

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

**F A C T   S H E E T**

**APPROVAL FOR A SOLE SOURCE AMENDMENT  
WITH DIDI HIRSCH PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE FOR  
SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM SERVICES UNDER THE MENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICES ACT-PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION  
PLAN'S EARLY START PROGRAM  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 2)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval for a sole source amendment with Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Service to implement the Mental Health Services Act-Prevention and Early Intervention Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program.

**REQUEST**

1. Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a sole source amendment with Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Service to implement the Department's Suicide Prevention Program under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan's Early Start Program. The amendment in the amount of \$802,733 is for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10, effective upon Board approval, and is fully funded with MHSA PEI Early Start Program funding.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreement with Didi Hirsch, provided that: 1) the County's total payments under this Agreement for the applicable fiscal year shall not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable revised Board approved MCA; 2) any such increase shall be used to provide additional services or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all increases; 4) approval of the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and County Counsel, or their designees, is obtained prior to any such Amendment; 5) the parties may by written amendment mutually agree to reduce programs or services, without reference to the 20 percent limitation; and 6) the Director of Mental Health shall provide written notification to your Board within 30 days after the execution of each Amendment.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval is required for DMH to implement the MHSA PEI Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program through a sole source amendment with Didi Hirsch. Suicide is a significant mental health issue within Los Angeles County. The recommended actions will provide increased safeguards to the population at risk through transformation and expansion of the suicide prevention services currently provided by Didi Hirsch.

The Agency has the necessary personnel, facilities and services to facilitate the implementation through transformation and expansion. Didi Hirsch operates one of the eight accredited hotlines in California that are members of the National Lifeline.

Without this sole source amendment, the benefits of MHSA PEI Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program services will be unduly delayed to the most vulnerable population in Los Angeles County.

## **BACKGROUND**

Didi Hirsch provides suicide prevention services at the Center, which is located in Culver City. The Center was the first in the nation to provide 24-hour suicide prevention Crisis Line. Being one of the eight accredited hotlines in California that are members of the National Lifeline, It is the only National Suicide Prevention Lifeline serving the entire Los Angeles County.

The Center's 24-hour Crisis Line provides direct, confidential telephone counseling to the target population of individuals, of any age, who are contemplating, threatening or attempting suicide, as well as concerned friends or family members. The 24-hour Crisis Line receives several thousand suicide related calls each month. Each caller receives immediate and focused crisis intervention assistance from a team of highly trained volunteers, consultants and professional staff.

To implement the MHSA PEI Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program, Didi Hirsch will transform the Center's 24-hour Crisis Line services into an evidence-based Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) model. The ASIST model emphasizes suicide first-aid to help a person at risk to stay safe and seek further help as needed. It is designed to give participants knowledge and skills that will help them know how to intervene when they fear someone might be at risk.

The Center will expand its ASIST model training to the law enforcement personnel on the proper suicide first-aid response. The Center will also develop support groups for survivors of suicide and for family members who suffer suicide losses. Activities will include support groups, weekly meeting, telephone counseling, and community outreach.

The Center will expand the 24-hour Crisis Line to include bilingual services to serve under-represented and ethnic communities. The first steps in this process will be the hiring of Spanish-speaking bilingual supervisors and staff and training them on the ASIST model and put them on the 24-hour Crisis Line to serve Spanish-speaking ethnic community.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

This is a sole source amendment with Didi Hirsch. The sole source selection is based on historical evidence that Didi Hirsch has established suicide prevention services which provide a ready foundation to implement the MHSA PEI Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program. The Amendment requires Didi Hirsch to transform and expand its current services in accordance with the Service Exhibit on service elements, service goals, and performance-based criteria. The One-Time Expenses Exhibit specifies cost categories eligible for one-time costs reimbursements.

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### **APPROVED BY:**

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