

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF A SOLE SOURCE CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-08
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute a sole source Consultant Services Agreement (Agreement) with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) for the provision of training as specified in the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction (MIOCR) Grant and Enhanced Camp and Transition Project (ECTP) for FY 2007-08. For FY 2007-08, LAUSD will have a Total Contract Amount (TCA) of \$600,000 fully funded with MIOCR Grant funds. The Agreement will be effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2008.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

The recommended action will authorize DMH to enter into a sole source contract with LAUSD to train staff in the Cognitive-Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) model. On October 19, 2006, the Probation Department requested that the Board adopt a resolution to support the County's participation in the MIOCR Grant Program administered by the Corrections Standard Authority (CSA). The Probation Department, in collaboration with DMH, was awarded a MIOCR Grant by the CSA for the ECTP. The grant is for an 18 month period, beginning January 1, 2007 and ending June 30, 2008. LAUSD is prepared to provide the specific CBITS training, as recommended in the grant, within this limited remaining time frame.

As the developer of the CBITS program, LAUSD is an expert in providing trainings on the CBITS model and is uniquely qualified to provide the training and clinical consultation for staff delivering the program in the Probation Camps. LAUSD will provide CBITS training to all staff working with youth in the six camps identified in Exhibit A (Statement of Work), including Probation, DMH, contract agencies and Los Angeles County of Education (LACOE) staff. The training will be conducted on site at the six camps. LAUSD will train staff to deliver the CBITS model, but will also train key lead staff who will train new or untrained staff thereafter. LAUSD will conduct a readiness survey, prior to training, to determine level of expertise of the staff that will deliver CBITS and tailor the training to the clinical needs of these staff. LAUSD has identified and prepared necessary staff to provide the training detailed in the Statement

of Work. The training schedule is pending Board approval but at a minimum the training will include: one (1) full day of training for Trauma Informed Staff Development and Psychological First Aid, two (2) full days of training for CBITS at the six camps, background reading material, manuals, and videos. Consultation and coaching will be provided to the participating staff at the Probation camps as staff delivers the CBITS program to the youth. This training could be completed at each camp in less than one week with ongoing consultation provided as each camp implements the CBITS model. Therefore, training at the 6 camps will be completed within the remaining 6 week period, commencing upon Board approval with a tentative date of May 14, 2008.

CONTRACTOR

This grant specifically references that youth enrolled in the program will be provided CBITS. CBITS is an evidence-based early intervention program which aims to address the mental health needs of youth exposed to a variety of traumatic events. A disproportionately high number of youth in the Probation camps have been exposed to violence in their communities. The emotional impact of this exposure is profound and has led to behavioral problems and poor school performance, which is interrelated to the delinquency of these youths.

As part of the ECTP Grant, the Camp Assessment Center was developed and implemented. Through the assessment process many youth were identified with symptoms related to exposure to violence and trauma. Originally the Probation Department was to train staff at one camp. As a result of the information gained from youth's assessments, recently the Probation Department decided to increase the MICOR funding dedicated to CBITS from \$100,000 to \$600,000 so that staff in five additional camps could be trained. They allocated unspent MIOCR funding to this purpose.

Research has shown that CBITS significantly reduces symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. The program has received support from a number of organizations, including the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ("OJJDP") which rated CBITS as an exemplary model program, and SAMHSA, which rates it as a model program.

Given that CBITS is a short-term, time-limited intervention, it is particularly appropriate for environments in which youth are temporarily placed, such as the Probation Camps. A significant percentage of detained youth have been exposed to considerable violence and show signs of PTSD, anxiety, or depression. CBITS has been successfully

implemented in both urban and rural schools across the United States and internationally. More importantly, CBITS has been used successfully in LAUSD, with children who come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including recent immigrants. Additionally, adaptations of CBITS are currently being implemented for foster care and juvenile justice populations.

LAUSD has successfully trained numerous staff throughout Los Angeles County to provide the CBITS program to youth who come from similar backgrounds and circumstances as the youth in the Probation Camps. Based on its proven expertise in providing CBITS training, LAUSD is in the unique position to consult and train staff to provide mental health services for children who come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, including recent immigrants, foster care and juvenile justice populations throughout Los Angeles County.

Administrative staff at DMH will continue to administer and supervise the Agreement and ensure that Agreement provisions and Departmental policies are being followed.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

The Probation Department, in collaboration with DMH, applied for and was awarded a MIOCR Grant by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation CSA for the ECTP. This grant specifically references that youth enrolled in the program will be provided CBITS. CBITS is an evidence-based early intervention program to address the mental health needs of youth exposed to a variety of traumatic events. Staff from LAUSD, in partnership with RAND Health and UCLA Health Services Research Centers, initially developed CBITS.

It is due to LAUSD's collaborative development and experience in implementing the CBITS model in the community that a sole source contract is being requested by DMH with LAUSD.

To comply with your Board's contracting policy requirements for sole source contracts, on March 3, 2008, DMH notified your Board of its intent to enter into sole source contract negotiations with LAUSD.

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LTI: JIL: LAUSD Consultant Agreement 4/24/08