A 24/7 Westside Crisis Drop-Off Center

Updated October 28, 2026. Every phone number was checked against an official page.

Santa Monica has no 24/7 place where police, fire or outreach can hand off a person in crisis who does not need an emergency room. Without one, a call can end with the person left where they were. This initiative asks for a no-refusal crisis drop-off on the Westside: a place that takes everyone, every time, in under ten minutes, and connects them to detox, treatment or a bed.

Where can police or families take someone in crisis today?

Only a few places, and none of them is a no-refusal drop-off:

Option	Who can use it	What it is
Hospital emergency room	Anyone	For medical emergencies. Long waits for psychiatric care are common.
SaMo Bridge, Main St and Pico Blvd	Police referral only	The City's 24/7 diversion hub
Exodus Recovery Westside psychiatric urgent care	Walk-in adults	24/7 psychiatric urgent care. Exodus lists 11444 W Washington Blvd, Suite D; the County locator lists 8607 Venice Blvd. Call ahead: **(310) 253-9494**
LA County DMH 24/7 Help Line	Anyone	Clinician crisis teams and detox referrals: **(800) 854-7771**

In an emergency, call 911. For a mental health or substance use crisis, call or text 988.

What is SaMo Bridge?

SaMo Bridge is Santa Monica's 24/7 diversion hub at Main Street and Pico Boulevard, open to people referred by police. In its first year it placed 81% of the people it connected into housing or treatment immediately, the Santa Monica Daily Press reported on May 22, 2026. It shows what a front door can do. It is not open to fire, outreach or families, and it is not a sobering or psychiatric observation unit.

What is missing?

A receiving center that never says no. The model has five parts: 23-hour observation, a sobering unit, medical clearance, psychiatric urgent care, and a warm handoff to detox or a bed. Police, fire and outreach drop off in under ten minutes and get back to work.

Money has been on the table. In 2023 the City secured $1.5 million in federal and $1.5 million in state funding toward a Santa Monica Behavioral Health Center meant as a 24/7 destination for first responders. As far as we can find, no site, operator or opening date has been announced. The Westside Cities Council of Governments is planning a campus "safe landing" model, and LA County's 2026-29 Behavioral Health Services Act plan lists law enforcement drop-off as a crisis service. We know of no Westside site chosen yet.

How would a drop-off center work?

It would work like the centers that already do this elsewhere:

- Phoenix and Tucson (Connections Health Solutions): officers back on patrol in under ten minutes under a no-wrong-door policy, with 60 to 70% stabilized and moved to community care within 24 hours (company-reported, 2021 and 2024).
- San Antonio Restoration Center: police drop off without notice to a sobering unit, medical clinic and crisis care. Opened 2008.
- LA County's Murphy Sobering Center on Skid Row: 50 beds, stays under 24 hours.

For the Westside we ask for a no-refusal standard, a target of under ten minutes for police drop-off, and a direct line into recovery beds so people move up as they stabilize: more freedom, then housing, then work.

Who pays for it?

Mostly money that already exists: County Behavioral Health Services Act crisis dollars, Medi-Cal Community Supports for the sobering unit, the 2023 Behavioral Health Center funds, and any rescinded Prop 1 treatment-facility funds the state reallocates. The first step is a report on where the 2023 funds stand.

Where does this initiative stand?

It is a resident draft. Nothing has been submitted to the City Council. We propose a Councilmember Discussion Item directing staff to report within 60 days on the status of the 2023 funds, a site, an operator, an opening date, and a "no refusal, under ten minutes" standard. We are also asking Westside neighborhood and community councils to support a crisis drop-off with a letter or an agenda item, so the County hears that the Westside wants one.

How would we know it is working?

Two numbers: police drop-off minutes, and the share of encampment and hold calls that end at a destination instead of "advised" or "gone on arrival," measured from SMPD open data.

Sources

1. Rep. Ted Lieu: funding for the Santa Monica Behavioral Health Center (Mar 3, 2023)
2. Westside Cities Council of Governments: homelessness
3. LA County BHSA Integrated Plan 2026-29
4. Santa Monica Daily Press: SaMo Bridge first year (May 22, 2026)
5. Exodus Recovery
6. Beach Cities Health District: Exodus Recovery Westside Urgent Care Center listing
7. Connections Health Solutions: crisis response centers (Jul 2024)
8. CHCS: San Antonio Restoration Center, law enforcement
9. LA County DHS: sobering center standards
10. L.A. Care: sobering center Community Supports
11. LA County DMH: Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams

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