

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF A SOLE SOURCE AMENDMENT
WITH PACIFIC CLINICS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM SERVICES
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of a sole source amendment with Pacific Clinics to implement the Mental Health Services Act-Prevention and Early Intervention Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program.

REQUEST

Approve and instruct the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a sole source amendment with Pacific Clinics, to implement the Suicide Prevention Program under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)-Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan's Early Start Program in the amount of \$281,250 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10 and \$375,000 for FY 2010-11, effective upon Board approval, and fully funded with MHSA PEI Early Start Program funding.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Agreement and establish as a new Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) the aggregate of the original Agreement and all amendments through and including this Amendment with Pacific Clinics, provided that: 1) the County's total payments under this Agreement for the applicable fiscal years do not exceed an increase of 20 percent from the applicable revised Board approved MCA; 2) any such increase is used to provide additional services or to reflect program 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 is required for DMH to implement the MHSA PEI Plan Early Start Suicide Prevention Program through a sole source amendment with Pacific Clinics. The Early Start Programs funded by the MHSA PEI were originally planned to be administered and contracted by the State Department of Mental Health (SDMH). However, the State determined that selected local county departments of mental health,

including Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), would efficiently expedite the administration and implementation of the plans.

Suicide is a significant mental health issue within Los Angeles County. The California Department of Public Health reported that 4,361 residents of Los Angeles County were hospitalized for attempted suicide. The 2006 data on suicide attempts reported that the highest rate of attempts occurred among the 15-to-19 year-old age group. Additionally, the Los Angeles County data for 2003 reported that the greatest rate of suicide occurred in Service Area (SA) 7, among the 16-to-25 year-old age group. Moreover, Latino youth and their families are populations that typically underutilize traditional mental health services due in part to cultural or communication barriers. The recommended actions will expand services to Latino youth and their families, which is a population that is unserved and underserved in SA 7.

Pacific Clinics' Latina Youth Program is located in Santa Fe Springs, SA 7. This program has a record of successfully outreaching to the Latino community. The selection of Pacific Clinics' Latina Youth Program is consistent with the guidelines provided by the SDMH and Mental Health Oversight and Accountability Commission to consider only those projects that can be readily and quickly implemented and that enhance ongoing suicide prevention efforts.

Without this sole source Amendment, the benefits of MHSA PEI Plan Early Start Suicide Prevention services will be unduly delayed to one of the most vulnerable populations in Los Angeles County.

BACKGROUND

DMH has selected Pacific Clinics to implement the Early Start Suicide Prevention Program under the MHSA PEI Plan. Pacific Clinics' Latina Youth Program provides outreach and engagement, mental health services, case management, and medication services to Latina youth at risk for suicide. The Latina Youth Program is located in Santa Fe Springs in SA 7, where the rate of suicide has been reported to be high among Latino youth. The agency has the necessary personnel, facilities and services to facilitate the implementation through expansion of the Latina Youth Program, which will be enhanced by the use of Cognitive Behavior Therapy and the Columbia Teen Screen. Additionally, the Latina Youth Program received a Demonstration Project Award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

To implement the MHSA PEI Early Start Suicide Prevention Program, Pacific Clinics will transform services by using evidence-based practices, which include the use of the Columbia Teen Screen with the urban Latino population. The Columbia Teen Screen is

a rapid self-report screening questionnaire that helps identify youth who are at-risk for suicide and potentially suffering from mental illness, thus allowing the youth to receive a complete mental health evaluation and early intervention. Additionally, the use of this questionnaire will provide data for SA 7 on the mental health risks encountered among the Latino population. Pacific Clinics will expand services which include education and support groups in the community on warning signs and risk factors for suicide among youth.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This is a sole source amendment with Pacific Clinics. The sole source selection is based on historical evidence that Pacific Clinics has established suicide prevention services that provide a ready foundation to implement the MHSA PEI Plan's Early Start Suicide Prevention Program. The amendment requires Pacific Clinics to transform and expand its current services in accordance with the service exhibit describing service elements, service goals, and performance-based criteria.

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