

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

**F A C T   S H E E T**

**APPROVAL OF NEW SOLE SOURCE CONSULTANT SERVICES  
AGREEMENT WITH  
MULTISYSTEMIC THERAPY SERVICES, INC.  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2005-2006 THROUGH 2007-2008  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**REQUEST**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute a new sole source Consultant Services Agreement and future amendments to this Agreement with Multisystemic Therapy Services, Inc. (MTS) to allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to continue using the only agency licensed to provide training, consultation, and licensure for mental health clinicians practicing the copyrighted Multisystemic Therapy (MST) treatment intervention model in the County of Los Angeles. This new Agreement in the amount of \$106,000 is fully funded by the Schiff-Cardenas State allocation through an Intrafund Transfer from the Probation Department that is included in DMH's Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006 Adopted Budget. The Agreement will be effective July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2008, including two automatic one-year renewal periods. The Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) will be \$106,000 for each fiscal year.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval is required to enter into a Consultant Services Agreement with MTS, effective July 1, 2005, to allow DMH to continue contracting for the copyrighted MST treatment program model, materials, consultation services, training, oversight, and licensure that is the sole property of this contractor.

DMH previously entered into a Purchase of Service (POS) Agreement with MTS, approved through the Internal Services Department (ISD), to provide training and consultation in regards to the copyrighted evidence-based MST program model, but the POS Agreement maximum limit was reached on June 30, 2005. Due to the lack of adequate controls by the program manager, the POS Agreement was not converted into a formal Consultant Services Agreement by July 1, 2005.

The program manager has been counseled about the need to appropriately monitor POS Agreements and the limits that apply to those agreements. She has also been counseled about allowing services to continue without an approved payment mechanism.

Training on procurement requirements will be provided to administrative staff in the Juvenile Justice Unit within the next 30 days. In addition, a tracking system will be developed and monitored monthly by the Deputy Director.

### **CONTRACTOR**

Multisystemic Therapy Services, Inc., located at 710 J. Dodds Boulevard, Suite 200, Mount Pleasant, South Carolina 29464, is a proprietary, sole source agency that is licensed by Dr. Scott W. Henggeler to train and allow other agencies to practice MST as a model. The Probation Department and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council selected MST as a clinical treatment intervention model to address the needs of families and their youth in the juvenile justice system.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Probation Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding with DMH's Juvenile Justice Unit in 2001 to enter into a collaborative relationship and provided an annual allocation of \$456,000 in Schiff-Cardenas funds to have DMH establish and implement the MST model in Los Angeles County as a clinical treatment intervention model.

DMH's contract providers serving families and youth in each of the Supervisorial Districts were solicited through a Request for Information (RFI) process to implement the MST model. Based on an evaluation of the proposals, four (4) agencies were selected, and they collectively receive \$350,000 in Schiff-Cardenas funds in addition to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) revenue. The remaining \$106,000 is used to purchase the following MST model services: agency and clinician license; training materials; initial and quarterly on-site training by a MST Consultant; weekly phone consultations with a MST consultant; and outcome data management.

MST services target youth, ages 12 to 17, on probation and at high risk of out-of-home placement and their families. MST strives to promote behavioral change in the youth's natural environment, using the strengths of each system (e.g., family, peers, school, neighborhood) to facilitate change. Service delivery is in-home, outcome-driven, family and community-based, goal-oriented, and time-limited. It seeks to identify and extinguish behaviors, which are of concern, not only to the community, but also to the family itself.

MST is currently being used in over 30 states in the United States (U.S.). Outside the U.S., MST is being used in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, England, Northern Ireland, New Zealand, and Canada. In Los Angeles County, there are four (4) MST contracted programs that have been operational since the inception of MST in 2001 in Los Angeles County within all Supervisorial Districts.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

To comply with the Board's contracting policy requirements for sole source contracts, DMH notified the Board on February 3, 2006 of its intent to negotiate a sole source Agreement with MTS to allow DMH to continue using the only agency licensed to train and disseminate information on the copyrighted MST treatment model.

The Board letter converts the ongoing contractual relationship with MTS from a POS Agreement to a formal Consultant Services Agreement. The Probation Department and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council selected MST as a clinical treatment intervention model to address the needs of families and their youth in the juvenile justice system.

DMH has developed and implemented a corrective action plan to ensure accountability and compliance with Countywide procurement policies and procedures by monitoring the POS Agreements on a monthly basis to track that expenditures will not exceed the maximum limit. In addition, agreements will be tracked to ensure timely conversion to ongoing contracts, as needed.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES**

Legally, without a sole source contract with MTS, clinicians would be unable to practice the MST model, be licensed, receive consultations aimed at ensuring the model is practiced with fidelity, and receive ongoing training on the model from MTS in Los Angeles County.

The lack of a contract with MTS would negatively impact service continuity to families and their youth involved in the juvenile justice system. MST is an evidence-based treatment program implemented by DMH and its contract agencies with proven effectiveness for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

RK:KT:mc