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January 24, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO SOLE
SOURCE CONTRACT WITH JUNIOR BLIND OF AMERICA**

This memo is to comply with the Board of Supervisors Policy Manual, Section 5.100, Sole Source contract, notifying the Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source Contract. It is the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to enter into new sole source contract negotiations with Junior Blind of America (Junior Blind). The proposed, pro-rated, 4-month Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12 Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) will be \$484,823. The annualized MCA for FYs 2012-13 and 2013-14 will be \$1,454,467, funded by State General Funds (SGF) in the amount of \$628,184, Federal Financial Participation (FFP) revenue in the amount of \$727,234, and net County cost (NCC) match from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) through intra-fund transfer in the amount of \$99,049.

Junior Blind has the unique capacity to provide ongoing specialized mental health services to children ages birth to 18 who are in foster care or at risk of being placed in foster care, that have been diagnosed with severe emotional disturbance, and who are medically fragile, chronically ill, and/or have multiple disabilities.

Over the past 50 years, Junior Blind has gained experience and expertise in helping the blind, visually impaired and/or have multiple disabilities achieve independence. In the 1980's, Junior Blind introduced in-home services for infants who are blind and have multiple disabilities and established a children's residential program to provide a nurturing, structured, and therapeutic treatment environment for children and adolescents, both sighted and visually impaired, between the ages of 5-21 who are medically fragile and/or have multiple disabilities. They have the demonstrated ability to start up new programs quickly, and their experienced staff and expertise allow them to begin delivering contracted services promptly and efficiently.

In 2008, Junior Blind began developing a specialized mental health services program designed to advance the Katie A. Strategic Plan goals and provide continuous access to mental health services that will:

- Meet each child/youth's most critical needs through an individualized set of strategies, supports and critical interventions;
- Help children, youth and families build skills for coping with co-occurring serious emotional disturbances, medical illnesses, and physical and developmental disabilities;
- Facilitate family reunification and meet needs for safety, permanency, and stability;
- Use evidence-based and other promising mental health practices;
- Integrate child welfare, primary and specialty health care, and all other relevant services and resources; and
- Incorporate the cultural beliefs/practices, strengths and preferences of children, youth and families into interventions offered.

Entering into a sole source contract with Junior Blind not only advances the goals of the Katie A. Strategic Plan but provides a multi-departmental, integrated approach to addressing the exceptional needs of this high-risk/high-cost and largely underserved population.

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

MJS:BM:am

c: Health Deputies
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Bryan Mershon, Ph.D.
Contracts Development and Administration
Auditor-Controller