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## City of Los Angeles Declared May 8 "Children's Mental Health Awareness Day"

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Councilman Bernard Parks recently led the Los Angeles City Council in declaring May 8 as "Los Angeles Children's Mental Health Awareness Day." The resolution notes that youth with access to the early intervention and prevention services are more likely to have positive outcomes such as better grades. In contrast, those with poor access are more likely to suffer involvement with the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

"Children's Mental Health Awareness Day promotes positive youth development, resilience, recovery and the transformation of mental health services delivery for children and youth with serious mental health needs and their families," said Parks.

Parks singled out the work of Los Angeles Child Guidance Clinic (LACGC) for its services to children at risk, as well as for advocating for their needs. The clinic has served South and Central Los Angeles for 85 years and is recognized as a national leader in services for children aged 0-5.

Betsy Pfromm president and CEO of LACGC, recognized the councilman for his leadership on the issue. "Children in our community face violence, poverty and other stressors that put them at risk," Pfromm said. "Early intervention and prevention give them the chance they need for success in life. We thank Councilman Parks for rallying support for children in need and for services like ours, which truly bring hope to the community."

LACGC has been a two-time First 5 LA Community Development Initiative grant recipient, implementing two projects that support early intervention.

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