

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**APPROVAL OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PLAN OF THE
CAPITAL FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS COMPONENT
OF THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT
AND
REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(4 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of the Mental Health Services Act Information Technology Plan included in the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Component of the Mental Health Services Act for submission to the California Department of Mental Health.

REQUEST

1. Approve the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Information Technology Plan (MHSA IT Plan) in the amount of \$69,779,360 for submission to the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH) and authorize the Director of Mental Health (DMH), or his designee, to make modifications to the MHSA IT Plan in response to comments from CDMH and to submit future amendments to revise previously approved projects, add new projects and/or request future funding.
2. Authorize DMH to fill four ordinance or four Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions in addition to what is provided for in DMH's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code and subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office (CEO), to administer and monitor the MHSA IT Contract Provider Technology Project. These positions will be funded by MHSA funding included in the MHSA IT Plan.
3. Approve the attached appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$12,888,000 to increase the Department's appropriation and revenue to fund the components of the MHSA IT Plan scheduled for expenditure in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09 and authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the appropriation adjustment when the MHSA IT Plan is approved by the CDMH.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Approval of the proposed MHSA IT Plan will allow DMH to submit the MHSA IT Plan to CDMH, thereby allowing DMH to commence the development of an infrastructure that

will technically support the programs, services and goals of the MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan. The MHSA funds are intended to assist the DMH mental health services delivery system including Contract Providers and consumer/family empowerment. The projects included in the MHSA IT Plan are intended to make clinical, administrative, and financial data available to authorized users when and where they need it and in the format most appropriate to their intended use. The MHSA IT Plan allows for participation by consumers, family members, caregivers, the providers of service (whether DMH operated or contracted), DMH, in its role as the Local Plan Administrator, and the CDMH.

In the MHSA IT Plan, DMH has identified six IT projects that are consistent with the overarching MHSA technology goals of:

- Increasing consumer and family empowerment by providing the tools for secure consumer and family access to health information, and
- Modernization and transformation of clinical and administrative information systems to ensure quality of care, parity, operational efficiency and cost effectiveness.

The Department is requesting delegated authority to make modifications to the MHSA IT Plan as CDMH may request changes following their review of the plan. In addition, DMH is requesting delegated authority to submit amendments to CDMH to revise previously approved projects, add new projects to the MHSA IT Plan and/or to request future MHSA IT funding.

The Department is also requesting four new positions to administer and monitor the Contract Provider Technology Project included in the MHSA IT Plan. These positions are essential to ensure effective management and oversight of this project.

BACKGROUND

In November 2004, voters in California passed Proposition 63, now called the Mental Health Services Act. MHSA provides a great opportunity for DMH to reengineer the way it delivers mental health services, but it also requires significantly improved automated support in order to meet expectations for performance and outcome measures reporting. DMH cannot meet MHSA program transformation and reporting expectations with its current automation.

On January 31, 2008, CDMH released the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Planning Estimate in the amount of \$99,684,800 for FY 2007-08 through FY 2017-18 to

DMH for the development and implementation of Capital Facilities and Technological Projects that support MHSA programs and services. The Department proposes to use seventy percent (70%) or \$69,779,360 of funds provided under the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Planning Estimate for information technology projects, the remaining thirty percent (30%) or \$29,905,440 of the funds has been designated to support capital facilities projects. The Department will submit a plan for Capital Facilities Projects at a later date.

On July 24, 2008, CDMH released a revised Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Planning Estimate increasing the planning estimate for Los Angeles County by \$31,322,200. At a later date, DMH will develop an amended plan detailing specific uses for these additional funds. A revision of the Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Planning Estimate was anticipated and stakeholders were included in discussions regarding the likely need to augment projects included in this MHSA IT Plan with additional MHSA funds. The Department will develop a plan for the use of these additional funds through a stakeholder planning process. Upon completion of the plan, your Board will be notified prior to DMH submitting the amended MHSA IT Plan to CDMH.

The MHSA IT Plan was distributed, reviewed, and approved by three committees/boards that have oversight roles in the planning, development, and implementation of MHSA-related activities in Los Angeles County. The members of these committees/boards (Mental Health Commission (MHC), MHSA System Leadership Team (SLT) and MHSA Stakeholder Delegates Committee) represent the interests of mental health services stakeholders.

Mental health consumers and family members or caregivers of mental health consumers comprise a significant portion of the membership of these committees/boards. Prior to approval by the Board of Supervisors, the MHSA IT Plan was reviewed and approved by the DMH Executive Management Team, CEO, Chief Information Office (CIO), and County Counsel.

Furthermore, in accordance with the State's guidelines for the funds, DMH posted the proposed MHSA IT Plan on the DMH MHSA website <http://dmh.lacounty.info/mhsa/> from July 23 through August 21, 2008, for the required thirty-day public comment period. All comments received during the public comment period were documented, and minor revisions to the MHSA IT Plan were made. No substantive revisions to the MHSA IT Plan or any of the six IT projects were necessary.

Although the SLT does not vote on nor endorse MHSA plans, the MHSA IT Plan received considerable positive feedback when presented to its members. The MHSA IT

Plan was also presented to the MHSA Stakeholder Delegates which voted to endorse the plan. The MHC unanimously approved the MHSA IT Plan when presented for Public Hearing held by the MHC on July 30, 2008. In addition, during discussions at the State-wide level as the plan was developed, the draft plan and DMH's process for developing it were complimented, and other counties were encouraged to use a similar process.

The IT projects under the MHSA IT Plan are described as follows:

- Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS): The IBHIS will provide integrated clinical, administrative and financial functionality to DMH in its role as a provider of mental health services and in its role as the Local Plan Administrator. The IBHIS will provide DMH clinicians access to consumer clinical records regardless of where the consumer was seen previously in the DMH network. Clinicians will have access to medication history information, recent assessments, laboratory and psychological test results, and when appropriate, clinician notes from prior visits.
- Contract Provider Technology Project: The Contract Provider Technology Project is an umbrella project encompassing a mix of technology projects within the range of projects identified in the MHSA Capital Facilities and Technological Needs Guidelines released by the State on March 18, 2008. This umbrella project is intended to provide a means for Contract Providers within the DMH provider network to obtain the funding necessary to address their technological needs to meet the MHSA goals of modernization/transformation or consumer/family empowerment and fully participate in an integrated information systems infrastructure.
- Consumer/Family Access to Computer Resources Project: Mental health consumers, family members, and caregivers need access to computer resources as well as computer training and technical assistance. Computer skills training and technical assistance are essential to ensure that consumers are able to effectively use computer resources made available to them. Through this project, DMH plans to set-up consumer/family dedicated computer workstations in service settings and secure residential settings. Other settings also are being considered. Videoconferencing is being explored in at least one service location in each of the eight Service Planning Areas.
- Personal Health Record Awareness and Education Project (PHR): Through the stakeholder process, DMH received considerable feedback suggesting that many mental health consumers have limited awareness of PHR(s) and how a PHR

may be used as a recovery and wellness tool. MHSA IT funds will support the development of written and online PHR awareness and education materials. Online materials will include both written and video content. Content will be developed with two specific target audiences, consumer/family and mental health service providers.

- Data Warehouse Re-Design: Implementation of the IBHIS necessitates re-designing the current DMH data warehouse. Along with new data collected in the IBHIS, forthcoming MHSA programs (Prevention and Early Intervention, Workforce Education and Training, and Innovation) will require new clinical, administrative, and financial data that must be stored in the data warehouse. This project will prepare DMH for warehousing data from disparate data sources as well as establish appropriate resources for warehousing existing information systems data. This project will make more data available for business intelligence and ad hoc reporting and to support the DMH Strategies for Total Accountability and Total Success (STATS) process.

- Telepsychiatry Feasibility Study and Recommendations: Los Angeles County covers over 4,000 square miles and some areas are sparsely populated and remote from major medical centers and mental health service delivery resources. MHSA IT funds will support a feasibility study to identify opportunities for a variety of telepsychiatry programs; identify the possible benefits and risks of a more wide-spread and systematic adoption of telepsychiatry; and make a recommendation as to the programmatic value of a systematic implementation of telepsychiatry in DMH.

DMH recognizes the need for ongoing stakeholder participation in each of the projects included in this MHSA IT Plan. Future stakeholder participation in many projects such as the IBHIS, Contract Provider Technology Project, Consumer/Family Access to Computer Resources Project, and Personal Health Record Awareness and Education Project will be continued using existing groups that were formed to develop these project plans. Additional stakeholder groups will be formed as needed.

Plans for ongoing stakeholder participation in the Data Warehouse Re-design Project and Telepsychiatry Feasibility Study and Recommendations projects have been developed and are described in detail in their respective project plans.

The CEO, County Counsel and CIO have reviewed the proposed actions.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

After State approval, DMH will return to your Board for approval to enter into agreements with vendors, as they are developed, to implement the MHSA IT Plan.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Approved By:

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