

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FACT SHEET

**REQUEST APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE TERM OF CONSULTANT SERVICES
AGREEMENTS WITH MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA
OF LOS ANGELES AND PACIFIC CLINICS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010-11
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to extend the term of the Consultant Services Agreements with Mental Health America of Los Angeles and Pacific Clinics to continue delivering training services outlined in the Mental Health Services Act Workforce Education and Training Plan.

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute Consultant Services Amendments for term extensions, substantially similar to Attachment I, with Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA) No. MH050019 and Pacific Clinics No. MH050017, to continue delivering Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Education and Training (WET) services during Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11. The Total Contract Amount (TCA) for FY 2010-11 will be \$581,100 for MHALA, and \$200,000 for Pacific Clinics, both funded with MHSA WET funds. The amendment for MHALA will be effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and the amendment for Pacific Clinics will be effective from July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval is required to enable the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to extend the term of the existing agreements with MHALA and Pacific Clinics, both of which are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2010.

DMH requests term extensions with MHALA and Pacific Clinics to prevent interruption of MHSA WET training programs offered to consumers, family members, parent advocates/partners, public mental health staff (including DMH staff and its contracted agencies), and college faculty and students. The term extension for these Agreements will allow the Contractors to continue delivering four distinct WET programs: 1) Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist Training Services, 2) Public Mental Health Workforce Staff Immersion Training, 3) College Faculty Immersion Training, and 4) Peer Support Training.

Without the Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist Training Services program, the public mental health system is in danger of losing a valuable resource, one that serves as a pipeline in channeling employment-eligible consumers and family members towards the public mental health system, a core tenet of MHSA. The Immersion Training programs effectively reinforce and prepare those of the current and future public mental health workforce, including DMH staff and its contracted agencies, college faculty and students, to transform traditional mental health services into services that better embrace MHSA values. The Peer Support Training program provides certificated training in peer supportive services and skills for individuals who are interested in entering the public mental health workforce as mental health peer supporters. These programs are collectively designed to enhance the skills of its targeted audience above.

Each of the WET programs offers specialized lectures as well as interactive learning experiences to guide participants in using recovery-oriented approaches in their work with clients enrolled in MHSA programs and services. The training services have become a significant resource for qualified individuals to be employed by MHSA-funded programs as well as those programs transforming to serve clients using a recovery model approach.

BACKGROUND

On June 16, 2009, your Board approved a one-year term extension for the Agreements with MHALA and Pacific Clinics, beginning July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, for the continuation of services under the MHSA WET Plan.

DMH recently conducted a months' long revision process of the WET Plan which involved community input in its reprioritization, changing it from being hiring-oriented into one more focused on enhancing its current workforce. As a result of delayed development of solicitation documents for these services, DMH was programmatically impacted and thus unable to prepare and release a Request-For-Services (RFS) in the time needed to have services in place by the beginning of FY 2010-11. The Department estimates the completion of the solicitation process within the next 12 months, which is the average timeframe for development, release, evaluation, and award of a RFS.

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