LAC DMH
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
550 S. VERMONT AVE., LOS ANGELES, CA 90020 HTTP://DMH.LACOUNTY.GOV

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director
ROBIN KAY, Ph.D.
Chief Deputy Director
RODERICK SHANER, M.D.
Medical Director

October 14, 2014

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Robin Kay for
Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director

SUBJECT: **NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO EXPEND FUNDS FOR THE NINTH ANNUAL CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

This memorandum is to notify your Board of the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) intent to exercise the delegated authority granted by your Board to the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center (Sodexo America, LLC) for facility/catering services, and with California Certified Interpreters for interpreting services, for the Ninth Annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conference. This consumer oriented conference will be held on April 23, 2015, at an estimated cost of $7,436.13.

On December 6, 2011, your Board adopted a Board letter (Attachment) which delegates authority to the Director of Mental Health, under Recommendation No. 4, to sign agreements with catering and interpreting services for three subsequent annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conferences through Fiscal Year 2014-15, not to exceed a total amount of $20,000 per annual event, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and notice to your Board and Chief Executive Office.

DMH has already obtained County Counsel's approval of the agreement with California Endowment Center (Sodexo America, LLC) and California Certified Interpreters.

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:RK:mp

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Robin Kay, Ph.D.
Margo Morales
Kimberly Nall
Maria Funk, Ph.D.
Richard Kushi

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
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550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GLORIA MOLINA
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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

http://dmh.lacounty.gov

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

December 06, 2011

ADOPTED
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

#25 DECEMBER 6, 2011

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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 SIXTH ANNUAL CONNECTIONS FOR LIFE THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE (ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Request approval to host and conduct the Sixth Annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conference 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 conduct the Sixth Annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conference to be held on April 18, 2012, at an estimated total cost of $15,000, fully funded by Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue.

2. Authorize DMH to execute an agreement with the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities (Endowment) for the conference's catering services at an estimated total cost of $6,100.

3. Authorize DMH to execute an agreement with the California Certified Interpreters for the conference's interpretation services at an estimated total cost of $2,000.

4. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to sign agreements for catering and interpreting services for three subsequent annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conferences through Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 not to exceed a total maximum per year

amount of $20,000, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and notice to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of these actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the Sixth Annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conference to be held on April 18, 2012, at the Endowment. Also, it will allow the Department to host the conference annually for three subsequent fiscal years through FY 2014-15. In support of promoting the wellness and recovery of mental health clients in Los Angeles County, the conference will offer consumers the information and community resources that support their journey to independence and self-determination. This conference also includes an awards ceremony to recognize the successes consumers have achieved in attaining their employment and/or education goals. Furthermore, the monolingual consumers in attendance require Spanish-speaking interpreters.

The conference is required at this time as it supports DMH in accomplishing elements of its State-approved MHSA plans. This conference provides an important opportunity to support the tenet of recovery by offering a learning opportunity to consumers who are reticent to work or attend school because of their mental illness.

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 total cost of the conference is $15,000, fully funded by MHSA revenue and is included in DMH's FY 2011-12 Final Adopted Budget. The amount includes approximately $6,100 for breakfast and lunch catering services, $2,000 for two Spanish interpreters, $4,000 for four trainers, $2,900 for presenters' honorariums, consumer totes, and supplies including paper, poster board, labels, folders, pens, name badges and miscellaneous items.

Funding for future years, including an estimated cost increase, will be requested through DMH's annual budget process.

There is no net County cost associated with these actions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Since 2007, DMH and the Mental Health Commission have sponsored an annual Connections for Life Through Employment and Education Conference. This conference unites consumers who are employed, volunteering and/or attending school, consumers whose recovery goals include employment and/or education and professionals who work in the employment and education field. This conference supports the tenet of recovery contained in the MHSA.

Connections for Life Through Employment and Education is a truly transformative conference that offers a learning opportunity for consumers who are reticent to work or attend school because of

their mental illness. Many of the consumers who attend the conference were gainfully employed or enrolled in school prior to being diagnosed with a serious mental illness. These consumers will learn about the successes other consumers have achieved in attaining their employment and/or education goals. Consumers will also gain a heightened awareness of their employment and/or educational capabilities.

Connections for Life Through Employment and Education also provides valuable community resources to consumers that are needed to support their interest in employment and education. The community resource providers available to consumers at this conference include: Los Angeles Unified School District Adult Education Division, California Department of Rehabilitation, WorkSource Centers, Social Security Administration, Work Incentives Planning Assistance, California Employment Development Department, community colleges, literacy programs, local employers, County Client Coalition and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

At this conference, consumers will join in a dialogue of hope, recovery and wellness. This unique opportunity will reinforce the power of hope and positive thinking and provide an environment that envisions solutions to the many challenges of having a mental illness.

This is an all day conference with about 250 DMH consumers attending. 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.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

This conference is being held at the Endowment which was selected based on availability, no cost for the space, size of accommodations and convenience of both automobile access and public transportation for presenters, employees and consumers. The Endowment prohibits the use of outside catering services and contracts with Sodexo for their catering services.

DMH solicited bid proposals to provide Spanish translation at the conference from five local Spanish interpreters on DMH's vendor list, eliciting one vendor response. California Certified Interpreters submitted the only bid proposal.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This conference will benefit the mental health system by promoting hope, wellness and recovery. Consumers will be provided with information and community resources that support their entering the workforce and/or enrolling in vocational or school programs. Ultimately, this conference increases the likelihood of consumers being gainfully employed and no longer reliant on publicly funded services. Moreover, approval of this action will not impact any other services.

Respectfully submitted,

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

MJS:MF:LR

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