COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT THE HOUSING INITIATIVES PLAN, APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENTS, APPROVAL OF A CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)

REQUEST

Authorize the Director of Mental Health or his designee to implement a Housing Initiatives Plan to accelerate movement away from long-term institutional care and facilitate expeditious and safe assistance to individuals to live in appropriately less restrictive and more supportive community-based settings.

Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to utilize one-time funding from the Sales Tax Realignment Trust Account, in the amount of $2,300,000, as described in Attachment I, to fund the cost of the Housing Initiatives Plan.

Authorize DMH to fill 2.0 Full Time Equivalent positions (Medical Case Worker II), in excess of what is provided for in DMH's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, subject to allocation by the Department of Human Resources.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute amendments with four (4) DMH Legal Entity (LE) Agreements listed in Attachment II, for the provision of supportive services and operating costs for supported permanent housing projects and to administer rental assistance funds, effective upon Board approval.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign, and execute an Amendment to the California Institute of Mental Health (CIMH) Consultant Services Agreement to increase the Total Compensation Amount by $20,000 from $410,000 to $430,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2005, which will be used to provide for the services of a housing specialist.

Approve an Appropriation Adjustment in the amount of $758,000 for FY 2004-2005, fully funded by one-time Sales Tax Realignment funds to fund Salaries and Employee Benefits, Services and Supplies and Other Charges necessary to implement the Housing Initiatives Plan.

BACKGROUND

Interim Funding Program
Los Angeles County has operated the Interim Funding (IF) Program since 1985 to facilitate the placement of clients from hospitals and long-term institutional settings into the community when financial resources were not readily available. As of July 1, 2004, 164 clients were being supported by the IF Program.

Countywide Rental Assistance
Both the AB 2034 Program and a Supportive Housing Initiative Act Grant, the Housing Options Made Easy Program, have demonstrated that designating funds for rental deposits and basic furnishings, as well as for staff to develop a pool of landlords with available low-income housing, enhances clients' ability to overcome obstacles to obtaining permanent housing and living independently.

Supported Housing
Under the Housing Initiatives Plan, $1 million dollars will be used to provide supportive services and operating costs for two (2) supported permanent housing projects currently under development, and to leverage available development funds for housing projects coming on-line within the next 12 months.

DMH Legal Entity Agreement providers are listed in Attachment II.

CIMH headquarters is located at 2030 J Street, Sacramento, California 95814, and is a statewide organization provider, which currently has an existing DMH Consultant Services Agreement (DMH-01407).

INTENT

The purpose of the requested action is to implement the Housing Initiatives Plan in accordance with the DMH Stakeholders Recommendations provided to the Board on October 19, 2004. This plan addresses the increasing emphasis in recent years on the importance of reducing the utilization of long-term institutional care, and promoting and building recovery-focused services that support people in community living, as evidenced by the passage of the federal Olmstead Act, the enactment of the Statewide Assembly Bill 34/2034/334, and, more recently, the passage of the Mental Health Services Act. The Housing Initiatives Plan consists of three (3) components: Augmentation of the IF Program, Countywide Rental Assistance, and Supported Permanent Housing.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposed actions will reduce the utilization of costly long-term institutional care for clients that no longer require that level of care and facilitate the transition of those clients into community living. The actions will also increase access to permanent housing and the availability of supported housing, thus fostering clients' integration into the community and recovery from mental illness.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

In order to use these one-time Sales Tax Realignment funds expeditiously approval is requested to contract with the only two (2) DMH LE providers, National Mental Health Association of Greater Los Angeles and Portals, Inc., with previous experience and an existing infrastructure to administer these rental assistance funds. Another requested action is to augment the amount of Sales Tax Realignment funding in the CIMH Consultant Services Agreement for consultation on housing development.

As part of the process of allocating the supported permanent housing funding, DMH, in consultation with representatives of the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Shelter Partnership (consultant to the Special Needs Housing Alliance), ascertained that there are only two (2) permanent supported permanent housing projects currently under development that require funding within this fiscal year. Accordingly, both the OPCC Safe Haven and the Gateways SRO projects are proposed for sole source contracts. DMH has met the County's requirement for advance notification of intent to negotiate a sole source contract of $250,000 or greater in its notification letter to the Board dated January 12, 2005.

EGR:er

Attachments (2)

ATTACHMENT I

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
HOUSING INITIATIVES PLAN
PROPOSED USE OF ONE-TIME SALES TAX REALIGNMENT TRUST ACCOUNT

DESCRIPTION	FY 2004-05	FY 2005-06	TOTAL ALLOCATION
Interim Funding Program	$ 200,000	$ 700,000	$ 900,000
Countywide Rental Assistance			
Deposits and Furnishings	$ 110,000	$ 183,000	$ 293,000
Housing Specialists	40,000	67,000	107,000
Total Residential Assistance	$ 150,000	$ 250,000	$ 400,000
Supported Permanent Housing	$ 408,000	$ 592,000	$ 1,000,000
Total Countywide Residential Assistance	**$ 758,000**	**$ 1,542,000**	**$ 2,300,000**
TOTAL PROPOSED BUDGET	**$ 758,000**	**$ 1,542,000**	**$ 2,300,000**

ATTACHMENT II

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
HOUSING INITIATIVES PLAN

Supervisorial Districts	LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENTS	FY 2004-2005 CURRENT MCA	FY 2004-2005 4.5 MONTHS PRORATED	FY 2004-2005 REVISED MCA	FY 2005-2006 CURRENT MCA	FY 2005-2006 ANNUALIZED ALLOCATION	FY 2005-2006 REVISED MCA
1	Gateways Hospital and Mental Health Center 1891 Effie Street Los Angeles, CA 90026	$9,488,960	$195,000	$9,683,960	N/A	N/A	N/A
1, 2, 3, 5	Portals, Inc.* 679 New Hampshire Avenue, 5th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90005	11,549,892	54,938	11,604,830	$11,549,892	$91,563	$11,641,455
3	Ocean Park Community Center 1453 16th Stsreet Santa Monica, CA 90404-2715	210,817	192,857	403,674	210,817	257,143	467,960
1, 2, 4, 5	National Mental Health of Greater Los Angeles ** 320 Pine Avenue Long Beach, CA 90802	10,879,414	54,938	10,934,352	10,760,460	91,563	10,852,023
	TOTAL ALLOCATION	**$32,129,083**	**$497,733**	**$32,626,816**	**$22,521,169**	**$440,269**	**$22,961,438**

* The Rental assistance program for Service Areas 2, 4, 5 and 6 will be administered from this site.

** The Rental assistance program for Service Areas 1, 3, 7 and 8 will be administered from this site.