

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

F A C T S H E E T

**REQUEST APPROVAL TO EXECUTE A SOLE SOURCE CONSULTANT
SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL
WORK FOR THE REINTEGRATION MODEL
FOR RETURNING COMBAT VETERANS
AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to execute a Sole Source Consultant Services Agreement with the University of Southern California School of Social Work to implement the reintegration model for California National Guard and Military Reserve combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their family members.

REQUEST

Approve and authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute a Sole Source Consultant Services agreement (Agreement) with University of Southern California (USC) School of Social Work to implement a reintegration model for California National Guard and Military Reserve combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their family members. The term of the agreement will be effective upon your Board's approval through January 31, 2013. The Total Contract Amount (TCA) for the term of the Agreement is \$736,475, fully funded with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) revenues.

Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute future amendments to the agreement and establish as a new TCA the aggregate of the TCA of the original agreement and all amendments provided that: 1) the County's total payments to the Contractor under the agreement, for the term of the agreement, do not exceed an increase of 10 percent from the applicable Board-approved TCA; 2) any such increase will be used to provide additional services or to reflect program and/or policy changes; 3) your Board has appropriated sufficient funds for all changes; 4) approval of County Counsel, or designee, is obtained prior to such amendment; 5) the parties may, by written amendment, mutually agree to reduce programs, services or extend the term of the agreement; and 6) the Director of Mental Health notifies your Board and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of agreement changes in writing within 30 days after execution of each amendment.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION

Your Board's approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to enter into a contract with USC School of Social Work to implement the reintegration model for California National Guard and Military Reserve combat veterans who reside within the County of Los Angeles. This model's ultimate aim is to strengthen the mental readiness and coping skills of these service members and their families in the transition from the combat zone to the community.

The USC School of Social Work Center for Innovation and Research for Veterans and their Families (CIR) proposes to assess the reintegration model process over twelve months and develop and test an online and an in-person model for transitional mental readiness programming that serves returning combat veterans and their families. The proposed reintegration model implementation and evaluation is supported through a partnership with California National Guard.

With the implementation of this model, DMH will be able to identify reintegration challenges and barriers while improving access to preventive services and care during critical transitions for combat veterans and their families. Other goals of the model include reducing the recurrence of stressors and/or symptoms of distress, as well as identifying how veterans and their families view the challenges they face; gathering opinions about the availability, quality, and comprehensiveness of available programs and services, and eliciting innovative ideas for early intervention and prevention improvements.

BACKGROUND

The USC School of Social Work CIR is unique, as it has developed the first military social work program in the nation, where master level students are offered a clinical and research specialization in the unique need and demands of our nation's combat veterans and their families. In addition, CIR has developed strong community partnerships with the California National Guard and community-based veteran service organizations. The Department of Defense and the Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have cited this project as a model for future civilian-military relationships. Finally, CIR is currently funded by the Department of Defense for the development of innovative training models to increase the capacity of behavioral health professionals to work successfully with veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Board approval of the proposed actions will allow DMH to address the community reintegration difficulties of combat veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and their families through the implementation of a reintegration model which will serve as a

national model for the provision of strength-based recovery treatments for combat veterans and their families across the public mental health spectrum.

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APPROVED BY:

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