

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

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

**APPROVAL OF SOLE SOURCE CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH  
WISE & HEALTHY AGING  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval of a sole source consultant services agreement with WISE & Healthy Aging to continue providing older adult specialty training to providers of older adult mental health services in Los Angeles County.

**REQUEST**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a Department of Mental Health (DMH) sole source consultant services agreement with WISE & Healthy Aging for the provision of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Older Adults Foundation Training Program and Older Adults Advanced Competency Program, for a one-time Total Compensation Amount (TCA) of \$67,310 fully funded by MHSA Community Services and Supports (CSS) funds. The Agreement will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

This will authorize DMH to enter into a sole source consultant services agreement with WISE & Healthy Aging to train, at two course levels, provider staff who deliver mental health services to older adults 60 years of age and above. The first course is a foundation 30-hour training program, which targets clinical and case management providers in DMH's older adults system of care, for introductory and basic training regarding the multi-faceted and bio-psychosocial aspects of aging concerning the mental health and related needs of older adult clients. The second course is aimed at the provision of advanced competency training to DMH older adults system of care provider staff possessing prior clinical training and experience, to expand their knowledge and enhance their skills in working with complex geriatric issues.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2007-08, WISE & Healthy Aging was the selected DMH vendor under a consultant services agreement to provide two basic certificate training programs to older adult service providers.

Based on the feedback of participants and providers, as well as evaluation of the feedback from class participants by DMH, the continuation of similar training will be essential and beneficial to the new and expanding workforce of older adult mental health service providers. This will build the foundation of knowledge and skill sets to ensure basic older adult service competency, especially in the areas of understanding the bio-psychosocial cycle and various aspects of aging, models of interventions and treatment approaches, recovery philosophy, and community resources including available specialty older adult programs.

Additionally, providers recommend to DMH that an advanced competency course be offered for experienced provider staff who have received basic training to further develop their clinical skills in working with older adult clients with complex bio-psychosocial needs. Through an integrated didactic and interactive curriculum, mental health providers enrolled in these courses will benefit from presentations by older adult subject matter experts in the field, exchange their own knowledge and experience, and ultimately enhance and strengthen their clinical knowledge and skill sets.

### **CONTRACTOR**

The focus of the State approved MHSA CSS Plan is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed with severe and persistent mental illness or serious emotional problems, including children and family, transitional age youth, adults, and older adults. With the graying demographic trend in the United States and Los Angeles County, it is projected that by the Year 2030 older adults will comprise approximately 20 percent of the population. Additionally, there is a severe shortage of personnel in the mental health workforce who are trained and experienced in serving older adults.

The training to be funded under this consultant services agreement will consist of the following components:

- A foundation training comprised of five full-day sessions, six hours each, will cover topics including: basic introduction, cultural aspects of aging, assessment, cognitive impairment, mental illness and older adults, legal and ethic issues, psycho-pharmacology, medical disorders, case management principles and community resources, MHSA funded older adult services, such as Full Service Partnership (FSP), Field Capable Clinical Services (FCCS), Field Safety Issues, Hoarding, Substance Abuse, Death and Dying, Spirituality and Existential Issues in End Stages of Life.

- An Advanced Cohort comprised of eight half-day sessions, four hours each, will use a didactic and interactive approach to discuss evidence-based and promising practices to serve older adults, as well as promoting the sharing of clinical and field experience to expand and strengthen knowledge and skill sets through case presentations/discussions.

Each class component targets a maximum audience of up to 45 participants. Continuing education credits will be awarded within the proper protocol of each clinical discipline.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On November 16, 2006, DMH issued Request for Services No. 11 to ten qualified bidders on the Master Agreement List that had indicated interest in providing older adult certificated training. DMH received three proposals. Center for Healthy Aging, which subsequently became WISE & Healthy Aging, was the selected training provider after an evaluation panel had been conducted. The proposed consultant services agreement is being requested on a sole source basis founded on the contractor's specialized expertise and experience in providing the services due to their development and provision of the previous training programs, which will allow the training to begin as expeditiously as possible.

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