

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO A NEW CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT  
WITH THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL FOR  
FAMILY- FOCUSED STRATEGIES TO REDUCE MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA AND  
DISCRIMINATION FOR ADULTS (AGE 26-59) COUNTYWIDE PROGRAM  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to award a Consultant Services Agreement to The Los Angeles County Alliance for the Mentally Ill to implement the Family-Focused Strategies for Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination for Adults (Age 26-59) Countywide Program.

**REQUEST**

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a Consultant Services Agreement (Agreement) with The Los Angeles County Alliance for the Mentally Ill, also known as Los Angeles County Coordinating Council (LACCC). The Agreement will enable delivery of mental health prevention and early intervention services through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Family-Focused Strategies for Reducing Mental Health Stigma and Discrimination for Adults (Age 26-59) Countywide Program. Services will be provided for the remaining months of Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 through FY 2011-12 (the Initial Period), with a Total Contract Amount (TCA) of \$510,296, fully funded with MHSA PEI funds.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreement to add and/or change non-substantive terms and conditions and/or establish as a new TCA the aggregate of the original Agreement and all amendments provided: 1) the County's total payments to the Contractor under the Agreements for each Fiscal Year (FY) does not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable Board-approved TCA; 2) any such increase will be used to provide additional services or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel, or designee, is obtained prior to such amendment; 5) the parties may, by written amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs, services or extend the term of the Agreements; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Agreement changes in writing within 30 days after execution of each amendment.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to enter into an Agreement with LACCC to provide family and peer-based education programs and consultative services directly to family members and parents/caregivers caring for children, transitional-age youth, adults and older adults with mental illness, in an effort to reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental health.

The aim of this program is to assist families experiencing the initial onset of mental health problems and offer them PEI services during this crucial time period, in order to reduce stigma and discrimination which may place the family at risk or prevent them from seeking stabilizing and restorative mental health services.

With the implementation of this Agreement, DMH expects to put into action Countywide a collaborative evidence-based life-span approach to providing stigma and discrimination reduction efforts for parents of children all the way to family members of older adults dealing with a mental illness. DMH also expects to expand implementation of culturally and linguistically competent family and peer-based education programs to reduce stigma and discrimination toward mental illness among the underrepresented ethnic populations (UREP) of Los Angeles County.

## **BACKGROUND**

LACCC is a non-profit agency and a chapter of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI), established since 1979, with a remarkable history of educating, advocating, and supporting consumers of mental health service and their families. Family members, parents/caregivers, and consumers manage the array of established programs, initiatives, and activities offered by this grass roots organization. The trainings, education programs, and presentations will be offered at no cost to community members and mental health professionals. LACCC is a Countywide organization, which handles all the matters of NAMI affiliate programs throughout Los Angeles County. LACCC offers an array of peer-education and training programs and services for consumers, family members, health care providers, and the general public. These programs demonstrate how individuals have learned to live well with mental illness, and in turn, extensively train others to do the same.

Board approval of the proposed actions will expand and implement a Countywide collaborating family and peer-based education program to address the stigma and discrimination interfering with family members, caregivers, and parents of consumers utilizing mental health services. This Agreement is critical to Los Angeles County's

commitment to reach out to underserved and unserved populations dealing with mental health issues and reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental health services.

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