



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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March 19, 2015

TO: Each Supervisor

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

SUBJECT: **ADVANCE NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENTER INTO A SOLE SOURCE CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA OF LOS ANGELES**

This memorandum is to comply with the Board of Supervisors' Policy No. 5.100 regarding sole source contracts, by notifying your Board of our need to initiate a Sole Source Contract. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) intends to enter into a sole source contract negotiation with Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), located in Supervisory District 4 at 100 West Broadway, Long Beach, California 90802.

This agreement is to provide Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Workforce Education and Training (WET) services to individuals, including mental health consumers and their families, with the Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist Training Program (MHRSTP). The MHRSTP consists of a 12-week training program to prepare individuals with a Bachelor's degree, advanced degree, equivalent certification or life experience to work in the mental health field as rehabilitation specialists. This training has become a significant resource for qualified individuals to staff recovery oriented programs, including those funded by MHSA. Emphasis is placed on training underserved ethnic minority populations in geographic areas of the County where the availability of social rehabilitation services is disproportionate to the identified need.

MHALA has delivered this training since September 18, 2007, when it was awarded as one of the two winning proposers of Request for Service (RFS) No. 9. In partnership with California State University, Dominguez Hills, MHALA has successfully graduated over 500 individuals and increased the pool of mental health specialists to seeking employment in the public mental health system. MHALA has been a leader in the development and delivery of training focused on integration of recovery oriented services in the public mental health.

Each Supervisor
March 19, 2015
Page 2

The MHRSTP is a valuable resource in the continued transformation of service delivery as it serves as a pipeline for channeling employment-eligible individuals, including consumers and family members towards the public mental health system, a core tenet of MHSA. Such integration of these skilled individuals into the public mental health system supports and promotes recovery and wellness through independence, hope, personal development and resiliency for children, adults, and older adults with serious emotional and behavioral disorders. DMH and its contractors need the infusion of capable and trained mental health specialists in the workforce to provide services that are sensitive and responsive to the needs of the local communities.

The annual Total Compensation Amount for MHALA will be \$400,000 for Fiscal Years 2015-16 and 2016-17 and will be funded with MHSA WET revenue dollars. The number of individuals, including consumers and family members, to be trained will be 80 per fiscal year. The term of the new agreement will be July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017. The goal of the MHRSTP is for trained mental health rehabilitation specialists to enter the public mental health system. Board approval will allow DMH to complete the solicitation process released on January 29, 2015, to identify qualified Contractor(s) to provide the updated training program.

Unless otherwise instructed by a Board office within two weeks, DMH will proceed with negotiating a sole source agreement with MHALA. DMH will work closely with both County Counsel and the Chief Executive Office in preparing a new agreement with MHALA.

MJS:DM:RK:cp

c: Mental Health Deputies
 Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Interim Chief Executive Officer
 County Counsel
 Robin Kay, Ph.D.
 Dennis Murata, M.S.W.
 Richard Kushi