

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW
A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH LIFESIGNS, INC.,
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-09
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request to renew a Service Agreement with Lifesigns, Inc., to expire on June 30, 2008, for Fiscal Year 2008-09. The renewal of this Agreement will allow the Department of Mental Health to continue to provide sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons in a mental health services setting.

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, execute, and renew the Service Agreement with Lifesigns, Inc., to provide sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons in a mental health services setting for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008-09, effective upon Board approval through June 30, 2009, not to exceed \$50,000, fully offset by Sales Tax Realignment funds.

Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to this Agreement, provided that: 1) the County's total payments under the Agreement for the fiscal year shall not exceed an increase of twenty percent from the total compensation amount (TCA); 2) any such increase shall be used to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or their designee is obtained prior to any such amendments; 5) the parties may, by written Amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs or services without reference to the twenty percent limitation; and 6) the Director of Mental Health shall notify the CEO's office of agreement changes after execution of such amendments.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval to renew is required because this Service Agreement will expire on June 30, 2008.

The recommended action will authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to enter into a contract with Lifesigns, Inc., to provide sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons in a mental health services setting.

Additionally, new and revised contract provisions mandated for Local Small Business Enterprise Preference Program and Safely Surrendered Baby Law will ensure uniformity of all terms and conditions.

CONTRACTOR

The renewal of this Service Agreement with Lifesigns, Inc., will provide DMH with sign language interpreters. Lifesigns, Inc., has provided sign language interpretation services since being awarded a solicitation bid. Since then Lifesigns, Inc., has shown to be uniquely qualified to provide effective sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons. Lifesigns, Inc., staff has specific training and experience that enable them to appropriately interpret and provide sign language for the sensitive situations encountered in the course of providing mental health services to the client population served by DMH and its contract agencies.

DMH clinical and administrative staff will also continue to administer and supervise the Agreement, evaluate the program to ensure that quality services are being provided to clients, and ensure that Agreement provisions and Departmental policies are being followed.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This Service Agreement has an existing agreement with DMH, which will expire on June 30, 2008, and is being renewed because of the continuing need for sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons who receive mental health services and reside in the County of Los Angeles.

In FY 2001-02, the County's Internal Services Department solicited bids from vendors for provision of sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons. Lifesigns, Inc., and one other vendor responded, and the bid submitted by Lifesigns, Inc., was the lowest while offering comprehensive services consistent with the needs of DMH programs. During FY 2008-09 a Request for Information process will begin, which will allow DMH to solicit from qualified vendors for sign language interpretation services to hearing impaired persons who receive mental health services.

Fact Sheet
Lifesigns, Inc., Service Agreement
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The Department has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended Agreement.

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