

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL TO AMEND AN EXISTING DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT WITH PACIFIC CLINICS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005
AND
APPROVAL OF REQUESTS FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENTS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1 AND 4)
(4 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Request delegated authority for the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign and execute an Amendment with Pacific Clinics for the provision of school-based mental health services to identify and address the rising incidence of suicide among Latina youth in Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2005. This Amendment will increase Pacific Clinics' Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) by \$300,000, from \$49,490,660 to \$49,790,660. The Amendment is effective upon Board approval.

Request Board approval for an Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of \$300,000 for FY 2004-2005, which will be fully funded by one-time only Sales Tax Realignment revenue. The appropriation increase will provide DMH with the additional spending authority to sustain Pacific Clinics' Latina Youth Program (LYP) throughout FY 2004-2005.

CONTRACTOR

Pacific Clinics is a network of community mental health centers that has a 77 year history of providing a continuum of multidisciplinary comprehensive services including outpatient, community outreach and education, integrated substance abuse/mental health services, and targeted case management services to seriously emotionally disturbed persons of all ages and ethnic groups. Over the past decade Pacific Clinics has moved toward providing culturally competent family-oriented, strengths-based services at all sites.

INTENT

Board action is requested to approve the appropriation adjustment to provide DMH with additional spending authority to sustain Pacific Clinics' LYP throughout FY 2004-2005. The recommended increase of \$300,000 to the MCA is within DMH's delegated authority.

The additional funding of the LYP will allow Pacific Clinics to maintain the program through the end of the fiscal year and provide more Latina youth with school-based mental health services at Bassett High School in La Puente, Lake Center Middle School in Santa Fe Springs, North Park Middle School in Pico Rivera, and Los Alisos Middle School in Norwalk. The LYP serves to identify and address the rising incidence of suicide among Latina youth.

JUSTIFICATION

Subsequent to a 1999 report by the National Coalition for Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization that indicated Hispanics committed 80 percent of all youth suicides in the prior year, Pacific Clinics began to focus on the epidemic and risk factors demonstrated by Latino youth, and developed resources and interventions based on this work. Pacific Clinics' overall program goals include awareness and education, intervention and treatment, and prevention/empowerment using strategies for healthier choices.

In FY 2003-2004, Pacific Clinics received a private grant award from the Department of Health and Human Services Public Health Service Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide suicide prevention services to Latina Youth. Pacific Clinics was allowed to expend the unused allocation from FY 2003-2004 into FY 2004-2005. However, the SAMHSA Grant funds will be depleted before the end of this fiscal year.

Pacific Clinics' LYP provides an array of culturally competent school-based services including individual, group, family therapy, case management, crisis intervention, and medication management for young Latina consumers to reduce the risk of suicide and improve their overall functioning. The LYP also provides information and education to families about the factors associated with suicide and other high-risk behaviors, and provides an increase in self-esteem and school performance for Latina youth leading to more independent living.

The additional funding will be used to provide assessment and treatment services, as well as to purchase essential items that will assist approximately 88 additional young Latina consumers in their daily living activities (school supplies, special educational or therapeutic activities and classes, personal items important to self esteem, etc.). Pacific Clinics is seeking future funding for the LYP from SAMHSA.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:

Board's approval of this Amendment will provide critically needed school-based mental health services to Latina youth at each school site in identifying and addressing the rising incidence of suicide.