

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

**FACT SHEET**

**APPROVAL TO RENEW TWO SOLE SOURCE  
FISCAL INTERMEDIARY AGREEMENTS  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to renew two sole source fiscal intermediary agreements for training and student professional development programs with students who are pursuing a mental health related career.

**REQUEST**

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute the renewal of two sole source fiscal intermediary agreements (Agreements), with California State University Long Beach Foundation (CSULBF) and Phillips Graduate Institute (PGI) with annual Total Compensation Amounts (TCA) of \$425,500 for CSULBF and \$425,500 for PGI, for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2010-11 through 2012-13, with three successive one-year renewal options through FY 2015-16.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreements provided that: 1) the County's total payments to each contractor under these Agreements for the applicable FYs do not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable revised Board approved TCA; 2) any such increase is used to provide additional services or to reflect program or Board policy changes; 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all increases; 4) approval of the Chief Executive Officer (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 provides written notification to your Board within 30 days after the execution of each amendment.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will renew these fiscal intermediary agreements expiring on June 30, 2010, to continue the provision of stipends to full-time and part-time students who participate in the Department of Mental Health (DMH) Student Professional Development Programs (SPDP). In addition, Board approval will allow the Department to amend the agreements as the need arises. The agreement with CSULBF focuses on the provision of stipends to students who are in career paths towards a Master in Social Work (MSW) or Nurse Practitioner (NP). The agreement

with PGI is for the provision of stipends to Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) students. The Department will benefit from these two stipend programs as students are committed to provide mental health services in return for each year of stipend received.

CSULBF, acting as the lead agency for Inter-University Consortium of Social Work Schools, and PGI, who serves as a main conduit between DMH and the MFT Consortium, have consistently recruited and referred students to the DMH SPDP stipend programs since the inception of these two fiscal intermediary agreements.

## **BACKGROUND**

DMH and its contracted agencies need social workers, therapists, and NPs who are culturally and linguistically competent to provide services that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of local communities, with particular focus on issues of ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, and religious/spiritual beliefs. The renewal of these two fiscal intermediary agreements will further cultivate mental health professionals who are trained in a series of competency-based mental health service delivery models.

CSULBF and PGI will continue to solicit students interested in participating in the DMH SPDP. Individuals selected for the stipend program with DMH and its contracted agencies are required to sign an agreement in which they commit to employment with DMH, or agencies who have a mental health contract with DMH, for at least one calendar year of continuous and satisfactory employment in return for each year of stipend assistance.

CSULBF has served as the lead agency for the Inter-University Consortium of Social Work Schools, comprised of California State University, Long Beach; University of Southern California; University of California at Los Angeles; California State University, Bakersfield; California State University, Los Angeles; and California State University, Northridge. CSULBF was selected at inception to be the sole liaison between the Inter-University Consortium of Social Work Schools and the DMH SPDP stipend program for MSW students. In this capacity, CSULBF provides fiscal intermediary services and supports the recruitment of bilingual and bicultural MSW students to establish careers in the Los Angeles County public mental health system.

Additionally, CSULBF was chosen by the DMH Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Project to serve in an expanded capacity to recruit and distribute stipends to Nurse Practitioner (NP) students. CSULBF has an established connection with local universities offering NP graduate programs, and has demonstrated its proficiency to refer students for the DMH SPDP stipend program.

PGI has served as the lead school of the MFT Consortium since 1994 and assisted DMH in gaining direct access to MFT students who are bilingual and culturally sensitive. Students recruited and referred by PGI provide mental health services to underserved clients faced with cultural and linguistic barriers. Additionally, this MFT consortium is highly unique as it is comprised of over 25 graduate schools in Southern California and has direct contact with MFT students who are preparing for licensure.

The Agreement format includes various updated or new provisions in accordance with Board policy changes and been approved as to form by County Counsel and CEO has reviewed the proposed actions. DMH will continue to monitor the contractor's performance to ensure its adherence to, and compliance with, agreement and quality management requirements.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

CSULBF was selected by the Inter-University Consortium of Social Work Schools to be the lead fiscal representative to collaborate with DMH for MSW and NP students. CSULBF has access to the most diverse pool of MSW students through its affiliation with the Inter-University Consortium of Social Work as well as its established role as the single fiscal agency assisting LACDMH to distribute stipends to MSW students.

PGI was selected by the Consortium of MFT Schools to be the fiscal representative to collaborate with DMH for MFT students. PGI's leadership is central to organizing universities within the Consortium of MFT Schools in the Southern California area, ensuring that DMH will continue to have direct access to the most diverse pool of MFT students preparing for public mental health employment.

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### **APPROVED BY:**

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