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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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June 5, 2009

TO: Health Deputies

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS FOR THE CAROLINE SEVERANCE MANOR HOUSING PROJECT UNDER THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT HOUSING PROGRAM**

This is to inform you that the Department of Mental Health (DMH), as required under the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), has opened a public review and comment period for the Caroline Severance Manor Housing Project proposed to be funded through the MHSA Housing Program. The public review and comment period will run from May 26, 2009 through June 26, 2009. The document under review is posted on the DMH web site (<http://dmh.lacounty.info/mhsa>).

On June 10, 2008 the Board approved the DMH MHSA Housing Program Plan and authorized the Department to participate in the statewide MHSA Housing Program jointly administered by the California Department of Mental Health (CDMH) and the California Housing and Finance Agency (CalHFA) for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and their families. CDMH subsequently allocated Los Angeles County \$115,571,200 and transferred the funds to CalHFA to administer the funds and underwrite the loans. DMH has a non-competitive process for soliciting projects for consideration.

The Caroline Severance Manor Housing Project is the twelfth MHSA Housing Program project to be posted for public comment in Los Angeles. The Project Sponsor is Mercy Housing California. The project is located in Service Area 4 in Supervisorial District 2 and will target homeless adults to occupy 30 one bedroom units and homeless families with the child/children as the MHSA eligible tenant to occupy 18 multi-bedroom units. Mercy Housing California is requesting a MHSA funded capital development loan of \$5,031,840 and \$4,516,800 in operating subsidies for this project, with 48 units (of a total of 85 units) funded by MHSA and dedicated to adults and children with psychiatric disabilities.

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Following the public comment period, DMH will summarize the comments, analyze any substantive recommendations and revise the project, as appropriate. DMH will then send the MHSAs Housing Program application to CDMH and CalHFA for review, approval and underwriting.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Dr. Maria Funk, District Chief, Countywide Housing, Employment and Education Resource Development at (213) 251-6582.

MJS:MF:RT:gnr

c: Robin Kay, Ph.D.
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