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January 13, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

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

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT AMENDMENTS WITH CHILDREN'S INSTITUTE, INC.; FOR THE CHILD, INC.; AND PACIFIC ASIAN COUNSELING SERVICES**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100 Sole Source Contracts. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into sole source contract amendments with the following three (3) DMH Legal Entity providers in the amounts specified:

1) Children's Institute, Inc. (CII), located at 711 South New Hampshire Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90005, in the amount of $423,318, with a revised Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) of $19,532,126.
2) For the Child, Inc. (FTC), located at 4565 California Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807, in the amount of $66,955, with a revised MCA of $1,626,705.
3) Pacific Asian Counseling Services (PACS), located at 8616 La Tijera Boulevard, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90045, in the amount of $76,744, with a revised MCA of $2,541,096.

These three (3) providers will work in collaboration with DMH on a newly-awarded Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Child Mental Health Initiative Grant in Service Area 8 entitled Project ABC Family Wellness Network (Project ABC-Wellness). The $9,000,000 grant covers a period of six (6) years and was awarded to the County of Los Angeles on behalf of DMH as a result of a successful competitive application solicitation process. DMH accepted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-11 award totaling $1,000,000, effective September 30, 2010, for the implementation of the new program and will request the authority to expend this amount during the FY 2010-11 budget process.

Project ABC-Wellness will work to establish a system of care for children ages birth to five (5) years old who are either involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) in Service Area 8. A system of care is an organizational philosophy and framework that involves collaboration across agencies, families, and youth for the purpose of improving access and expanding the array of coordinated community-based, culturally- and linguistically-competent services and supports for children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance and their families. Research has demonstrated that systems of care have a positive effect on the structure, organization, and availability of services for children and youth with serious mental health needs. This project will build upon and expand the accomplishments of Project ABC-About Building Connections in Service Area 4, a system of care grant led by DMH and in place since 2005.

The three (3) providers specified as DMH partners in the grant, CII, FTC and PACS, are each uniquely qualified to provide services under Project ABC-Wellness. All three (3) providers were selected to receive contract dollars in Service Area 8 to provide specialized assessment services for children newly-detained by DCFS specifically due to their experience serving children aged zero to five (5) years. They are all very active in the service area Birth to Five Collaborative and have considerable experience providing training that, through this project, could be directed toward early childhood workforce development. There is currently a limited capacity for trained family advocates in early childhood service systems as most existing family organizations are focused on older children or non-mental health issues. FTC and CII have strong, committed parent programs and have been working successfully in the community for years. These providers will serve as core leaders to strengthen the project's crucial family advocacy component.

In addition to their common qualifications, each provider has a distinctive contribution to the four (4) primary components of the grant, including: Clinical Expertise, Social Media and Marketing Expertise, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, and Training. CII brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from its successful implementation of Project ABC-About Building Connections in Service Area 4. It has been heavily involved in the application and establishment of the current grant and will continue to transfer knowledge from its previous experience. It will spearhead the Social Media and Marketing component of the grant, while contributing significant clinical expertise and extensive cultural competency serving Latino and African-American families. CII has a long history of expertise in providing services to young children and is both a foster family and Family Preservation agency.

FTC will be significantly involved in the Clinical component of the grant. It has a significant history of, and experience with, providing services specifically targeting children from birth to five (5) years old and their families. FTC has specialized programs for children traumatized by physical and sexual abuse, serious neglect and exposure to family and community violence, as well as a Child Abuse Response Team that responds to relevant 911 calls and works in partnership with the Long Beach Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. It has been a leader in developing, implementing, and consulting to early care and education programs. FTC was responsible for initiating, hosting, and co-facilitating the successful Birth to Five Collaborative in Service Area 8, which has been an invaluable resource for local providers and will play a key role in developing, implementing and sustaining Project ABC-Wellness.

PACS will contribute substantially to the Cultural and Linguistic Competency component of the grant and brings unparalleled expertise working with Asian-American and Pacific-Islander populations, the community least served by County mental health services. It also has extensive experience in providing services to African-American and Latino populations. In addition to its array of services for young children and their families, PACS has been committed to advocating for the needs of the Asian/Pacific-Islander communities. It participates in a variety of collaborations and networks to continue to identify and serve the populations' priority needs. The Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator for Project ABC-Wellness will be hired by PACS and will lead the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Committee, whose task will be to ensure that services to all cultural and ethnic populations will be linguistically-appropriate, sensitive to cultural differences, in harmony with cultural values and able to build upon culture-specific strengths and resources.

Sole source contract amendments with these three (3) providers will allow DMH to:

- Provide comprehensive, family-centered, culturally-competent mental health services to young children ages birth to five (5) years and their families.
- Enroll approximately 500 young children and their families residing in Service Area 8 during the six (6) year period of the grant; this represents a 73 percent increase over the number of children served in 2007 in the same age range.
- Identify and coordinate a broad palette of community-based services, including primary care, nutrition, early education, child care, family support, family mental health, and alcohol and drug treatment services.
- Develop an Interagency Care Team, comprised of staff from DMH, DCFS, Regional Center, CII, FTC and PACS, to develop services in true collaboration

with families to ensure integrated and coordinated care utilizing promising and evidence-based practices.

- Coordinate the birth to five (5) system of care and funding streams in order to sustain the service network beyond the six (6) year term of the grant award.
- Replicate the successes of the program in other service areas through training and technical assistance to improve the quality of early childhood mental health services throughout the entire County.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office, DMH will proceed with negotiating sole source contract amendments with CII, FTC, and PACS within two (2) weeks. DMH will work closely with both the Office of the County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing the amendments.

MJS:RK:CW:LW:lh

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