

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**APPROVAL TO EXTEND A SOLE SOURCE SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY SERVICES, INC.
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to extend a sole source services agreement with Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc., to continue assisting clients with mental illness to file applications for financial benefits and providing advocacy services for families in need of Special Education services from public schools without interruption for the remaining six months of Fiscal Year 2011-12.

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health (Director), or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute an Amendment with Mental Health Advocacy Services, Inc. (MHAS), for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12, effective January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2012. The Total Compensation Amount (TCA) will be increased by \$202,450 which is funded by Sales Tax Realignment revenue. The TCA for FY 2011-12 will increase to \$404,900.

Delegate authority to the Director, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the Services Agreement, as may be necessary, to reduce programs or services, purchase additional services of the same type described in the Agreement, or reflect program or policy changes provided that: 1) the County's total payments under this Agreement for the applicable FY will not exceed an increase of 10 percent from the last Board-approved TCA; 2) sufficient funds are available in the approved FY 2011-12 Final Adopted Budget for any increases in compensation; 3) County Counsel approves such amendments as to form prior to execution; and 4) the Director notifies your Board and Chief Executive Officer of amendments in writing within 30 days after execution of each amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Board approval is required to extend the term of the existing Agreement with MHAS from January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2012. The extension will ensure that there is no interruption in the delivery of services for severely and persistently mentally ill adults and children with Special Education needs who benefit from services provided by MHAS while the Department of Mental Health (DMH) completes a Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation for the services performed in the Agreement.

MHAS is a non-profit organization that provides legal services for people with mental and developmental disabilities. MHAS specializes in assisting severely and persistently mentally ill adults through the application process for Supplemental Social Security (SSI)/Medi-Cal benefits. MHAS also offers education and legal advocacy for low-

income parents of disabled school-aged children to access Special Education services which they are entitled to under federal and State laws.

On June 9, 2010, DMH obtained your Board's approval to extend the term of the existing Agreement with MHAS to allow time for the development of a RFP solicitation. In this same Board letter, there was an option to extend the Agreement for an additional six months. DMH exercised its delegated authority and extended the Agreement effective July 1, 2011, to December 31, 2011. Due to Departmental priority assignments such as 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project (California Bridges to Reform) and Mental Health Services Act Request for Services, DMH continues to work on the finalization of the RFP document and requires additional time to complete this solicitation process. Upon successful completion of the evaluation process, DMH will return to your Board to seek approval to award to the successful proposer of the RFP.

BACKGROUND

SSI advocacy plays an important role in helping people with mental disabilities become eligible for benefits. For DMH clients who are unable to work due to their disability, SSI becomes one of the few sources of income available for this population. The SSI application process is cumbersome and complex for many people with mental illness, and MHAS has become an entity known for its ability to retain experienced and knowledgeable advocates who are able to successfully assist the mentally ill population in obtaining and maintaining their SSI payments.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Solicitation requirement processes and time limitations prevented DMH from completing the entire solicitation process. The final award recipient is anticipated to be determined during the extension period of January 1, 2012, through June 30, 2012. The following steps are pending with this RFP: release of the solicitation document, the bidders' conference, and the evaluation process. It is anticipated that the selected awardee will render services for a three-year term, beginning FY 2012-13.

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APPROVED BY:

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