

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

**F A C T   S H E E T**

**AUTHORIZATION TO FILL POSITIONS TO IMPLEMENT A COLLABORATIVE  
CARE INTEGRATION PROGRAM  
AND  
APPROVAL OF AN APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(4 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request authorization to increase salary and employee benefits and associated services and supplies to fund and fill 21 budgeted positions to implement a Collaborative Care Integration program with the Department of Health Services to deliver Prevention and Early Intervention, mental health services at the Department of Health Services facilities and approval of an appropriation adjustment.

**REQUEST**

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to fill 21 budgeted positions, in excess of what is provided for in DMH's staffing ordinance, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code and subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office (CEO) to develop, implement and monitor mental health services funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) plan.
2. Approve an appropriation adjustment for Fiscal Year 2010-11 for Salaries and Employee Benefits in the amount of \$880,000 and Services and Supplies in the amount of \$706,000 for a total amount of \$1,586,000 to provide spending authority for the implementation of the Collaborative Care Integration program with Department of Health Services (DHS). The appropriation adjustment is fully funded by State MHSA PEI revenue in the amount of \$1,549,000, Federal Financial Participation Medi-Cal revenue in the amount of \$31,000 and American Recovery & Reimbursement Act revenue in the amount of \$6,000.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will fund and allow DMH hiring authority for 21 budgeted positions for the development, implementation, and monitoring of a Collaborative Care Integration program with DHS. This collaboration between DMH and DHS is essential in order to effectively coordinate clinical care of individuals' receiving services from both Departments. DMH staff will deliver and monitor PEI mental health services at the designated DHS facilities. DHS will identify and refer individuals

requiring specialty mental health services and provide adequate space for DMH staff at designated centers. PEI services will be delivered to adults and older adults with co-occurring physical and mental illness(es) in certain DHS facilities across the County.

Many individuals who suffer from mental illness face challenges in accessing care. These challenges include discomfort seeking services from traditional mental health clinics due to stigma. This is particularly problematic for those individuals dealing with both physical illness(es) and mental illness. One successful model for individuals who may not otherwise access mental health services is to deliver mental health services as part of an integrated model of care. Timely access to mental health services in settings that are non-stigmatizing can both decrease the severity and duration of the mental illness, while simultaneously improving health care outcomes. This collaboration is essential to providing comprehensive services to the residents of Los Angeles.

DMH has been working closely with DHS developing integrated care models that are intended to accomplish the following:

- Overcome barriers to care through co-location;
- Improve health care outcomes through coordination of care at a place of service; and
- Enhance effectiveness of coordination through real time collaboration between mental health and health professionals.

## **BACKGROUND**

The PEI Plan was submitted to the State Department of Mental Health on July 1, 2009 and approved by the MHSO Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Committee on August 27, 2009. One key program identified by stakeholders and approved in the PEI plan is “Primary Care and Behavioral Health”. Implementation of this program will enable DMH to deliver evidenced-based practices that address the early mental needs of individuals identified in primary care settings.

The Operational Agreement is currently being developed between DMH and DHS to govern the full-time co-location of DMH staff in DHS facilities. DMH will reimburse DHS for space and equipment charges associated with the delivery of this program which will be covered in the Operational Agreement. The CEO has reviewed the proposed actions.

Board approval of this request will allow DMH to utilize MHSO PEI dollars dedicated for use by DMH direct service providers. Further, approval of this request will enhance DMH’s service capacity through the provision of early intervention services in DHS

facilities. Timely access to needed, early mental health interventions is anticipated to decrease the total County cost of care while simultaneously reducing the human toll associated with absent or delayed services.

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