



LA FOUND: PROJECT LIFESAVER PILOT

BACKGROUND

On February 28, 2017, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors established the ***Bringing Our Loved Ones Home (BOLOH)*** Task Force. The 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), Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), Department of Public Social Services (DPSS), as well as Department of Mental Health (DMH)-Office of the Public Guardian, Commission on Disabilities, Commission on Local Governmental Services, Los Angeles County Commission on Older Adults (Commission on Aging), Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, and Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles (ALZGLA).

Inspiration for this work was fostered by the disappearance of Nancy Paulikas, who suffered from early onset of Alzheimer's. On October 16, 2016, during a visit with family to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 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 a few moments later. Despite every effort to locate her, Ms. Paulikas' remains were found in the Santa Monica Mountains in December 2018. Ms. Paulikas' disappearance highlighted the need for improved coordination when an individual who has a cognitive impairment goes missing.

The BOLOH Taskforce proposed a three-year initiative that includes 17 strategies 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 approved funding to launch the BOLOH three-year initiative. A copy of the report can be found at <https://wdacs.lacounty.gov/boloh/>

LA FOUND

On September 5, 2018, Supervisor Hahn, in collaboration with WDACS, LASD, DMH and other county departments, launched the newly rebranded LA Found Initiative (Formerly BOLOH) and the Project Lifesaver Pilot. The initiative is one of the 17 strategies recommended for implementation by the taskforce.

LA Found includes a brand-new website, Project Lifesaver Pilot and marketing materials to educate the community on what to do if someone goes missing. The initiative focuses 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.



LA FOUND: PROJECT LIFESAVER PILOT

PROJECT LIFESAVER PILOT

The Project Lifesaver Pilot provides a tracking bracelet to qualifying individuals and equipment for the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Mental Evaluation Team (MET) to track individuals and quickly locate individuals when they become lost.

Project Lifesaver International, a 501c3 was chosen for the pilot, as they are the first and oldest organization providing training and tracking devices to law enforcement organizations, specifically dealing with Alzheimer's, Dementia and Autistic individuals. Project Lifesaver is currently being used in Glendale, San Diego, Monrovia, and La Verne. WDACS, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department launched the pilot on **September 5, 2018**.

The pilot will be monitored throughout the year and a report will be provided to the BOS at the end of the pilot.

Application Process

The authorized representative, conservator or power of attorney for the participant is required to complete an application, waiver, and survey for the program. Documentation verifying that the individual can make legal decisions on behalf the individual must be provided (i.e. conservatorship documents or power of attorney). For minor children, birth certificate or adoption paperwork meets the requirement. Additional documentation may be requested on a case by case basis.

Option for Purchase

Families who may not qualify for a free device may apply to purchase a device. As part of the requirement by Project Lifesaver International, all individuals purchasing a device must be vetted to ensure that they can purchase a device on behalf of the participant. The application process described above applies to applicants of a free or purchased device.