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Chief Executive Officer

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June 2, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND SHELTER PROGRAMS FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH

The purpose of this memo is to provide a response to the March 25, 2008 motion by Supervisor Antonovich related to Transition Age Youth (TAY). The motion instructs the Chief Executive Office, in conjunction with the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Community Development Commission (CDC), Mental Health (DMH), and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), to report back in 30 days on the continuum of all of the various TAY housing and shelter services; how they compare and contrast; how they may be better integrated, coordinated and streamlined; and the priority within each given to serving current and former foster youth.

Attached, for your review, is a template which has captured the specific information requested by your Board (Attachment A). The programs that are included on the template offer shelter, transitional housing, and one-time cash assistance to TAY. Priority is given to current and former foster youth in each of the identified programs. Further, programs such as those administered by DMH may also prioritize sub-populations among former foster youth, such as those that are Seriously Emotionally Disturbed, and Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill for their specialized mental health programs.

There are currently an estimated 898 beds available to TAY offered through these respective County departments and County related agencies, as well as through non-County funded community-based organizations.

As outlined in Dr. Southard's letter to your Board on March 21, 2008 (Attachment B), and based on the findings outlined above, it appears that there is significant opportunity for alignment of efforts between DCFS, DMH, and Probation to improve outcomes for TAY. These include coordinating availability of slots, communicating contacts with youth, admissions, and after hours and weekend placements. This is a comprehensive and service oriented approach that benefits not only the involved departments, but also the youth themselves.

In order to maximize the utilization of these limited housing resources for TAY, the need for an electronic system to track shelter bed and transitional housing vacancies is clear. Our office is working with LAHSA and CDC to move that effort forward. Housing is the most critical need cited by TAY, and is a crucial element in establishing stability for TAY seeking employment, enrolling in educational programs, and working towards independence.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know, or your staff may contact Jenny Serrano at (213) 974-4529, or via e-mail at jserrano@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:MS
KH:JS:hn

Attachments (2)

c: Department of Children and Family Services
Department of Community Development Commission
Department of Mental Health
Probation
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Program Name	Target Population and Eligibility Criteria	Capacity	Program Description	Cash/Move-In Assistance	Employment	Substance Abuse	Food	Education/Training Assistance	Mental Health	Case Management	Transportation Assistance	Shelter	Transitional Housing	Aftercare	Life Skills Training		Funding
Department of Mental Health (DMH)																	
Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) – Community Services and Supports (CSS) Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program for TAY (EESP)	TAY ages 16-25 diagnosed as Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) or Severely and Persistently Mentally Ill (SPMI) who are homeless and lack other sources of funding to pay for short-term shelter	300 per year	Funding for emergency housing will provide shelter, initially, for up to 29 consecutive nights for SED/SPMI TAY. TAY shelters and programming will be separate and distinct from traditional homeless shelter programs that serve the adult populations. TAY-specific shelter beds will be purchased, on an as needed basis from a pool of qualified shelter providers. TAY shelters will provide enhanced services including screening, counseling, transportation assistance, and assistance with benefits establishment. Outreach and engagement of the TAY by Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs, TAY Housing Specialists, and TAY Navigators will occur while they are in the shelters with the goal of linking TAY to more stable services, housing, and supports. This program is not intended to provide shelter for minors (ages 16-17) who are court dependents; however if a shelter has the appropriate State Community Care licensure to provide shelter housing for minors, court dependent minors may be temporary placed therein with the approval of DCFS. Program will begin implementation in May 2008.				x		x			x			x			MHSA $605,000 (annually)

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Program Name	Target Population and Eligibility Criteria	Capacity	Program Description	Cash/Move-In Assistance	Employment	Substance Abuse	Food	Education/Training Assistance	Mental Health	Case Management	Transportation Assistance	Shelter	Transitional Housing	Aftercare	Life Skills Training	Funding
MHSA – CSS Housing Program, permanent supportive housing in conjunction with CalHFA	At least age 18 and SED/SPMI	Varies depending on proposals funded	The MHSA Housing Program will provide up to $115.6 million in MHSA funds in Los Angeles to finance the capital expenses associated with development, acquisition, construction and/or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and their families, especially homeless individuals and their families. Project sponsors interested in building permanent supportive housing with MHSA Housing Program funds are required to partner with DMH. Once the housing units are complete, DMH will certify that applicants for the units meet the MHSA Housing Program target population, ensure services are provided to the tenants and that all required outcome data is collected for the program.														MHSA $115 million
MHSA – CSS Operational Subsidies for permanent housing for FSP-eligible TAY	TAY ages18-25 SED/SPMI	70 units estimated	This funding is for operational subsides linked to permanent housing units for TAY (ages 18-25) who are SED/SPMI. DMH included the funding for the TAY operating subsidy in the County's Homeless & Housing Program Funds City/County Community Programs Request for Proposal in order to maximize leveraging opportunities. Program to begin in 2008.														MHSA $390,000 (annually)

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

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MHSA - CSS TAY Housing Specialists	TAY ages 16-25 SED/SPMI	832 annually	The MHSA CSS Plan includes two adult program housing specialists and one TAY housing specialist for each Service Area (SA), who assist individuals to secure affordable and permanent housing by applying for rental subsidies, housing programs or private rental agreements and work to expand the housing resources within their SA. Program began FY 2006.						x	x	x	x					MHSA - $580,000 to fund 8.0 Full Time DMH Staff (annually)
MHSA - CSS Housing Trust Fund	All Age groups including SED/SPMI TAY	Varies depending on proposals funded	A Housing Trust Fund was established with MHSA funds to support the development of new permanent supportive housing for people with psychiatric disabilities. The Trust Fund will provide funds for on-site or scattered site supportive services and/or project-based operating subsidies for supportive housing projects including shared housing projects.														MHSA - $10.5 million (one-time only)

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Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)	At least age 18 and SED/SPMI		The PATH Program, funded by the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1990 and administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), serves individuals with a diagnosis of a serious mental illness, including those with a co-occurring substance use disorder, who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Services provided included outreach, case management, mental health services, alcohol or drug treatment services, referrals for primary health services and housing services.			x			x	x						Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

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Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HUD Funded)	At least age 18 and SED/SPMI	350 Vouchers (including 100 for CalWORKs Families)	The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program is a federal program funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A participant pays a limited percentage of his or her income as rent, with the balance of the rent being paid to the owner through the voucher program. DMH participates in this program through the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). The target population for this particular program is clients who meet the HUD definition of homelessness, and who meet income threshold criteria. The main criteria for HUD homelessness are living in a place not meant for human habitation (such as the streets, in a car, etc.), living in a homeless shelter or transitional living facility that provides services for individuals who are homeless, living in a private dwelling and within one week of formal eviction, and fleeing from domestic violence.														HUD through HACLA

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Program Name	Target Population and Eligibility Criteria	Capacity	Program Description	Cash/Move-In Assistance	Employment	Substance Abuse	Food	Education/Training Assistance	Mental Health	Case Management	Transportation Assistance	Shelter	Transitional Housing	Aftercare	Life Skills Training		Funding
Shelter Plus Care (HUD Funded)	At least age 18	948 Certificates	Shelter Plus Care is a services-match grant which provides subsidized housing for individuals and families that meet HUD's definition of homelessness. The funds flow from HUD to the local City and County housing authorities. DMH contracts with HACLA and the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) to issue Shelter Plus Care certificates to eligible consumers receiving services from DMH directly-operated clinics or contract agencies. Consumers must meet the HUD definition of homelessness and, have a diagnosis of severe and persistent mental illness, including a co-occurring substance use disorder; agree to receive services from the DMH system as long as the certification is valid (at least 5 years); meet minimum income requirements; and have demonstrated an ability to live independently with supportive services in place. DMH provides a level of supportive services equal in cost to the dollar amount of rent paid by the housing authorities.						x	x								HUD through HACLA and HACoLA

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

Program Name	Target Population and Eligibility Criteria	Capacity	Program Description	Cash/Move-In Assistance	Employment	Substance Abuse	Food	Education/Training Assistance	Mental Health	Case Management	Transportation Assistance	Shelter	Transitional Housing	Aftercare	Life Skills Training		Funding
Transitional Housing Program	TAY ages 19-21 who are SED/SPMI and emancipated from DCFS	48 beds	This program is for mentally disabled emancipated adults ages 19 to 21. The program is a collaborative effort among DCFS, DMH, Probation, Hillview Mental Health Clinic, A Community of Friends and Homes for Life Foundation to fund transitional housing and supportive services for young adults who are exiting the foster care system and are at risk of becoming homeless.				x		x	x			x	x	x		Chafee Independent Living Program (ILP) Funds through DCFS to DMH
Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)																	
Transitional Housing Program for Homeless Young People (THP)	Former foster and probation youth between the ages of 18-22. Independent Living Program (ILP) eligibility is NOT required.	244 beds	Youth may remain in the program for 18 months. Aftercare is offered for 3-6 months. HUD funded, work-save program. Youth live in 1 or 2 bedroom apartments located throughout the County. Youth are assigned a social worker who assists with employment and life skills needs. Goals: prevent TAY from being homeless; teach life skills and help youth save money to transition into permanent housing. Services: life skills training; monthly food stipend ($200); rental payment; bus pass/tokens; paid utilities.				x				x		x	x	x		

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Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP)	TAY ages 16-18 who are still in care and suitably placed through Probation or DCFS. Youth must be working on a HS diploma and be suitable for apartment living.	78 beds; 48 occupied; 30 vacancies	Goals: simulate independent living by housing youth in apartments; assist youth with completing HS diploma or GED; assist youth in the transition from foster care/probation to independence. Services: furnished apartment, paid utilities, intensified ILP, food, clothing and personal care allowance, employment support and case management. Some sites are supervised, some are not.		x		x	x		x			x		x	
Transitional Housing Program Plus (THP+)	TAY ages 18-24 former foster and probation youth at risk of homelessness. Only parenting and/or pregnant (adult) females are eligible with current contractors.	50 beds	Goals: provide independent living opportunities for eligible participants to practice life skills in a safe environment and to assist with transition to independence. Services: 24 months of housing and supportive housing, food vouchers, transportation, education and employment assistance, life skills and case management.		x		x	x		x	x		x		x	

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Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI)	TAY ages 18-24 former foster youth only. Must have been in a foster placement, relative home, or group home between the ages of 16-18 or adopted after age 12.	As of 3/19/08 84 TAY received permanent and supportive housing; 133 TAY received moving assistance, rental assistance and/or eviction prevention	Provides move-in and rental assistance funding. Goals: secure permanent housing and be able to maintain appropriate housing settings. Services: move-in fees, ½ rent for a maximum of 6 months, utility connection fees, appliances and some furniture.	x												

Community Development Commission (CDC)

CDC Special Needs Transitional Housing Programs for TAY are listed below by name of completed site, number of beds and capital amount.

Site	Program	Beds	Capital Amount
7061 Manchester City of Los Angeles	DCFS Transitional Housing	10	$362,000
200 S. Mednick Unincorporated East LA	United Friends of the Children (DCFS HUD grant)	18	$1,092,926
13039 Coteau Unincorporated S. Whittier	Pathways Program	9	$813,277

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10215 Ruoff Unincorporated S. Whittier	Pathways Program	40	$1,499,943													
10228 Van Ness Unincorporated Los Angeles	DCFS Transitional Housing	4	$310,000													
10038 Van Ness Unincorporated Los Angeles	Pathways Program	4	$306,000													
10631 Haas Unincorporated Los Angeles	Pathways Program	4	$250,000													
13931 Coteau Unincorporated Los Angeles	Pathways Program	10	$550,447													
Westwood Transitional Unincorporated West Los Angeles	DCFS Transitional Housing/HUD grant	5	$251,982													
446 Hoefner Unincorporated Los Angeles	DCFS Transitional Housing	5	$346,000													
2121 W. 103rd Unincorporated Los Angeles	DCFS Transitional Housing	4	$331,000													

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Step Out Unincorporated South Los Angeles	TAY with mental health issues	20	$1,200,000														
Athena Alhambra/South San Gabriel	TAY with mental health issues	18	$2,000,000														
Penny Lane North Hills	TAY with mental health issues	16	$200,000														
St. Anne's Los Angeles	Pregnant and parenting teens	40	$1,500,000														
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority																	
David & Margaret House - Independent Living Program	Emancipated foster youth	10 beds	Transitional housing program. Services include: case management and assessment; permanent housing planning and placement; individualized service planning and mental health counseling.						x	x			x				
Hathaway-Sycamores	Emancipated foster youth with mental health needs	36 beds	Hathaways-Sycamores provides scattered site 2-bedroom apartments. This is a transitional housing program where youth are provided weekly case management and youth advocacy.							x			x				

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Athena - Transitional Housing Program for Homeless, Mentally Disabled Young Adults	Mentally disabled young adults	18 beds	Program provides scattered site transitional housing for 18 mentally disabled young adults. Supportive services include: comprehensive assessment; case management; mental health therapy; educational services; vocational assessment training and job placement; independent living skills training; social and recreational activities; health care services; peer support; and mandatory work, rent and savings programs.						x	x			x			
Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services, Inc. (GLASS) Transitional Living Project - Lancaster	Foster youth between the ages of 17 and 18 who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender	12 beds	Glass Lancaster Scheuer House-ILP Transition Housing Program. The program provides participants with independent living skills preparation, via workshops that address money management, food shopping & preparation, job search and workplace readiness.		x					x			x		x	
Gay & Lesbian Adolescent Social Services, Inc. (GLASS) Transitional Living Project - North Hollywood	Foster youth between the ages of 17 and 18 who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender	12 beds	Glass North Hollywood Scheuer House-ILP Transition Housing Program . The program provides participants with independent living skills preparation, via workshops that address money management, food shopping and preparation, job search, workplace readiness.		x					x			x		x	

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

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Hillview Mental Health Center, Inc.	TAY former foster youth with mentally illness	69 beds	Hillview Mental Health Center-ILP Transition Housing Program. The program provides participants with independent living skills preparation, via workshops that address money management, food shopping & preparation, job search, workplace readiness.		x				x	x			x		x	
Penny Lane Centers Independent Living Program Columbus Project	TAY former foster youth who are mentally ill	18 beds	Penny Lane Columbus Project- provides transitional housing with an independent living skills program for mentally ill, homeless youth that have been emancipated from the foster care system. Each youth will receive case management, mental health counseling.						x	x			x		x	
Penny Lane Permanent Housing Center Program	TAY former foster youth and families who are mentally ill	14 beds	Permanent housing program (6-unit building/14 beds) with supportive services which serves 10 homeless individuals or 2 homeless individuals plus 4 homeless families with up to 2 children per family. The population served are individuals/families with general needs and emancipated foster youth with mental illness.							x			x			
Penny Lane Transitional Housing Program	Female TAY former foster youth, SED with children	34 beds	Skills program for emotionally disturbed, homeless women with children who have emancipated from the foster care system.						x				x		x	

Housing for Transition Age Youth (TAY)

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Covenant House California Transitional Living Program - Rights of Passage	Youth ranging in age from 18 to 22 years	32 bed congregate program and 16 bed scattered site apartments	Transitional living program which provides a structured, comfortable living environment for youth to develop educational, vocational, employment, and independent living skills. Residents access psychological and psychiatric assessments/intervention, substance abuse intervention, HIV/AIDS education and support, life skills and vocational training and job and permanent housing placement.		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

Identified on this matrix are: 898 transitional housing beds; 300 shelter beds; 154 permanent housing placements; 350 Section 8 vouchers; 948 Shelter Plus Care certificates; and 133 moving assistance or eviction prevention records

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

http://dmh.lacounty.gov

Reply To: Sandra D. Thomas, Deputy Director
Phone #: (213) 738-4644

March 21, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

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

SUBJECT: **AGENDA ITEM #24, BOARD MEETING MARCH 18, 2008 ENHANCED EMERGENCY SHELTER PROGRAM FOR TRANSITION AGE YOUTH (TAY)**

On March 19, 2008 Homeless and Housing Deputies instructed the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to prepare a written response to address their concerns related to the implementation and access to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Enhanced Emergency Shelter Program (EESP) for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) TAY ages 16-25. This memo responds to the following concerns:

1. **Coordination with Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to ensure that TAY under age 18 that comes to the attention of the EESP is managed appropriately.**

   - Within 30 days of Board approval of program, DMH TAY Division Staff will meet with DCFS Hotline managers and supervisors to provide further information and training regarding the EESP program to ensure access is well-coordinated.
   - Whenever DMH TAY Division or the DMH Access Center staff come in contact with youth under age 18 who are in need of placement in the EESP program, they will immediately contact the DCFS Hotline at (800) 540-4000.
   - DCFS has agreed to develop and circulate an Alert form to be utilized by the DCFS Hotline staff to notify the Regional Offices and Emergency Response Command Post that a DCFS youth has been placed or being considered for placement in an age-appropriate EESP.

2. **Statement that youth under age 18 will not be placed in EESP programs targeting adults over 18 years of age.**

   - Youth under age 18 will not be placed in EESP programs unless they meet eligibility criteria and the facility has licensure to house minors.

3. **Plan after hours and weekend placements.**

   - For shelters that have admission capacity on a 24/7 basis, the DMH 24/7 Access Center (800) 854-7771 will authorize/approve referrals for eligible TAY during weekend and evening hours. The DMH TAY Division EESP "gatekeeper," system navigators, and housing specialists will follow-up with client and EESP provider beginning the next business day.
   - It is possible that minors eligible for EESP shelters may come directly to the attention of DCFS. In these instances, only EESP shelters with appropriate licensure to house minors will be allowed to "self-authorize" and accept eligible clients for the EESP program after hours and weekends from DCFS.

4. **Extension of stays beyond 29 days for youth unable to establish an appropriate post-shelter placement.**

   - Clients that have not been successfully placed in the community at the conclusion of 29 continuous EESP shelter days are eligible to begin a second 20-day placement with DMH TAY Division gatekeeper's approval.
   - In no instance will EESP clients be discharged to the streets without alternative shelter services being arranged.

If you have any further questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Sandra Thomas at (213) 738-4644.

MJS:SDT:TB:cc

c: Sheila Shima, CEO
Miguel Santana, CEO
Trish Ploehn, DCFS
Robin Kay, DMH
Stephanie Farrell, CC