

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH - APPROVAL OF THREE SERVICE  
AGREEMENTS FOR EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS THROUGH DROP-IN  
CENTERS FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007-08 AND 2008-09  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**REQUEST**

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute three (3) Service Agreements (Agreements) for Drop-In Centers For Transition Age Youth (TAY) with Pacific Clinics, the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center (LA Gay & Lesbian), and Step-up on Second Street, Inc. (Step Up) for the implementation of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Community Services and Support (CSS) Drop-In Centers Plan for Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 16-25. The cost for fiscal year (FY) 2007-08 and 2008-09 is \$375,000 and \$500,000 respectively. The Agreements will be fully funded by MHSA CSS funds and effective upon Board approval.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable the three contract service providers, selected through a competitive Request for Services (RFS) process, to provide Drop-In Center services to TAY throughout the County. Although the three (3) Drop-In Centers will be located in Irwindale, Santa Monica and Los Angeles (Hollywood area) they will be accessible to all eligible TAY residing in Los Angeles County.

Drop-In Centers provide “low-demand, high-tolerance” environments in which youth can find temporary safety and basic services and supports, i.e., showers, meals, clothing, referrals, vouchers, etc. Currently, most Drop-In Centers operate during normal business hours. The MHSA funding will allow these Drop-In Centers to serve as entry points into the mental health system for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) and Severe and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) TAY who are living on the street or in unstable living situations. Specifically, the funding will be used to extend hours of operation, thus increasing access to basic supports through Outreach and Engagement (O&E) and linkage activities during evening and weekend hours. TAY accessing Drop-In Centers have an opportunity to build trusting relationships with staff that can connect them with services and supports they need as they work toward stability and recovery.

## **BACKGROUND**

The focus of the State approved MHSA CSS Plan is on recovery-oriented services for people who are diagnosed with serious emotional disturbance as well as those with severe and persistent mental illnesses. For TAY, the priority population are those with SED/SPMI who are homeless or currently at risk of homelessness; those aging out of the child welfare, child mental health, and juvenile justice systems; those leaving long-term institutional care; those who have experienced their first psychotic break; and those with co-occurring substance abuse disorders. TAY with serious mental health issues are often highly transient, and therefore present unique challenges for providing effective services and supports. One of the first conditions for providing services and supports is to establish a trusting relationship with the person to receive the service. By providing MHSA funding for Drop-In Centers to extend their hours of operation, access to supports for the TAY population will be significantly increased.

## **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

DMH invited community-based agencies to pre-qualify prior to applying for MHSA funds by submitting a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) in response to a Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) open solicitation process. The SOQ process was to ensure that each agency demonstrated a basic level of capability, (e.g., financial viability, proof of liability insurance, registration as a County vendor). Agencies also identified the types of services, age groups to be served, and geographic locations in which they want to provide services. If agencies met MHSA requirements, they were placed on the Department's MHSA Master Agreement List, making them eligible to receive RFS related to their service provision capabilities and interest.

On February 16, 2007, DMH issued RFS No. 12 to 38 qualified bidders on the MHSA Master Agreement List who expressed interest in providing Drop-In Center services. DMH sent such agencies that expressed interest a 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 February 27, 2007. Representatives from 26 agencies attended the Proposers' Conference.

Proposals were submitted by four (4) agencies by the April 9, 2007 deadline.

A total of five (5) individuals who were ethnically diverse and play different roles in the local mental health system (e.g. family member/consumer, staff of DMH, and other County Departments) evaluated proposals for Drop-In Centers in June 2007. The review panelists assessed and scored proposals individually and then met to discuss

and determine consensus scores for each. Simultaneously, DMH staff reviewed the budgets and contacted agency references.

Based on the evaluation, Pacific Clinics was rated the highest and Step Up and L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center tied for second.

DMH staff developed a site visit scoring tool that was used to break the tie. In October 2007 DMH TAY staff made site visits to Step Up and L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center using the tool to serve as a basis for breaking the tie; the tool was scored by DMH with L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center being recommended for full funding. However, the Department is recommending a one-time allocation to Step Up to allow the agency time to embark on fundraising activities to continue expanded services in 2008-09.

The agency that was not awarded funding under RFS No. 12 did not request a Contractor Selection Review; therefore, no appeals are pending.

**DMH Contact:**

Sandra Thomas  
Telephone Number: (213) 738-4644  
Email Address: [SThomas@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:SThomas@dmh.lacounty.gov)