

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**FACT SHEET**

**APPROVAL OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH  
HUMAN SERVICES RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval of a Consultant Services Agreement with Human Services Research Institute to examine the impact of evidence-based practices on system cost-effectiveness.

**REQUEST**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a new Consultant Services Agreement (Agreement) with Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), a non-profit organization under contract with the Center for Mental Health Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), to examine the impact of evidence-based practices on system cost-effectiveness at no cost to the County.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

The purpose of this action is to allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to enter into an Agreement with HSRI whereby DMH will, on a one-time basis, extract specific data elements from its electronic data warehouse, de-identify the data so that data elements cannot be traced to specific identifiable clients, and send this information in a secured format to HSRI.

In return, HSRI will provide detailed information to DMH, including cost/benefit analyses of current mental health services. In addition, HSRI will provide a needs assessment based on service utilization patterns and reports, which will aid DMH in performing strategic planning, support decisions to increase or reduce programs at various service levels, and estimate Medi-Cal and other revenue reimbursement from planned services.

**CONTRACTOR**

As a consequence of the passage of the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63) and diminishing realignment funds, County mental health departments throughout California are seeking service data to assist in making decisions regarding which

services are most cost-effective and result in better outcomes. Reports and other information provided by HSRI will help DMH better manage mental health planning processes and make better informed decisions about the cost effectiveness of various mental health services.

There is no cost associated with this Agreement, since HSRI will fund this service through an existing grant they have secured from the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA. This Agreement will allow DMH to provide data to HSRI, and in return, HSRI will provide DMH with cost/benefit analyses of current mental health services and a needs assessment based on service utilization patterns.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

HSRI specifically requested that DMH participate in its SAMHSA grant project. Consequently, DMH initiated this Agreement. Upon Board approval of this Agreement, DMH will arrange for a one-time secured data transmission to HSRI and will subsequently receive information to support future mental health services planning.

### **DMH CONTACT:**

Debbie Innes-Gomberg, Acting Deputy Director  
Los Angeles County-Department of Mental Health  
Adult Systems of Care  
Telephone Number: (213) 738-2756  
E-mail: [digomberg@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:digomberg@dmh.lacounty.gov)

### **Approved By:**

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| DMH Program:             | Debbie Innes-Gomberg    |
| DMH Contracts:           | Larry Quan              |
| Chief Executive Officer: | James Sokalski          |
| County Counsel:          | Stephanie Anaya-Sernett |