

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW TEMPORARY PSYCHIATRIST SERVICES
AGREEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009-10, 2010-11, AND 2011-12
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to renew seven Locum Tenens agreements, expiring on June 30, 2009, to continue the provision of temporary psychiatrist services throughout Los Angeles County.

REQUEST

1. Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute the renewal of seven Temporary Psychiatrist Services Agreements (Agreements), with the following Locum Tenens (LT) contractors: 1) CareerStaff Unlimited, Inc., 2) Global Medical Staffing, Ltd., 3) Interim Physicians, Inc., 4) LocumTenens.com, LLC, 5) Jackson & Coker LocumTenens, LLC, 6) National Medical Registry, Inc., and 7) Staff Care, Inc.. The term of these Agreements will be effective July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012. Funding for these Agreements is included in the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 Proposed Budget.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future agreements with other qualified LT contractors, and to sign and execute future amendments to the Agreements, provided that: 1) the County's total payments to each contractor under the Agreement for each fiscal year shall not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the last Board approved contracted rates; 2) any increase shall be used to meet program needs; 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or their designees, is obtained prior to any such amendment; 5) County and contractor may, by written amendments, reduce applicable contracted rates; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board within 30 days after the execution of any Amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

Board approval is required to continue provision of services beyond the current June 30, 2009 expiration of the current contract term. The use of these LT contractors'

independently contracted psychiatrists, on an as needed basis, is necessary to meet emergent or unanticipated needs when existing County employees are unavailable, cannot be transferred from other locations, or vacant positions cannot be filled timely with permanent new hires.

Upon Board approval, the Director of Mental Health will have delegated authority to renew the seven LT agreements that are due to expire on June 30, 2009, and will have delegated authority to execute new agreements with other qualified LT contractors, which will allow DMH to use qualified temporary psychiatrists on an intermittent and as needed basis to meet emergent or unanticipated needs.

The LT contracted rates will remain the same except in Antelope Valley. DMH will change the LT contracted rate from \$200 per hour to a flexible rate not to exceed \$200 per hour in the Antelope Valley during periods of critical shortage. This modified rate will allow DMH the flexibility necessary to attract and place well qualified temporary psychiatrists who are willing to commute to the remote northern area of the County. Additionally, DMH LT rates in Antelope Valley will remain competitive with the rate paid by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at the California State Prison in Lancaster.

The LT contractors will be reimbursed based on contracted daily rates established by DMH. DMH will utilize salary savings from vacant budgeted psychiatric positions to fund the cost of the LT contracts for FYs 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12. Funding for these costs has been requested in DMH's FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget. Funding for FYs 2010-11 and 2011-12 will be requested during DMH's annual budget process. There is no increase in net County cost.

BACKGROUND

Since July 1, 2000, DMH has utilized the services of LT contractors to provide psychiatrists, on a temporary and intermittent basis, to perform psychiatric evaluations, medication support, and crisis intervention to seriously mentally ill adults, seriously emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, and their families. Under the existing agreement, LT contractors offer a pool of candidates to provide DMH with temporary personnel when there are gaps in psychiatric services due to manpower shortages.

Without the renewal of these temporary psychiatrist service agreements, DMH will be unable to utilize psychiatrists for temporary work assignments. This would negatively impact access to psychiatric care for Los Angeles County residents. When the hiring process is lengthy, the utilization of LT psychiatrists enables DMH to handle critical

manpower shortages, meet emergent or unanticipated treatment needs, and continually provide high quality mental health care.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

On June 20, 2000, your Board approved agreements with LT companies in an effort to address shortages of psychiatrists throughout the County. The renewal of these agreements will allow DMH to provide needed services by utilizing temporary psychiatrists supplied by current and future contractors when the County experiences a high number of vacancies despite enhanced recruitment efforts.

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