

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601
Fax: (213) 386-1297

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within," to be held on June 10, 2010, at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within," to be held on June 10, 2010, at an estimated cost of \$25,000.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an Agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment) for site technical support and catering services for the conference, and to make a payment to the Endowment, or its designee, at a total estimated cost of \$9,000.
3. Authorize DMH to purchase food and beverages for County employees, consumers, and family members attending the conference as an exception to Section 5.40.097, Incidental Expenses, of the Los Angeles County Code, which limits such purchases to \$500 per occurrence and \$5,000 annually.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the Ninth Annual Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: The Power Within," to be held on June 10, 2010, at the Endowment. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plans and the DMH's goal to promote hope, wellness, and recovery.

The conference will assist the Department accomplish elements of its State-approved MHSA plans. A major mandate of the MHSA is to reach unserved and underserved populations to support their recovery from mental illness. This conference provides an important opportunity for DMH to develop partnerships with faith communities in achieving this MHSA mandate.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 2, Children, Family and Adult Well-Being, and Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated total cost of the conference is \$25,000, of which approximately \$22,000 is anticipated to be offset by registration fees paid by participants. The remaining cost will be funded by MHSA revenue, the precise amount of which will be determined by the actual number of attendees, which is expected to be up to 375 individuals. Estimated costs are for printing and mailing of brochures and programs, food and beverage services, audio and visual services, honorariums for presenters, translation services, and other miscellaneous costs. Funding is included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2009-10 Final Budget. There is no increase in net County cost.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Since 2002, DMH has held an annual one-day educational event to make faith leaders aware of mental illness, its impact on families, and the supporting role faith communities can play in helping with recovery. By collaborating with faith leaders in underserved and unserved communities, DMH is seeking to reduce barriers for people seeking mental health care.

Through two plenary sessions and 18 workshops, which will be presented by experts in the fields of mental health and/or spirituality, the conference is intended to increase awareness of spirituality as a potential resource in mental health prevention, early intervention, and recovery and to encourage collaboration among faith-based organizations, mental health service providers, consumers, and families in combating stigma and reducing disparities in access to services for diverse populations. Continuing education units will be offered to appropriate clinical disciplines.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited costs from three locations. The Department determined that the Endowment is the preferred location based on availability, size of accommodations, cost, and transportation needs. As the caterer for the facility, and in accordance with the proposed Agreement with the Endowment,

DMH will pay catering costs to the Endowment's designee for catering services.

In lieu of posting the opportunity on the County's website, DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conference. In an effort to reduce costs associated with this conference, DMH opted to use the Endowment because the space is free to government entities who host health-related meetings. In addition, catering services at the venue offered through the Endowment's designee are less expensive than the other venues that were considered.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The conference will empower consumers, benefit the mental health system, and promote hope, wellness, and recovery for clients.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director

MJS:KM

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors