

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL OF FOUR TEMPORARY PSYCHIATRIST PERSONNEL SERVICES
AGREEMENTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)**

REQUEST:

Request Board approval to allow the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to continue to use four qualified personnel agencies that are able to place temporary psychiatrists with specializing training, skills, and expertise on an intermittent and as needed basis to fill unanticipated service gaps when DMH's psychiatrists terminate County employment. This gives DMH the ability to recruit and hire permanent employees to fill vacant psychiatrist positions without interrupting patient care.

Also, request delegated authority for the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign, and execute future new agreements with other qualified agencies and amendments to the agreements.

CONTRACTORS:

Upon Board approval, the new agreements with four qualified personnel agencies (see attachment) will be effective July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004, with two automatic one-year renewals at the sole discretion of the Director of Mental Health. These agencies have the experience in the recruitment and referral of adult and child and adolescent psychiatrists to provide psychiatric evaluation, medication support, crisis intervention treatment, consultation, and training. These agreements contain the contracted, all-inclusive daily reimbursement rate of \$850 as established by DMH. The contractors will be paid monthly in arrears for the provision of temporary psychiatrist personnel services.

Since these contractors do not perform health care and do not receive protected health information at all, County Counsel has determined that the contractors are not a Business Associate of the County. However, as independent contractors provided to us by the contractors, the psychiatrists providing services must receive Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) training. Therefore, the Agreement format includes a revised HIPAA contract provision to reflect HIPAA training as a required qualification for psychiatrists performing services under the Agreement.

INTENT/JUSTIFICATION:

Since July 1, 2000, DMH has utilized the services of five temporary contract agencies to provide qualified psychiatrists with the training and skills to perform psychiatric evaluations, medication support, and crisis intervention treatment to seriously mentally ill (SMI) adults, seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children, adolescents, and their families as well as consultation and training to mental health professionals. The use of these qualified temporary agencies on an intermittent and as needed basis is necessary due to occasional retention issues and the inherent difficulties faced in recruiting and hiring qualified, culturally competent psychiatrists while there is a shortage of psychiatrists nationally.

The existing five temporary psychiatric personnel services agreements with Daniel and Yeager, J and C Nationwide, Locum Tenens.com, Psychiatrists Only, and Staff Care, Inc. were approved by your Board on June 20, 2000 and will expire on June 30, 2003. Without approval of temporary psychiatric personnel services agreements, DMH may not be able to provide critical psychiatric evaluations, medication support, and crisis intervention treatment when recruitment of qualified, permanent County psychiatrists is delayed or lengthy. Continuation of these temporary contracted services will provide DMH with a viable alternative to handling emergency situations and meeting emergent or unanticipated needs without compromising the quality of patient care.

CONTRACTING PROCESS:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 31000, your Board is authorized to contract for special services and/or to delegate such function to its constituent County departments to utilize personnel who are specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services. These agreements will not be utilized to replace County employees impacted by program or budget curtailments.

Pursuant to Los Angeles County Code Section 2.121.250, these agreements are not Proposition A contracts because these services are needed on a temporary or intermittent basis, and authority to contract is expressly provided in California Government Code Section 31000.

Upon Board approval, the Director of Mental Health will have delegated authority to execute temporary psychiatrist services agreements with four qualified, temporary psychiatrist personnel agencies, as listed in the attachment, and other new qualified agencies, as deemed necessary, that have specialized experience in the recruitment and referral of adult and child and adolescent psychiatrists to perform psychiatric evaluations, medication support, and crisis intervention treatment to SMI adults and

SED children, adolescents, and their families and consultation and training to mental health professionals.

RK:KT:RB

Attachment

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
Contracts Development and Administration Division

LIST OF CONTRACTORS FOR TEMPORARY PSYCHIATRIST PERSONNEL SERVICES

	Contractor/Firm	Agreement Term
1	CompHealth 4021 South 700 E., Suite 300 Salt Lake City, Utah 84107 Scott Beck President	3 years
2	Daniel & Yeager 8800 Roswell Road, Suite B-270 Atlanta, Georgia 30350 Johnny Walker Director of Government Contracting	3 years
3	J&C Nationwide 1150 Hammond Drive, Suite A-1200 Atlanta, Georgia 30328 Randy Weikle Director	3 years
4	Staff Care 5001 Statesman Drive Irving, Texas 75063 Lauren Zindel-Etter Senior Marketing	3 years