

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL AND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF MENTAL
HEALTH TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF HAWTHORNE
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004**

AND

**APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL
HEALTH LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT WITH THE MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATION IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

AND

**APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003-2004**

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2
(4 VOTES)**

REQUEST:

The Board is being requested to 1) authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee to enter into an Agreement with the City of Hawthorne to enable the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to receive the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Grant funds as a subrecipient; 2) approve a Request for an Appropriation Adjustment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2004 for \$107,000 which is fully funded with HUD Grant funds administered by the City of Hawthorne; and 3) authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee to execute an Amendment to the DMH Legal Entity Agreement with the Mental Health Association in Los Angeles County (MHA) to add \$106,863 to their Maximum Contract Amount. This Amendment will enable MHA to provide the necessary in-home supportive mental health services to Section 8 tenants who are living in the City of Hawthorne and are at risk of becoming homeless.

CONTRACTOR:

MHA located at 320 Pine Avenue, Suite 610 in Long Beach California, 90802 is a private, nonprofit organization that demonstrates service models that help individuals achieve self-reliant lives and is one of the largest affiliates of the National Mental Health Association. MHA operates the "Project Return: The Next Step", a self-help network directed, operated and advised by people with mental illness. Additionally, MHA's "Village" has services including employment, housing, money management and education. These programs along with other programs geared towards quality care for adults with mental illness demonstrates that MHA is a uniquely qualified contractor in this area with staff trained to provide the necessary level of service.

INTENT:

The City of Hawthorne awarded DMH \$106,863 for the provision of outreach services to Section 8 tenants in the City of Hawthorne who are in need of mental health services to avoid becoming homeless. DMH intends to contract with MHA for these services as MHA currently provides consumer-driven outreach services to clients through "Project Return: The Next Step".

The recommended actions will provide critical services to low-income individuals and families with a mental illness on Section 8 in the City of Hawthorne. These individuals have been identified as needing mental health services in order to maintain their permanent housing or help them to obtain a more appropriate living arrangement and affordable housing.

JUSTIFICATION:

In February 2003, the City of Hawthorne issued a Request For Proposals to agencies requesting input for their annual consolidated plan. DMH submitted a proposal and received an award from the City of Hawthorne in April 2003. The Agreement with the City of Hawthorne will not increase net County cost and is fully funded by HUD Grant funds administered by the City of Hawthorne.

The award is to be used for the provision of outreach and linkage services to Section 8 tenants who reside in the City of Hawthorne and are at risk of becoming homeless due to a mental illness. Those tenants requiring ongoing mental health services or crisis intervention will be linked to South Bay Mental Health Center for such services. DMH's Long Beach/South Bay Geographic Initiative and local Housing Consortium will work collaboratively with the City Housing Authority and other social service agencies that assist the targeted population to oversee these services.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

MHA currently has a DMH Legal Entity Agreement (Contract No. DMH-01529) for FY 2003-2004. They were selected as a sole source provider as they have a proven history of providing in-home and field-based life coaching that maximizes a client's chances of maintaining their housing. They also were able to provide these services in a cost-effective and timely fashion.