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January 9, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.
Chief Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **USE OF SOLE SOURCE AGREEMENTS FOR REENTRY SERVICES FOR OFFENDERS WITH CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS BOTH IN AND EXITING COUNTY JAIL**

This is to inform you that the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH) will seek approval from the Board of Supervisors to amend existing agreements with Special Service for Groups, Inc. (SSG) and The Regents of the University of California, Los Angeles (The Regents/UCLA). Under these amendments, SSG will provide in-custody substance abuse treatment services and post-release outpatient case management and treatment services, and The Regents/UCLA will provide evaluation services.

In May 2012, the CCJCC, in partnership with DPH-SAPC, the Department of Mental Health (DMH), and the Sheriff's Department (LASD), submitted a grant application to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) for funding to support reentry services for co-occurring (COD) offenders in and exiting County jails. As a result, the CCJCC was awarded a \$597,450 grant over two years to implement the proposed services.

Grant and Program Summary

The awarded grant will assist the County in providing integrated in-custody and community-based treatment services to identified high-end users of justice and health system resources. To accomplish this, the grant funding will support the augmentation of reentry services for offenders with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. Services will include intensive treatment services both in custody and for up to 12 months post release.

The program will target 60 medium- to high-risk offenders per year, as identified by the LASD's COMPAS assessment. Services will include intensive case management, cognitive behavioral therapy, education and employment support, housing assistance, and anti-craving medication to support substance abuse therapy.

The grant funding will also support evaluation services of the program to gauge effectiveness of the treatment intervention and participant outcomes.

Justification for Use of Sole Source Contracting

To implement the program in the required short time frame, SAPC will amend the existing treatment services contract with SSG and its evaluation services contract with The Regents/UCLA to accommodate the new scope and funding. Both agencies were identified in the grant application as service providers, and BJA awarded the grant and approved them as service providers for this grant. Under this action, DPH and CCJCC recommend amending the DPH's existing contracts with SSG and The Regents/UCLA, both of which resulted from competitively bid processes.

SSG is a community-based non profit organization that offers pre-release and post-release treatment interventions, reentry planning, and linages at their forensic treatment division. They have extensive experience providing COD treatment interventions to offender populations. Since 2007, SSG has provided comprehensive services through the County's Co-Occurring Disorders Court. Additionally, SSG has significant experience providing jail in-reach services in partnership with LASD. SSG offers an extensive array of services in the jail/prison and community settings. SSG provides services to offenders and ex-offenders, as well as youth at-risk of offending. Services are designed to facilitate reintegration into the community in a way that decreases recidivism, brings families together, and improves overall quality of life. Among the programs implemented by SSG is a forensic treatment program providing in-jail and community-based services for offenders. Project 180 delivers evidenced-based programming to decrease recidivism and improve the quality of life for previously incarcerated men and women. Families and communities are also a focus of SSG, and staff work closely with court and Probation to ensure that the diversion and re-entry programs provide safety and support for all involved.

The Regents/UCLA is a nationally renowned for research and evaluation servies. Over a number of years, The Regents/UCLA has worked extensively with several County departments – including DMH, DPH, and CCJCC – to evaluate program outcomes, including outcome evaluation for criminal justice populations. The Regents/UCLA has previously conducted statewide evaluations for the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (commonly known as Prop 36) program and has conducted research to improve the implementation of evidence-based assessment processes for offenders with substance use problems. The Regents/UCLA has assisted governmental entities in implementing effective medication-assisted treatment for substance-involved offenders as well as evidence-based interventions to improve an HIV continuum-of-care for offenders.

Next Steps

To allow time for your review and comments, we will not begin negotiations with SSG and UCLA until ten business days from the date of this memorandum. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:dhd

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee