

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO EXISTING DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT WITH NEW HORIZONS FAMILY CENTER
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)**

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute Amendment No. 3 to the existing Legal Entity (LE) Agreement No. DMH-02340 with New Horizons Family Center for the provision of Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Title XIX Medi-Cal services in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006. This Amendment increases the Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) for FY 2005-2006 with unallocated EPSDT in the amount of \$99,500, from \$537,400 to \$636,900. This increase will be funded with \$9,084 in budgeted Realignment revenue for the EPSDT Growth Match, \$49,750 in Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Medi-Cal revenue, and \$40,666 in EPSDT-State General Funds (SGF), and is included in the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) FY 2005-2006 Adopted Budget.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Your Board's approval of this Amendment increase will enable DMH to better align the actual demand for mandated EPSDT services with the contractor's capacity to provide and be reimbursed timely for those services.

New Horizons Family Center is a bilingual/bicultural agency that serves a large number of Spanish language families and has experienced a significant increase in demand for EPSDT-funded services from the Glendale and Atwater communities in Service Areas 2 and 4. New Horizons Family Center is situated on the southern border of Glendale adjacent to the Atwater community of Los Angeles. Atwater is in Supervisorial District 5, and in Service Area 4. Because of its geographic location, this small area has historically been underserved because it is cut off from Service Area 4 by the Los Angeles River and the Golden State Freeway. The expansion of New Horizons Family Center service capacity complies with DMH's guiding principles for EPSDT expansion by enhancing the availability of mental health services in communities that have few resources.

Since the implementation of the Medicaid's EPSDT program in FY 1994-1995, DMH has been required to significantly increase the availability of mental health services to Medi-Cal eligible beneficiaries under 21 years of age and has, thus, been able to achieve a comprehensive system of care to Medicaid recipients. The EPSDT program

provides medically necessary services to Medi-Cal eligible beneficiaries under 21 years of age to correct or ameliorate a physical or mental disability or condition.

Amendment No. 3, which increases New Horizons Family Center's MCA by \$99,500 for FY 2005-2006 only, exceeds delegated authority as it represents a greater than 20 percent increase in the MCA previously approved by your Board on June 21, 2005 for this contractor.

CONTRACTOR

New Horizons Family Center is a relatively new contract Provider that entered into an Agreement with the County for the first time on October 21, 2003. It is located at 744 S. Glendale Avenue, Glendale, CA 91205, in Supervisorial District 5. New Horizons Family Center is ideally suited to providing culturally and linguistically appropriate services to children and families in Glendale and Atwater. This agency employs approximately 59 percent bilingual and bicultural staff that includes 57 percent Spanish speaking, and 2 percent Farsi, Armenian, Russian, and Vietnamese speaking. New Horizons Family Center continues to develop in response to the needs of the community. It was recently given additional funds to provide Family Preservation Services. It is collaborating with the school-based collaboratives in Service Areas 2 and 4 to provide school-based mental health services to Atwater and Glendale, and it has the expertise and capability of providing services to 0-5 age children because of its previous preschool program.