

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVE A SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENT
WITH LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of a sole source Agreement with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) to design, develop and maintain a web-based training system on suicide prevention information and materials for school personnel with funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan's Early Start Program.

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a sole source Services Agreement with the LACOE to design, develop and maintain a web-based training system and curriculum on suicide prevention accessible to all personnel in 81 school districts within Los Angeles County. The Maximum Contract Amount will be \$255,000 annually for Fiscal Years (FYs) 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12, and executed upon Board approval with effective date through June 30, 2012.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to this Agreement, and establish a new Total Compensation Amount (TCA), the aggregate of the original agreement and all amendments provided that: 1) The County's total payments for fiscal years referenced do not exceed a 20 percent increase from the Board approved TCA; 2) Such increases shall be for provision of additional services or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) Your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) Approval by County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or their designee, is obtained prior to any such Amendment; 5) County and contractor may, by written amendments, reduce programs or services and revise the applicable TCA, provided that any such revisions will be consistent with the principles of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) stakeholders' process; and 6) The Director of Mental Health notifies the Board of Agreement changes in writing within 30 days after execution of each Amendment.

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute amendments to extend the term of this Agreement with LACOE for the continued maintenance and upgrades of the web-based training system in subsequent fiscal years, contingent upon the availability of future MHSA funding.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval is required for DMH to enter into a sole source Agreement with LACOE to initiate the design, development and management of a web-based training system and curriculum for school personnel on suicide prevention.

LACOE is uniquely qualified to provide training through its Center for Distance and Online Learning (CDOL) through its TeachStar Online Academy, and is the only entity that has a formal relationship and access to all 81 school districts in Los Angeles County. CDOL will host, design, and develop the website along with programming for selected applications ranging from storage, access of resource materials to multimedia productions. CDOL can also provide continuing education units applicable and necessary as part of the project offerings. LACOE CDOL has existing capability that adds value to this project and serves as a cost savings to the County and support for MHPA funds.

In addition, LACOE plans to subcontract with LAUSD's School Mental Health Youth Suicide Prevention Program (LAUSD YSPP). The nationally recognized LAUSD YSPP, established in 1996, was highlighted by the Center for Disease Control as a model program in 1992 and continued to be the only school suicide prevention program in the United States today. While suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth, LAUSD with approximately 800,000 students has one of the lowest suicide rates. Seventy-two percent (72%) of students identified through the gatekeeper strategies of LAUSD YSPP have received mental health services utilizing district or community services, yielding great impact on the destigmatization of mental illness, depression, and solicitation of mental health services within our community.

LAUSD YSPP will be primarily responsible for providing consultation and information about suicide, which includes fact sheets, statistics, and frequently asked questions serve as a foundation for the website. Moreover, LAUSD YSPP will recommend potential resources for schools that are interested in establishing crisis response services. Information and other resources on the subject of suicide prevention will be presented in different formats to meet the needs of school districts personnel from an array of disciplines (e.g. administrators, teachers, school health and human services workers, and physical plant services employees). LAUSD YSPP will also provide the core curriculum for the web-based trainings.

In compliance with your Board's contracting policy requirements for sole source contracts, DMH notified your Board on September 1, 2009 of the intent to enter into sole source negotiations with LACOE for the provision of these services.

BACKGROUND

According to the *California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention: Every Californian is part of the Solution* (approved by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, June 30, 2008), suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth and young adults ages 15-24. The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) indicates that 90 percent of individuals who die by suicide had a diagnosable mental illness or substance abuse disorder. Based upon calculations from various sources, the estimated cost for suicides and suicide attempts in California is \$4.2 billion per year, with costs that spread through employers and social safety net systems such as health and mental health.

The MHSA PEI Early Start Suicide Prevention Plans developed by Los Angeles County stakeholders are in accordance with the guidelines recommended by the State Department of Mental Health's plan titled *California Strategic Plan for Suicide Prevention*. At the local level, the guidelines specify a coordinated multi-level public health approach that promotes wellness and health and early intervention for individuals at risk to reduce multiple negative outcomes, including suicide, mental illness, and violence. Targeted approaches include the expansion of suicide prevention hotline and population-specific interventions.

The State's MHSA Plan, Phase Two for PEI planning, identified Suicide Risk as one of five key community mental health needs. Consistent with the State's recommendation to increase the capacity and quality of local suicide prevention services, the stakeholder work groups identified the "Web-Based Training of School Personnel" being one of six projects for Los Angeles County. This project was selected as a method of enabling teachers, and other school community professionals who do not receive regular training in this subject, to recognize suicide risk and provide effective preventive measures to children and youth.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

State DMH originally planned to administer and contract for the MHSA PEI funded Early Start Programs, but determined that selected local County Departments of Mental Health would be able to expedite the administration and implementation of the plans. Upon the State's redirection, DMH began a fast-track planning and grant proposal development process that included groups of subject-matter experts and stakeholders. DMH was subsequently awarded funds for various Early Start proposals, including the Suicide Prevention Project, identified as the "Web-Base Training of School Personnel." It was through this process that LACOE was identified as the principal entity with the requisite professional expertise and experience to effectively and efficiently implement this training.

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