

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

**F A C T S H E E T**

**APPROVAL OF SIX CONSULTANT/TRAINING SERVICES AGREEMENTS TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT – COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS PLAN FOR SITING MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2008-09 THROUGH 2011-12  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the requested actions will authorize the Department of Mental Health to execute six Consultant/Training Services Agreements in accordance with the Mental Health Services Act, Community Services and Supports Plan. These Agreements will support a minimum of eight service providers seeking to site new mental health facilities or supportive housing developments who require assistance in securing community acceptance, leveraging funds, developing affordable housing, or understanding land use issues.

**REQUEST**

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute Consultant/Training Services Agreements with the following six contractors: 1) A Community of Friends; 2) Choices Recovery Services; 3) Law Office of Kim Savage; 4) Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc.; 5) NAMI Urban Los Angeles; and 6) Step Up on Second, which were identified through a Request for Information (RFI) process, to provide support in siting new mental health facilities and affordable supportive housing developments in accordance with the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) approved Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), Community Services and Supports (CSS) Plan. The total funding for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2008-09 through 2011-12 is \$80,000. These Agreements will be fully funded by MHSA CSS funds included in DMH FY 2008-09 Adopted Budget and will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009, with a provision of three one-year renewal periods.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future agreements to the Consultant/Training Siting Services Project, with eligible, additional qualified agencies that respond to the Siting RFI.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments that will add a specific Statement of Work (SOW) as siting projects are developed to the agreements provided that: 1) approval of County

Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or their designee, is obtained prior to any such amendments; 2) each siting project will be limited to a maximum of \$10,000; and 3) the Director of DMH shall notify the Board of Supervisors of Agreement changes in writing within 30 days after execution of each amendment.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

Approval of the recommended actions will allow for the provision of consultation/training services to contract providers seeking to site new mental health programs or facilities and who require support in securing community acceptance or who request specific expertise on developing affordable housing, leveraging funds, or working with local municipalities on housing and land use issues.

Los Angeles County MHSA stakeholders recognized in the CSS planning process that barriers to siting new facilities and programs, such as Wellness Centers and affordable housing projects, could negatively impact the implementation of the CSS Plan. Funding was consequently earmarked in the CSS Plan to provide consultation and training to mental health service providers to avoid or minimize potential difficulties they may encounter within their communities as they begin to site new programs.

In accordance with the CSS Plan, the Consultation/Training Services Agreements will allow qualified agencies to deliver the needed support to mental health service agencies that anticipate community opposition when siting programs or facilities in neighborhoods where clients could readily access services. Once a request is received and approved, an SOW will be developed in conjunction with the requesting agency. The SOW will be sent out to bid to consultants/trainers determined to be qualified pursuant to the RFI.

The County will not guarantee a qualified contractor a specific project or a funding amount as this will be based on the specific needs for siting related consultant/training services. The County will reimburse the consultant/trainer selected for each project in accordance with the rates established in their individual Agreement. Projects will vary in length, time, and intensity and may include hands-on consulting to project managers, training, preparing written material, community involvement, attending meetings, or other tasks that may be required to site a project in the community. Each project will be limited to \$10,000.

The FYs 2008-09 through 2011-12 total cost of the Consultant/Training Services for Siting Mental Health Programs and Facilities is \$80,000 and is fully funded with MHSA CSS monies included in DMH FY 2008-09 Adopted Budget.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On September 30, 2008, DMH issued an RFI for "Siting New Mental Health Programs or Facilities" under MHSA" to over 1,400 agencies and individuals on the DMH master bidders' list and posted the RFI on the County and DMH web sites: (<http://lacounty.info>) and (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/RFSQ> ). Additionally, each potential Proposer was encouraged to attend an October 20, 2008, non-mandatory Question and Answer Session on the RFI. Twenty-nine representatives from 22 agencies attended the Question and Answer Session.

Respondents to the RFI were requested to indicate those areas of specialization in which they considered themselves qualified from a list which included: Affordable Housing; Public Relations; Fair Housing, Land Use, Zoning; and Finance. An additional component, "Other," was also included to encourage respondents to submit other areas of expertise which they felt would be important to the siting process. Applicants were required to provide documentation of experience and references for each area they selected.

Seven agencies responded to the RFI. DMH staff reviewed the responses and determined that six of the agencies met the minimum qualifications in one or more areas. The seventh agency submitted an incomplete proposal and did not resubmit by the initial phase deadline of November 7, 2008. Additional agencies will have the opportunity to submit proposal(s) in the future provided that funding remains available.

Board approval of the proposed actions is expected to ensure enhanced success with siting new mental health programs and facilities developed under MHSA. Upon full implementation of these services, it is expected that both DMH directly-operated programs and contract agencies who are currently experiencing or who anticipate difficulty with locating their program in the community will avail themselves of the opportunity to consult with experts in the areas of siting.

### **DMH CONTACT:**

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**Approved By:**

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County Counsel – Edward Yen

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