

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

APPROVAL OF NEW LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENT WITH THE VILLAGE FAMILY SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2004-2005, 2005-2006, AND 2006-2007

**(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 3)
(3 VOTES)**

REQUEST:

1. Request Board approval and instruct the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute a new Legal Entity (LE) Agreement with The Village Family Services for the provision of outpatient mental health services to seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children, adolescents, and their families and Hispanic/Latino monolingual/bilingual gay and lesbian population. The term of this new LE Agreement will be effective upon Board approval for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-2005, with two automatic one-year renewal periods for FYs 2005-2006 and 2006-2007.
2. Also, request Board approval for delegated authority to the Director of Mental Health or his designee to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to this new LE Agreement.

INTENT/JUSTIFICATION:

Board approval is required to enter into a new sole source LE Agreement with The Village Family Services for the provision of mental health, targeted case management, and medication support services to SED children, adolescents, and their families and Hispanic/Latino monolingual/bilingual gay and lesbian population. The Department of Mental Health (DMH) submitted an Advance Notification of Intent to Enter into a Sole Source Contract to the Board of Supervisors on April 30, 2004.

This prospective service provider, operating on a nondiscriminatory basis, has been selected based on its capability to provide early intervention and bilingual, bicultural mental health treatment services to an underserved Hispanic/Latino community in Mental Health Service Area (MHSA) 2. Currently, mental health services provided to monolingual Spanish speaking children and families are particularly limited in North Hollywood, within MHSA 2, where The Village Family Services is located.

CONTRACTOR:

Founded in January 1997, The Village Family Services is a Community-Based Organization (CBO) with a mission to protect children from abuse; preserve families; and build strong and safe communities. The agency is located at 5437 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, Suite #210, North Hollywood, CA 91607, in Supervisorial District 3 within MHSAs 2 that has a total population of 1,982,248. The Village Family Services will be able to annually serve 55 children and families who meet the Medi-Cal necessity criteria for services.

According to statistics compiled from the Client Characteristics Report, FY 2002-2003, and Census 2000 by DMH's Planning and Program Support Bureau, 35 percent of the 1,982,248 population residing within MHSAs 2 are of Latino origin, the second largest ethnic group in MHSAs 2. These statistics also indicate that MHSAs 2 has approximately 242,689 Latinos who are Medi-Cal eligible, and approximately 3 percent are currently receiving services.

The agency is committed to the provision of bilingual, bicultural comprehensive services that offer clients the tools to lead productive, independent lives that will enhance the entire community. It is currently approved by the County of Los Angeles - Probation Department to provide domestic violence prevention training, and it also offers a parent training program that meets requirements established by the Department of Children and Family Services. It conducts therapeutic groups that are recognized by the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center as the first Spanish-speaking gay and lesbian batterers' program in the County of Los Angeles. Additional services include early intervention and follow-up mental health services to abused and neglected children and youth, a sex offenders' program, individual couple and family therapy, parenting classes, and a foster care program for children who are in need of loving and stable families.

FISCAL SUMMARY:

There is no increase in net County cost. For FY 2004-2005 only, the MCA in the amount of \$412,600, fully funded by \$185,700 in Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) – State General Funds, \$206,300 in Federal Financial Participation Medi-Cal funds, and \$20,600 in County General Funds for the EPSDT growth match, is included in DMH's FY 2004-2005 Final Changes Budget.

Funding for the annualized MCA in the amount of \$825,200 for FYs 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 will be requested during DMH's annual budget process.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS:

In order to more effectively deliver mandated EPSDT services, DMH has looked to CBOs as prospective mental health providers. Research studies indicate that minority groups are more likely to access mental health services at CBO centers than mental health clinics and also that Latinos continue to be seriously underserved due to the lack of qualified service providers. DMH specifically targeted and identified The Village Family Services as a small CBO that has established relationships with the community it serves. The agency has consistently provided a variety of human services to underserved populations, such as the Latino community and its gay and lesbian members. The addition of mental health services will further enrich the agency's capacity to meet the needs of existing consumers and provide outreach to underserved populations in MHS 2.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Upon Board approval, DMH will expand highly needed and specialized bilingual, bicultural services in MHS 2 by executing a new LE Agreement with The Village Family Services. Operating on a nondiscriminatory basis, the new contractor will concentrate on the underserved SED children, adolescents, and their families and the Hispanic/Latino monolingual/bilingual gay and lesbian population. DMH is committed to the augmentation of mandated EPSDT services with providers who demonstrate growth in services consistent with the guiding principles.

To date, DMH has been unsuccessful in eliciting services from existing EPSDT CBOs to address the special needs of high-risk children and youth, e.g., abused and neglected children, youth in foster care and other out-of-home placement, transitional age youth, and the gay and lesbian population. The Village Family Services is able to provide quality mental health services and is committed to helping children and adolescents, including gays and lesbians, to overcome their negative life experiences, while preparing them for successful community living as productive citizens and effective parents. In addition, this agency is well established in the community; reflects the ethnic and language needs of the community; is supported by the community-at-large; and has the available resources to provide a full array of mental health services to the underserved EPSDT-eligible population.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:

With Board approval, DMH will continue to implement an integrated and comprehensive system of care and augment current levels of mental health services in critically needed areas throughout Los Angeles County. The Village Family Services provides

specialized bilingual, bicultural services that address unmet mental health needs of SED children, adolescents, their families, and the gay and lesbian community. The agency will be an asset to the mental health service delivery network in MHSA 2.

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