

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on “Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within,” to be held on June 10, 2010, at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities

REQUEST

Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on “Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within,” to be held on June 10, 2010, at an estimated cost of \$25,000; authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment) for site technical support and catering services for the conference, and to make a payment to the Endowment, or its designee, at a total estimated cost of \$9,000; authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for County employees, consumers, and family members attending the conference as an exception to Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, of the Los Angeles County Code, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on “Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within,” to be held on June 10, 2010, at the Endowment. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plans and the DMH’s goal to promote hope, wellness, and recovery.

The conference will assist the Department accomplish elements of its State-approved MHSA plans. A major mandate of the MHSA is to reach unserved and underserved populations to support their recovery from mental illness. This conference provides an important opportunity for DMH to develop partnerships with faith communities in achieving this MHSA mandate.

BACKGROUND

Since 2002, DMH has held an annual one-day educational event to make faith leaders aware of mental illness, its impact on families, and the supporting role faith communities can play in helping with recovery. By collaborating with faith leaders in underserved and unserved communities, DMH is seeking to reduce barriers for people seeking mental health care.

Through two plenary sessions and 18 workshops, which will be presented by experts in the fields of mental health and/or spirituality, the conference is intended to increase awareness of spirituality as a potential resource in mental health prevention, early intervention, and recovery and to encourage collaboration among faith-based organizations, mental health service providers, consumers, and families in combating stigma and reducing disparities in access to services for diverse populations. Continuing education units will be offered to appropriate clinical disciplines.

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APPROVED BY:

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