

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF A CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH PACIFIC CLINICS
TO IMPLEMENT THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT FAMILY CRISIS
SERVICES/RESPIRE CARE PROGRAM
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2006-2007 AND 2007-2008
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)**

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health (Director) or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute a Consultant Services Agreement (Agreement) with Pacific Clinics for the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Family Crisis Services/Respite Care Program (Respite Care Program) for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. For FY 2006-2007, the Total Compensation Amount (TCA) will be \$157,023, and for FY 2007-2008 it will be \$471,068, and will be totally funded with MHSA funds. The term of the Agreement will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2008.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Implementation of the Respite Care Program will allow respite care services to be made available to parents/caregivers that are providing in-home care for a child with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) when the following conditions are met: the parent(s)/caregiver(s) is under significant stress as a result of the responsibility of providing constant care, continued caretaking without respite care may result in out-of-home placement, and the parent(s)/caregiver(s) has exhausted other available formal and informal sources of support. Eligible families will select their own respite worker to ensure that the services provided are consistent with the culture and language of their family and are sensitive to sexual orientation and gender. Eligible families will be able use the service, as needed, for up to 16 hours per month (additional hours must be pre-authorized and will only be provided under exceptional circumstances). Respite workers will be paid at \$10 per hour and will bill the agency directly. The program will service approximately 204 families per month with an average yearly cost of \$1,920 per family.

BACKGROUND

On August 29, 2006, DMH issued RFS No. 4 (Respite Care Program) to five (5) qualified bidders on the MHSA Master Agreement list indicating an interest in providing Family Crisis Services/Respite Care on their Statement of Qualifications (SOQ). DMH sent agencies who expressed interest in providing Respite Care Program services a

RESPITE CARE PROGRAM

notice of the release of the RFS along with a compact disc of the RFS, and invited them to attend a mandatory Proposers' Conference on September 13, 2006.

Representatives from three (3) contract agencies attended the Proposers' Conference. DMH received two (two) proposals by the deadline of October 11, 2006. Soon after, DMH convened a review panel of five (5) individuals representing consumers, other County departments, and DMH staff to assess and score the proposal. Simultaneously, review of the budget, proposed staffing, quality assurance processes, and reference contacts were conducted by DMH staff. Pacific Clinics' proposal evaluated by this panel met the requirements to implement all service components offered by the Respite Care Program and received the higher score. The proposal was then reviewed by DMH's Executive Management Team, which finalized its recommendation.

In order to implement the Respite Care Program, Pacific Clinics will 1) serve as the fiscal intermediary for Countywide administration of client funds on behalf of DMH; and 2) administer, with documented successful outcomes, a respite care program that serves parents/caregivers whose circumstances, stressors, and need for respite care are consistent with the focal populations to be served in the MHSA Children's FSPs.

Upon full implementation of the program, it is estimated that approximately 204 families per month will receive Respite Care Program services. This will contribute to the family's ability to care for their child with SED at home, thus preserving the family unit and avoiding the cost of expensive out-of-home care.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Upon Board approval, DMH will execute an Agreement with Pacific Clinics to implement the Respite Care Program. Pacific Clinics has the professional technical expertise and specialized experience in implementing the Respite Care Program.

DMH CONTACT

Olivia Celis, Deputy Director, LAC-Department of Mental Health
Telephone Number: (213) 251-6801
Email Address: ocelis@lacdmh.org