

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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

ROBIN KAY, Ph.D.  
Chief Deputy Director

RODERICK SHANER, M.D.  
Medical Director



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**

<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

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

March 06, 2012

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:

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

25 March 6, 2012

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE  
ELEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH AND SPIRITUALITY  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to host and conduct the Eleventh Annual Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: A New Season," to be held on June 7, 2012, at the Center at Cathedral Plaza, and similar conferences for the next three fiscal years.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct the Eleventh Annual Conference on "Mental Health and Spirituality: A New Season," to be held on June 7, 2012, at an estimated cost of \$57,800.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the Center at Cathedral Plaza-Levy Restaurants for facility rental, catering services, and site technical support at an estimated cost of \$28,400.
3. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to sign substantially similar Agreements with similar conference sites for facility rental fees and catering services for three subsequent annual Mental Health and Spirituality Conferences through Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 not to exceed a total amount of \$65,000 per annual event, subject to review and approval by County Counsel and notice to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the Eleventh Conference on “Mental Health and Spirituality: A New Season,” to be held on June 7, 2012, at the Center at Cathedral Plaza. In support of the mental health system in Los Angeles County, the conference will host workshops that are aligned with the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) plans and the DMH’s goals of promoting hope, wellness and recovery.

The conference will assist the Department to accomplish elements of its State-approved MHSA plans. A major mandate of the MHSA is to reach unserved and underserved populations to support their recovery from mental illness. This conference provides an important opportunity for DMH to develop partnerships with faith communities in achieving this MHSA mandate.

Last year there were approximately 320 attendees at the Tenth Annual Conference of Mental Health and Spirituality. Due to the popularity of this conference, the number of attendees for this year is expected to be 500. Participants include members of the clergy, consumers, and family members. Registration fees will be discounted for clergy and waived for up to 80 consumers and/or family members.

## **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support the County’s Strategic Plan Goal 2, Children, Family and Adult Well-Being, and Goal 4, Health and Mental Health.

## **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The FY 2011-12 DMH Final Adopted Budget includes sufficient appropriation to fund the estimated \$57,800 total cost of the conference. Approximately \$15,000 of the cost is anticipated to be offset by registration fees paid by participants. The remaining cost of \$42,800 will be funded by MHSA revenue. The precise amount will be determined by the actual number of attendees, which is expected to range up to 500. The estimated costs include \$1,900 for facility rental, \$8,600 for printing and mailing of brochures and programs, \$20,300 for food and beverage services, \$6,200 for parking and audio and visual services, \$13,800 for honorariums for presenters, \$3,400 for translation services, and \$3,600 for other miscellaneous costs. Funding for future years, including an estimated cost increase, will be requested through DMH’s annual budget process.

There is no net County cost impact.

## **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Since 2002, DMH has held an annual one-day educational event to make faith leaders aware of mental illness, its impact on families, and the supporting role faith communities can play in helping with recovery. By collaborating with faith leaders in underserved and unserved communities, DMH is seeking to reduce barriers for people seeking mental health care.

Through two plenary sessions and eight workshops, which will be presented by experts in the fields

of mental health and/or spirituality, the conference is intended to increase awareness of spirituality as a potential resource in mental health prevention, early intervention, and recovery and to encourage collaboration among faith-based organizations, mental health service providers, consumers and families in combating stigma and reducing disparities in access to services for diverse populations. Continuing education units will be offered to appropriate clinical disciplines.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

For previous Annual Conferences on Mental Health and Spirituality, DMH has used the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities to host these types of conferences. The California Endowment Center has offered DMH competitive prices since the rental fee is waived if the catering services are used through their site. DMH is unable to utilize this site for this year due to an increase in the number of attendees which is estimated to be 500.

DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conference. A total of three quotes were received. In an effort to reduce costs associated with this conference, DMH opted to use the Center at Cathedral Plaza because the catering services at the venue and the rental for audio visual equipment are less expensive than the other venues that were considered. In addition, the Center at Cathedral Plaza was the preferred location based on availability, size of accommodations, and transportation needs.

As the caterer for the facility, and in accordance with the proposed agreement with the Center at Cathedral Plaza, DMH will pay catering costs directly to Levy Restaurants, the Center at Cathedral Plaza's designee for catering services.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The conference will empower consumers, benefit the mental health system, and promote hope, wellness and recovery for clients.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

3/6/2012

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.

Director of Mental Health

MJS:KM:RK

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