COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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

ROBIN KAY, Ph.D.
Chief Deputy Director

RODERICK SHANER, M.D.
Medical Director

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

http://dmh.lacounty.gov

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

April 25, 2012

TO: Each Supervisor

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

SUBJECT: **REQUEST TO INCREASE DELEGATED AUTHORITY PERCENTAGE IN THE BOARD LETTER TO RENEW 65 EXPIRING LEGAL ENTITY AGREEMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

This memorandum is to comply with Board Policy Manual, Section 5.120, Authority to Approve Increases to Board Approved Contract Amounts. The Policy mandates that any department requesting a percentage increase exceeding ten percent of the total contract amount must provide a detailed justification and advance written notice to your Board, with a copy to the Chief Executive Officer, at least two weeks prior to the Board meeting at which the proposed contract is to be presented.

With the addition of new funding streams, programs, and services, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) requests an additional ten percent for a total of twenty percent delegated authority to increase the maximum contract amounts of the 65 expiring Legal Entity Agreements which are being renewed for Fiscal Year 2012-13. This authority will allow DMH greater capacity to amend contracts to implement these new funding streams, programs, and services in a more expeditious manner. It will also allow DMH and its contract agencies to maintain business continuity in the provision of current mental health services to severely and persistently mentally ill adults, seriously emotionally disturbed children, adolescents, and their families throughout the County of Los Angeles. In most instances where speed and response time are of key importance, the increased delegated authority will allow DMH and its network of contract agencies to maximize, prioritize, and increase access to services on a continuous and ever-increasing basis to its ever-growing clientele, which more effectively meets the County's mission "To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service."

Should there be a need to exceed the twenty percent delegated authority, DMH will return to your Board with a request for authority to amend the contracts accordingly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, or your staff may contact Richard Kushi, Chief, Contracts Development and Administration Division, at (213) 738-4684.

MJS:MM:RK:sk

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Margo Morales
Deputy Directors
District Chiefs
Kimberly Nall
Richard Kushi