



FACT SHEET

Authorized Representative/Caregiver Background

On February 28, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the *Bringing Your Loved Ones Home* (BOLOH) Task Force was led by the Department of Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services (WDACS), in collaboration with multiple stakeholders; including the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Office of the Public Social Services (DPSS), as well as the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Office of the Public Guardian, Commissions on Disabilities, Commission on Older Adults (Commission on Aging), Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC), and Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles (ALZLA).

Inspiration for this work was fostered by the disappearance of Nancy Paulikas, who suffered from early-onset Alzheimer's. On October 16, 2016, during a visit with family to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Nancy stopped to use the bathroom and then vanished. Her husband believes that she likely came out of the restroom just moments before he did and set out to look for him. Surveillance video from nearby businesses shows her walking southwest shortly thereafter. Despite every effort to locate her, Ms. Paulikas' disappearance highlighted the need for improved coordination among County and various community agencies.

The BOLOH Taskforce proposed a three-year that includes 17 strategies and recommendations in four key areas (below) aimed to reduce and prevent the number of wandering incidents of at-risk individuals with cognitive impairments such as Alzheimer's, Dementia and Autism. On February 22, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved funding to launch the initiative. A copy of the report can be found at <http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/1201078.pdf>.

LA Found Initiative

On September 5, 2018, Supervisor Janice Hahn, in collaboration with WDACS, LASD, DMH, and other county departments, rebranded BOLOH into the LA Found Initiative and launched the Project Lifesaver Pilot. The LA Found Initiative is comprised of a comprehensive website, information on tracking devices, and marketing materials to educate the community on what to do if someone goes missing. Additionally, the initiative focused on three key areas: Tracking Technology, County Resources, and Emergency Coordination. With 60% of individuals with Alzheimer's and 49% of children with autism wandering at some point in their lives, the message is simple: "L.A. County is here to help!"

Questions: lafound@ad.lacounty.gov or 1-833-569-7651 Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM



LA.Found



L.A. Found



LAFoundCommunity



LAFound1



FACT SHEET Project Lifesaver

The Project Lifesaver Pilot provides a tracking device for qualifying individuals to wear and equipment for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to track using radio frequencies. This way, at-risk persons can be located when they are reported missing if they have a Project Lifesaver tracking device.

Project Lifesaver International, a 501(c)(3), was chosen for the pilot, as they are the first and oldest organization providing law enforcement organizations with training and tracking devices specifically targeted towards individuals with Alzheimer's, dementia, autism, or other cognitive impairments. Project Lifesaver is currently being used in Glendale, San Diego, Monrovia, and LaVerne.

The pilot is being monitored throughout the three-year initiative and a report will be provided to the BOS at the end of the pilot.

To apply for a Project Lifesaver device, you can:

- Apply at lafound.ad.lacounty.gov
- Email at lafound@ad.lacounty.gov
- Call the LA Found Hotline at 1-833-569-7651 Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM; or
- Complete a Project Lifesaver Referral online at <https://lafound.ad.lacounty.gov/referral->

Along with a completed application, the authorized agent applying for the individual must also sign a Project Lifesaver Pilot Program Contract and Release form and submit verifying documentation. To date, more than 550 tracking devices have been issued.

Option for Purchase

Families who may not need a free device may apply to purchase a device at a retail value of \$375 plus shipping and handling. All individuals who purchase a device must be vetted to ensure that they can purchase a device on behalf of the participant. Additionally, the Aging & Disabilities Department must be made aware so that we can assist with the application process.

Questions? lafound@ad.lacounty.gov or 1-833-569-7651 Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM



LA.Found



L.A. Found



LAFoundCommunity



LAFound1