

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF FOUR AGREEMENTS TO THE ENHANCED EMERGENCY
SHELTER PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007-08 AND 2008-09
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute four (4) Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EES Program) Agreements (Agreements), with contractors 1) 1736 Family Crisis Center, 2) California Hispanic Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Inc., 3) Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center, and 4) Special Service for Groups to provide temporary emergency shelters for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) Transition Age Youth (TAY). Under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), TAY are defined as youth 16-25 years of age. The cost for fiscal years (FY) 2007-08 and 2008-09 is \$201,667 and \$605,000 respectively, and these agreements will be fully funded with MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan funds. The Agreements will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute subsequent EES Program agreements, if any, with eligible, qualified agencies, provided that 1) the aggregate total payment to all contractors does not exceed \$201,667 for FY 2007-08 and \$605,000 for FY 2008-09 and 2) the additional services and supports meet identified needs consistent with the CSS Plan.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute subsequent amendments to the Agreements, if any, provided that: 1) the applicable contracted night rate is not increased by 20%; 2) any increase shall be used to provide additional services and/or supports or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all additions and/or modifications; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee is obtained prior to any such amendments; 5) the parties may, by written Amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs or services and revise the applicable contracted night rate; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies the CEO's office after execution of such amendments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Approval of the recommended actions ensures the establishment of temporary emergency shelter beds and enhanced basic living support services designed specifically for homeless SED/SPMI TAY. The MHSA CSS Plan identified several outcomes for TAY accessing the EES Program including 1) access to basic support services and linkages, 2) safe and adequate housing, including reduction in homelessness, 3) ensuring access and linkage to services when TAY elect to receive them, 4) timely access to needed help, especially during times of crisis, 5) a network of supportive relationships and 6) opportunities to build trusting relationships with persons who can, as the TAY is ready, assist the TAY toward recovery and wellness.

In short, the Agreements authorize qualified contractors to provide food, clothing, shelter, referral and linkage services, counseling services, life-skills services, transportation, and temporary emergency 24-hour, seven (7) days per week shelter for up to 29 consecutive days to qualifying TAY.

In accordance with the CSS Plan, the EES Program represents a vital outreach and engagement tool to help establish trusting relationships with the unserved and underserved SED/SPMI TAY population throughout the County, and through which effective linkages to mental health services can be achieved. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) TAY Division Housing Specialists and System Navigation staff will serve as “gatekeepers” responsible for identifying the housing needs of SED/SPMI TAY, and for verifying that the client meets the CSS target population. Once authorized for admission to an EES Program site, the staff will screen the client to determine the level of mental health services needed and work toward achieving the necessary linkage to services. These services may include MHSA Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs or less intensive services based on the client’s needs. The TAY Division Housing Specialists will further assist the client with securing more permanent living arrangements for the client upon leaving the shelter.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

The focus of the MHSA CSS Plan is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed as SED and/or SPMI. Within TAY, the priority populations are those who are diagnosed with SED/SPMI and who are homeless or currently at risk of homelessness, those aging out of the child welfare, child mental health, and juvenile justice systems, those leaving long-term institutional care, those who have experienced their first psychotic break and those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. TAY with serious mental health challenges are often highly transient, and therefore present unique challenges for providing effective services and supports. One of the primary

challenges to effectively providing services and supports is to establish a trusting relationship in a safe and supportive environment with the person to receive the service. The EES Program is a necessary resource where this essential outreach and engagement can begin.

Clinical and administrative staff at DMH will continue to administer and supervise the agreements, evaluate programs to ensure that quality services are being provided to clients and ensure that Agreement provisions and Departmental policies are being followed. Additionally, DMH-designated TAY staff will maintain a database to track client referrals and FY expenditures.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On August 13, 2007, DMH issued a Request for Information (RFI) for "Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program for TAY (ages 16-25) under the MHSA (Bid# DMH081507B1)" to over 1,000 agencies and individuals on the DMH master bidders' list, and also posted the RFI on the County and DMH websites (<http://lacounty.info>) and (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/RFSQ>). Additionally, proposers were invited and encouraged to attend a non-mandatory Question and Answer session on the RFI held on September 7, 2007. Representatives from nine (9) agencies attended the Question and Answer session.

Eight (8) agencies responded to the RFI by submitting responses to a comprehensive questionnaire included in the RFI. DMH TAY Division and Patient's Rights Division staff reviewed the questionnaire responses and conducted site-visits of each agency's proposed shelter sites. Four (4) contractors met the minimum qualifications and successfully responded to the Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program RFI. Four (4) agencies did not continue the process. DMH will accept responses to this RFI on a continuous basis through June 30, 2009.

The Department has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended Agreements.

DMH CONTACT

Sandra Thomas, Deputy Director
Specialized Children and Youth Services Bureau
Telephone Number: (213) 738-4644
E-mail: stthomas@dmh.lacounty.gov