntary. When services are declined and there is no immediate danger, City teams disengage.
- The most severe recurring cases still cycle through emergency calls without stabilization for the individual or the community.

CORE Strategy organizes the voluntary, civil, and enforcement tools the City already has, so compassion and public safety work together instead of in separate lanes.

CORE Strategy: a severity-based framework

Least restrictive tool first. Escalate only when the situation and the law justify it.

1 Voluntary engagement

De-escalation, crisis response, supplies, shelter connection, and treatment navigation.

2 CARE Court

Eligible petition or qualifying court referral when narrow clinical criteria fit.

3 Medical holds

Civil intervention when danger or grave-disability thresholds are met.

4 Enforcement + diversion

Use existing law and treatment-linked accountability when civil thresholds are not met.



This framework does not replace outreach. It clarifies when the City should stay in voluntary engagement and when it should move to civil intervention or enforcement-backed diversion.

Start with the teams Long Beach already relies on

These services are already in the field and should remain the first response where voluntary engagement is appropriate.

SOT	**Street Outreach Teams**	Encampment outreach, engagement, and connection to services, shelter, and housing resources.
MAC	**Mobile Access Center**	Immediate access point for basic needs, service navigation, and coordinated support.
CCR	**Community Crisis Response**	Citywide crisis response focused on de-escalation and voluntary engagement.
REACH	**REACH Team**	Connects people with serious mental and physical health needs to long-term care and support.
MET	**Mental Evaluation Team**	Specialized unit to respond to calls for service related to mental health emergencies.
QOL	**Quality of Life Teams**	Focuses on connecting people experiencing homelessness to services; Supports encampment clean-up operations, issues citations and makes arrests when appropriate.

CARE Court is a new tool

Use CARE Court when the criteria fits.

Where CARE fits

- CARE Court may order a CARE Plan, but it cannot force a respondent to comply with treatment.
- An eligible petition or certain court referrals can start the process.
- The scope is narrow: schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders, plus bipolar I with psychotic features as of January 1, 2026.

Important limit: CARE Court excludes psychosis related to current intoxication.

Early L.A. County CARE data
December 2023 - July 2025

511 petitions filed	**270** petitions dismissed
106 CARE agreements	**6** CARE plans

0 graduations

SB 43 expands when grave disability may be found

The City still documents and coordinates; receiving clinicians and hospitals decide whether hold criteria are met.

Los Angeles County effective January 1, 2026

Before SB 43

A condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder or chronic alcoholism (rather than a chosen lifestyle or lack of funds), is unable to provide for his or her basic needs for food, clothing or shelter.

Expanded definition

A condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, a severe substance use disorder, or a co-occurring mental health disorder and a severe substance use disorder, is unable to provide for their basic personal needs for food, clothing, shelter, personal safety, or necessary medical care.

Who can initiate

Peace officers and county-authorized personnel

City responsibility

Document observable behavior, safety risks, and impairment clearly enough for clinical review

Who decides

Receiving clinicians and hospitals assess whether the hold criteria are met

Why this matters

Better field documentation can reduce avoidable releases caused by incomplete information.

When civil thresholds are not met, use enforcement as a backstop

The goal is a structured touchpoint tied to diversion and stabilization, not simply cycling through citations.

When civil thresholds are not met

If laws are violated, use existing authority for public intoxication, drug possession, disorderly conduct, camping, trespass, indecent exposure, and other applicable codes.

Create a treatment-linked touchpoint

Use diversion pathways - PAD, PATH, Homeless Court, and the SB 27 CARE referral pathway - whenever appropriate.

Use recent state tools carefully

Prop 36 creates a treatment-mandated felony option for certain eligible repeat drug possession cases.

When civil intervention is not available, but the law is being violated, use the touchpoint to push toward treatment, diversion, and accountability.

Proposition 1 shows state investment within Los Angeles Region

Despite no new local funding, more than a billion dollars is being invested in mental health and SUD facilities throughout the Los Angeles region.

Grants within Los Angeles region

$951.77 million

Round 1 Proposition 1 BHCIP awards announced in 2025

$352 million

Round 2 Proposition 1 BHCIP awards announced in 2026

City of Long Beach submitted two Round 2 projects

1. **Multi-Service Center**
   Approximately 2,400 square feet for Office-Based Opioid Treatment.

2. **Social rehabilitation facility at the 702 Shelter site**
   Proposed 16-bed facility providing 24-hour non-medical residential care in a home-like environment.

The CORE Strategy ensures our outreach system is prepared to utilize new regional treatment capacity coming online throughout Los Angeles County.

Requested Council action

Compassion means recognizing when someone is no longer able to keep themselves safe.

- Direct the City Manager - in coordination with the City Attorney, Police, Fire, Health, and Emergency Communications - to return within 90 days with a CORE Strategy.
- Establish a public reporting approach using the past year as the baseline.
- Return with any necessary City Council actions recommended to fully implement the CORE Strategy.

90

days

for staff to return with a framework and reporting plan

Approve recommendation.

Who residents should call

911

For emergencies

(562) 435-6711

For non-emergencies

Questions dispatchers will ask the caller:

- Where is the incident occurring – be as specific as possible.
- What is happening – is it a crime or medical emergency?
- When did the incident occur – is the incident in progress?
- Who is involved – identify victims, suspects, or witnesses.
- What is the threat level – are there weapons, guns, hazmat materials, or major hazards?
- Is anyone injured – is a medical response required?