

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF THE CALIFORNIA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY
JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS AGREEMENT
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Adopt a resolution authorizing execution of the California Mental Health Services Authority Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement for the purpose of developing and funding mental health services and education programs on a regional, Statewide, or local basis.

REQUEST

1. Adopt a Resolution and instruct the Chair of your Board and the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, to certify and sign three copies of the Resolutions .
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to (1) sign and execute the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement between the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and other participating entities of the California Mental Health Services Authority (CMHSA), for the purpose of jointly developing and funding mental health services and education programs on a Statewide, regional, or local basis; and (2) serve on its board and act as the representative of the County.
3. Authorize the Director of Mental Health to expand the \$1,000 application fee to participate in the CMHSA.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Approval of the recommended actions will authorize the County to execute an agreement to jointly exercise powers with other participating counties and cities who are members of the CMHSA.

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC), the State body with authority over the Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), identified multiple PEI projects to be undertaken with MHSA funding reserved by the State for Statewide projects, \$46,713,600 of which has been designated for Los Angeles County. PEI projects identified by MHSOAC as Statewide projects include suicide prevention, student mental health, and stigma and discrimination reduction.

In response to the State Department of Mental Health's (SDMH) delay in releasing the reserved funds, the California Mental Health Directors Association determined that an efficient mechanism to implement such Statewide and regional projects would be through a single Statewide agency, such as a county mental health joint powers authority. This would provide an alternative to counties having to assign MHSA funds to the State to implement such Statewide and regional MHSA projects. Indeed, it is anticipated that final guidelines from the MHSOAC will require counties to expend their PEI Statewide Project Funds through a joint powers authority, by multi-county collaboration, or through assignment of those funds to the SDMH.

There is a \$1,000 application fee to participate in CMHSA. Aside from the application fee, participation in the CMHSA will not impose any additional County costs as MHSA funding for the Statewide PEI projects has been reserved for counties by the State and is separate from PEI programs developed by individual counties. There is no increase in net County cost.

BACKGROUND

In July 2009, the CMHSA was formed for the purpose of jointly developing and funding mental health services and education programs on a Statewide, regional, or local basis. In addition to providing counties with an alternative to assigning MHSA funds to the State for Statewide projects, the CMHSA provides a mechanism to facilitate efficient use of resources for multiple counties by maximizing group purchasing power for products; jointly developing requests for proposals and to establish contracts with providers to accomplish agreed upon goals; reducing administrative overhead; centralizing compliance with reporting requirements; sharing research, information, and strategies; and negotiating cost-effective rates with various subcontractors Statewide. Moreover, the CMHSA can provide counties a centralized voice before the State Legislature, the SDMH, the MHSOAC, and other parties to address funding of county public mental health services, including PEI Statewide funding.

Currently, the CMHSA members are Butte, Colusa, Monterey, Placer, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Luis Obispo, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, and Yuba Counties. Each member county has approved the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Implementation of Statewide PEI projects through the CMHSA will provide the County with an alternative to assigning PEI Statewide Project Funds to the State and will facilitate efficiencies through joint action with participating counties.

Counties will benefit directly and indirectly from these Statewide projects through training and technical assistance provided to counties and their PEI partners' support for

the implementation of local PEI projects, media and social marketing materials in multiple languages, model program sites, enhanced State and local partnerships, coordinated State and local efforts, research and evaluation, and Statewide quality improvement activities. Establishing an alternative to State administration of State-level MHSA programs through participation in the CMHSA will result in more cost-effective rates for services, reduced demands on County administrative services, and increased efficiency in implementing services.

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