

Los Angeles County Public Defender Social Work Department

LACPD & CPDA Youth Defender Training 2026

You've Been Assigned a Transfer, Now What?

Part 1: Team Building, Record Gathering, and Client Rapport

DATE & TIME:	April 25, 2026	1:00-2:00 PM
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All registration must be confirmed by the education director at least 3 days prior to the training. Sign in from 1:00-2:00 PM. All participants must arrive during the sign-in period to receive full participation credits.

PLACE:	Loyola Law School 919 Albany Street Los Angeles, CA 90015
PARKING:	\$12.00

This **1.0** credit in-person workshop was developed for legal professionals, including social workers, as an intermediate level course. This training will focus on areas of social work with individuals in nonclinical, forensic practice. The session will describe how to use team building, record gathering, and rapport in transfer cases to tell the client's story and support a finding of amenability to rehabilitation within the delinquency court system.

OBJECTIVES:	As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differentiate between the role of the paralegal, social worker, and resource attorney as part of the defense team on transfer cases.• Explain how to use a paralegal, social worker, and resource attorney to gather information that tells the client's story and supports amenability to rehabilitation within the delinquency court.
CONDUCTED BY:	Kelly O'Brien is a seasoned Public Defender with a distinguished career spanning over 31 years, including 29 years serving in Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. A graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law (1994), she has dedicated her career to indigent defense. She currently serves as Head Deputy of Youth Services South, overseeing operations across four branch juvenile courts. Kelly has tried over 130 juvenile delinquency cases and advocated for youth in complex and high-stakes proceedings, including the litigation of 15 Transfer/Fitness petitions. Inspired at an early age by <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , Kelly declared a commitment to becoming a criminal defense attorney as early as seventh grade—a calling that has defined a career marked by dedication to justice, advocacy, and the protection of constitutional rights. When not championing for her clients and attorneys, she is out making adventures with her 4 children and 3 puppies.

Monique McDavid is the Deputy in Charge of Collaborative Justice & Trainer, Youth Services Division. She trains and supervises Resource Attorneys in the Client Assessment Recommendation Evaluation (CARE) program. This specialized unit of attorneys provides direct representation for criminal justice involved youth with developmental disability, special education, and/or foster youth law needs at local school districts and Regional Centers within Los Angeles County. This includes, but is not limited to, IEPs, expulsions, and Fair Hearings. She has been a Deputy Public Defender with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office for over 20 years with experience in delinquency and adult practice.

Alexi Weden, LCSW, is a Psychiatric Social Worker with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, Youth Services Division, where she has worked for the past 19 years. As a member of the defense team, she conducts assessments, identifies mitigation, and advises attorneys on issues including mental health, special education, and developmental disabilities. Alexi has been qualified as an expert witness in superior court on numerous occasions and has testified on a wide range of topics. She has worked on more than 40 transfer/fitness cases throughout her career with the Public Defender's Office. Prior to joining the Public Defender's Office, she worked as a mental health therapist for children and adolescents at Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center and in private practice. She has over 25 years of experience in the mental health field.

Cindy Crippen is a Youth Services Paralegal with LA County Public Defender's Office. Cindy both earned her Paralegal Certificate and launched her Paralegal career in 2014. In 2022, Cindy joined the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. Cindy worked in the post-conviction unit where she assisted Attorneys with the resentencing and release of clients serving state prison commitments. As a Youth Services Paralegal, Cindy has become a valuable resource for all pre-disposition stages during case processes, especially Transfer Hearings. Cindy believes that all youth are deserving of our compassion and diligence.

COORDINATED BY: Alison Seeger, LCSW

Please see presentation description and agenda in the registration link. Participants must sign-in and sign-out in order to receive their certificate of completion and receive credit. Certificates will be emailed within 10 business days upon turning in the evaluation. Should anyone have any grievances or concerns, they may contact Alison Seeger, LCSW at aseeger@pubdef.lacounty.gov. An additional grievance policy is also attached should any other participant at the conference have a grievance.

ADA needs : We would be happy to made accommodations for any individuals with disabilities. Please reach out at least two weeks prior to the traning date.

	Course delivery format will be an in-person workshop and discussion.
PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:	Conference registration is required. Attendance tracking is required for live events, with a sign-in sheet showing first and last name of the participant along with sign-in and out times. Participants must present for the entirety of the training to receive credit.
CONTINUING EDUCATION:	Los Angeles Public Defender Social Work Department (ACE# 1553) is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. The Los Angeles County Social Work Department maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: 06/14/2023- 06/14/2026. Social workers participating in this training will receive 1.0 continuing education GENERAL/Non-Clinical credits.
COST	LA County allied defense professionals \$0/non-LA County (CPDA member) \$150/non-LA County non-member \$200