

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

**F A C T S H E E T**

**APPROVAL OF A NEW LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT  
WITH NEW DIRECTIONS, INC. FOR  
FISCAL YEARS 2002-2003, 2003-2004 AND 2004-2005  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3)**

**REQUEST:**

Authorize the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign, and execute a new Legal Entity Agreement with New Directions, Inc. The Agreement is for Fiscal Years (FY) 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and will be effective upon Board approval. The Maximum Contract Amount for FY 2002-2003 is \$29,167 and \$175,000 each for FYs 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

**CONTRACTORS:**

New Directions, Inc., a private, non-profit agency serving veterans with mental illness and substance abuse issues has been operating a facility for veterans on the grounds of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration since 1997. The agency is located at 11303 Wilshire Boulevard, Veterans Administration Building 257, Los Angeles, California 90073-1003

In 2002, the agency opened a 43-bed facility, New Directions North, across from their existing site. New Directions North provides specialized mental health, psychosocial rehabilitation, and vocational training for veterans with mental health and substance abuse issues. A team conducts street outreach, identifying veterans with co-occurring disorders wherever they are throughout the County. The team's efforts to engage those high need individuals have been extremely successful.

**INTENT:**

Board approval is requested to enter into a new Legal Entity Agreement with New Directions, Inc. for FYs 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005.

New Directions, Inc. will provide outreach services and client support services to homeless mentally ill veterans in Mental Health Service Area 5. The services provided will constitute an adjunct to the countywide Assembly Bill (AB) 2034 program, enabling DMH to offer intervention to the underserved veteran population as required by State legislation. The services will allow DMH to better satisfy the intent of the AB 2034 program by providing outreach services and will be a referral source for AB 2034 members that are in need of residential dually diagnosed services. The AB 2034 program targets adults who are homeless and mentally ill and the legislation specifically focuses on outreach and providing services to veterans.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Currently, New Directions, Inc. operates two residential programs on the site of the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration. The Veterans Administration has made these structures available in order to support these critically needed programs. Funding will augment services currently provided at New Directions North, a specialized program for veterans with mental health and substance abuse problems.

It is essential that Department of Mental Health (DMH) establish the ability to identify, engage and treat veterans with co-occurring illnesses as required by State AB 2034. A contract with New Directions, Inc. will give DMH this critical ability.

**CONTRACTING PROCESS:**

In establishing a contract with New Directions, Inc., DMH will be able to satisfy the intent of State AB 2034 to include homeless veterans in services provided. More specifically, New Directions, Inc. will offer outreach services to homeless mentally ill veterans and will establish dedicated beds in their New Directions North facility, serving veterans with co-occurring disorders.