COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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

ROBIN KAY, Ph.D.
Chief Deputy Director

RODERICK SHANER, M.D.
Medical Director

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GLORIA MOLINA
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
DON KNABE
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

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

March 08, 2011

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 2011 TRANSITION AGE YOUTH CONFERENCE (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct the 2011 Transition Age Youth Conference, to be held on May 17, 2011, 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 host and conduct the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Conference on Mental Health to be held on May 17, 2011, at an estimated cost of $30,000, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Services and Support (CSS) funds.

2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment Center) for site, technical support and catering services for the conference, and to make a payment to the Endowment Center, or its designee, at a total estimated cost of $10,000.

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 TAY Conference on May 17, 2011, at the Endowment Center. This conference is to increase awareness, improve treatment outcomes, explore best practices, and improve integration with community-based organizations serving TAY. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with the Department's MHSA plans and the goals of promoting hope, wellness and recovery.

Since the 2004 passage of MHSA, DMH has embarked on a system-wide transformation in the ways in which services are delivered to consumers and their families. The MHSA CSS Plan provided the opportunity for DMH to develop and implement services focused specifically on youth and young adults ages 16 – 25. These services include Full Service Partnerships (FSP), Drop-In Centers, Housing Specialists, Field-Capable Clinical Services (FCCS), Probation Services, Project-based Operating Subsidies, TAY System Navigation, and training in the Transition to Independence Process domain-focused Evidence-Based Practice. Since inception of these programs, thousands of youth and young adults across Los Angeles County who are challenged with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED), and Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) have been served. More recently DMH has begun implementation of the MHSA Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Plan. A key component of this Plan is a focus on delivering services that achieve proven and measurable outcomes. As such, the State has approved the implementation of MHSA PEI Evidence-Based Programs (EBP) across the mental health system for each age-group.

The TAY conference will highlight the most current treatment intervention strategies implemented through the MHSA CSS and PEI Plans. Additionally, the conference will present information on other successful strategies for leveraging non-Mental Health services and supports that are critical to TAY consumers' focus on hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency. Youth and young adult Mental Health consumers and volunteers will participate in all aspects of planning and hosting the conference.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost of the conference is $30,000, of which approximately $5,000 is anticipated to be offset by registration fees paid by participants. The remaining cost will be funded by State MHSA CSS funds. The precise amount will be determined by the actual number of attendees, which is expected to range up to 300 people.

The amount for the conference covers approximately $7,500 for breakfast and lunch catering services; $2,500 for all day coffee and afternoon snack; $10,000 for the keynote speaker; $1,500 for presenters honorariums; $1,000 for airfare, transportation, meals and accommodations; $2,800 for printing and mailing of brochures and programs; $3,000 for conference supplies; $700 for brochures and handouts; and $1,000 for graphics and artwork. Funding is included in the Department's Fiscal

Year 2010-11 Final Adopted Budget.

There is no net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

A significant investment in training of staff and community partners across the entire service delivery spectrum is required to ensure the success of the MHSA Plans. These Plans represent a systemic change in the manner in which mental health services and supports are being delivered in the County, as well as a primary focus on hope, wellness, and self-sufficiency for impacted youth and young adult consumers. The TAY Conference will provide a much needed opportunity for consumers and stakeholders to gather, gain skills and competencies, and share their wisdom and expertise as it pertains to serving the SED and SPMI youth and young adult population.

This is an all-day conference with approximately 300 participants, which include consumers, family members, providers, and DMH employees. Catering services are needed because many of the consumers attending the conference do not have the financial resources to pay for breakfast and lunch and/or lack the transportation resources to access a restaurant and have breakfast and lunch within the allocated break times. Serving breakfast and lunch at the conference also provides consumers with the opportunity to network and share personal resources.

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute agreements with the Endowment Center to guarantee space, catering services, and other support for the conference and provide DMH with the necessary authority to expend funds in support of the conference.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited costs from three locations. The conference committee determined that the Endowment Center was 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 Center, DMH will pay catering costs directly to Sodexho America, the Endowment Center's designee for catering services, at a total estimated cost of $10,000.

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 Center, as the space is free to government entities who host health-related meetings. The Endowment Center is also a centralized location that provides complimentary parking, audio-visual services, and accessible public transportation for presenters, employees, and consumers. In addition, catering services at the venue offered through the Endowment Center's designee are less expensive than the other venues considered.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of this action will not impact any other services. The conference will empower consumers, promote their hope, wellness and recovery, and benefit the mental health system.

Respectfully submitted,

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

MJS:KM

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