

Los Angeles County Public Defender Social Work Department

LACPD & CPDA Youth Defender Training 2026

Beyond the Label: Understanding Youth Gang Involvement

DATE & TIME:	April 25, 2026	3:30-4:30PM
-------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

All registration must be confirmed by the education director at least 3 days prior to the training. Sign in from 3:30-4:30PM. 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. This workshop explores the complex factors that contribute to youth gang involvement, moving beyond stereotypes to understand the social, emotional, and environmental challenges young people face. We will examine why youth join gangs, including issues such as identity, belonging, trauma, and systemic barriers, while also discussing the developmental pathways that shape these experiences. Participants will gain a deeper, more compassionate understanding of gang involvement and practical insights for prevention, intervention, and support.

OBJECTIVES:	As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examine why youth join gangs, including issues such as identity, belonging, trauma, and systemic barriers, from a developmental perspective.• Describe practical strategies for prevention, intervention, and support.
--------------------	--

CONDUCTED BY:	Steven Kim is the Founder and Executive Director of Project Kinship, a community-rooted organization supporting individuals impacted by incarceration, gang involvement, and systemic trauma. After decades of studying and addressing the impacts of trauma, he now focuses his work on fostering healing, opportunity, and justice through trauma-informed and restorative practices. A leader in forensic social work, Steve has guided multidisciplinary teams on death penalty cases, uncovering the impact of early childhood trauma, and has served as a trainer and consultant at state and federal levels. He formerly served on faculty at the University of Southern California's School of Social Work and is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education and Organizational Leadership. Grounded in the belief that healing begins through
----------------------	--

	connection and dignity, Steve continues to cultivate spaces of hope and opportunity that inspire collective action across Orange County.
COORDINATED BY:	<p>Alison Seeger, LCSW</p> <p>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.</p> <p>ADA needs : We would be happy to made accommodations for any individuals with disabilities. Please reach out at least two weeks prior to the training date.</p> <p>Course delivery format will be an in-person workshop and discussion.</p>
PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS:	<p>Conference registration is required. The training link has been sent via email. 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.</p> <p>Participants must present for the entirety of the training to receive credit.</p>
CONTINUING EDUCATION:	<p>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.</p> <p>Social workers participating in this training will receive 1.0 continuing education GENERAL/Non-Clinical credits.</p>
COST	LA County allied defense professionals \$0/non-LA County (CPDA member) \$150/non-LA County non-member \$200