

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL HOPE AND
RECOVERY: EMPOWERING OUR LIVES CONFERENCES
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct three Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences and workshops to be held on June 11, 2009; June 19, 2009; and July 10, 2009, to address stigma and discrimination issues related to mental illness.

REQUEST

Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to conduct the Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on June 11, 2009, at an estimated cost of \$42,000, and authorize DMH to execute an agreement with the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$34,640, fully funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project.

Authorize DMH to expend funds to conduct the Asian Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on June 19, 2009, at an estimated cost of \$18,000, and authorize DMH to execute an agreement with The Grand Long Beach Event Center for space and catering services at an estimated cost of \$13,392, fully funded by MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project.

Authorize DMH to expend funds to conduct the Esperanza Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conference to be held on July 10, 2009, at an estimated cost of \$20,000, and authorize DMH to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for space and catering at an estimated cost of \$12,042, fully funded by MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project.

Authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for County employees and consumers attending the conferences, in exception to Los Angeles County Code Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Since 1997, DMH has sponsored the Hope and Recovery: Empowering Our Lives Conferences to provide strategies for recovery from mental illness to the general consumer community and those representing underserved groups.

In order to combat stigma and discrimination, the State of California released funding to the counties under the MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project to allow counties to initiate activity on three statewide initiatives, including reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and addressing discrimination issues affecting persons with mental illness.

Recent funding reductions have resulted in DMH eliminating funding for the Hope and Recovery Conferences in Fiscal Year 2008-09. As part of its MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project, DMH included funding to continue these conferences under a revised focus of specifically addressing stigma reduction and discrimination issues. In a letter dated March 30, 2009, the State approved the DMH plan for its MHSA PEI Early Start Stigma and Discrimination Project, including funding for the conferences.

Two out of the three conferences will be targeted to underserved communities, Latinos and Asians, and will be delivered in their primary languages. The third conference will be conducted in English.

DMH will enter into agreements with the three venues following Board approval. Confirmation, in the form of a deposit, will be made to ensure the reservation of space. Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute agreements with the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel, The Grand Long Beach Event Center, and the California Endowment Center to guarantee space, catering services, and other necessities for the conferences and provide DMH with the necessary authority to expend funds in support of the conferences.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Hope and Recovery Conferences have been presented annually for 12 years with approximately 300 attendees for the Asian and Esperanza Hope and Recovery Conferences and up to 600 attendees for the English Hope and Recovery Conference non-County participants attending each year. The conferences are open to mental health clients with special outreach to board and care programs, sober living hospitalized patients, and full service partnership clients. In addition, parents and family

members of clients and mental health staff attend the conferences to ensure support and recovery.

DMH solicited costs from ten locations in total. All but two responded. The Committee determined that the Sheraton Los Angeles Downtown Hotel, The Grand Long Beach Event Center, and the California Endowment Center were the preferred locations based on availability, size of accommodations, and ease of both auto and public transportation for presenters, volunteers, employees, and participants. In lieu of posting on the web, DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conferences.

DMH Contact:

Eduardo Vega, Director
Empowerment and Advocacy
Telephone Number: (213) 251-6511
Email Address: evega@dmh.lacounty.gov

APPROVED BY:

DMH Program – Eduardo Vega
DMH Contracts – Larry Quan
Chief Executive Officer – James Sokalski
County Counsel – Stephanie Anaya-Sernett