



DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
hope. recovery. wellbeing.

LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.
Interim Director

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Chief Medical Officer

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Acting Chief Deputy Director

January 10, 2023

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

28 January 10, 2023

CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**APPROVAL FOR HIRING AUTHORITY
NEW ANTELOPE VALLEY CHILD AND FAMILY
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of interim ordinance authority to add and fill thirty-two (32) positions to provide direct mental health services at the new Antelope Valley Child and Family Mental Health Center.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve interim ordinance authority, pursuant to Section 6.06.020 of the County Code, for thirty-two (32) full-time permanent positions, Attachment I, for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23, subject to allocation by the Chief Executive Office (CEO), Classification and Compensation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended action will allow DMH to provide mental health services at the new Antelope Valley (AV) Child and Family Mental Health Center in North County, Service Area 1. DMH will utilize an existing clinic, located at 2323 Palmdale Boulevard, Suite A, to open and operate the new clinic.

The Antelope Valley encompasses 1,169.29 square miles in northern Los Angeles County and is home to nearly 517,000 residents, including over 100,000 children aged 18 and under. Service Area 1 has a larger proportion of children, approximately 33 percent, as compared to other service areas

with an average of 25 percent. Currently, DMH only has one DMH directly operated child program in this area, the Antelope Valley Kids Connection, which is specifically for Department of Children and Family Services' involved children and youth under DMH's Specialized Foster Care program. In addition to the Specialized Foster Care program, DMH has eleven contracted clinics to serve the children and youth population in this service area, however there is and continues to be a greater need to manage the demand for services.

The need for child and family mental health services in the Antelope Valley and desert areas has reached a critical mass; an urgency that has also been recognized and prioritized by the National Surgeon General Advisory. In accordance with the National Surgeon General Advisory, California has a higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care, compared to national averages. Of the 284,000 children and youth in California, 9.8 percent report having had a severe major depressive episode and two-thirds have not received any treatment.

The needs have now grown exponentially and were exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic within Los Angeles County. The Department of Health Services community clinic refers, on average, 30 children a month with over half of these referrals reported as moderate-to-severe acuity. DMH recognizes there is a lack of community resources available for children 18 years and younger within the northern region of Los Angeles County; this new mental health center will provide a resolution within this area.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with County's Strategic Plan Goal I: Enhance the Quality and Capacity of Mental Health Services and Supports in Partnerships with Clients, Strategy I.1: Enhance Delivery of Systems That Balance and Transform a Continuum of Services. Strategy 1.2: Provide Integrated Mental Health, Physical Health and Substance Use Services. Strategy 1.3: Support clients in Establishing Their Own Recovery.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated, pro-rated cost to operate the AV Child and Family Mental Health Center in FY 2022-23 is \$2,451,000, fully funded by Federal Financial Participation Medi-Cal, State Mental Health Services Act, and State Aid Mental Health revenues. The operating cost includes \$2,096,000 for personnel cost and \$355,000 for services and supplies and client supportive services.

Sufficient funding is included in the FY 2022-23 Final Adopted Budget for this action. Funding for future fiscal years will be included in the budget request process. There is no net County cost impact associated with the recommended action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The AV Child and Family Mental Health Center will address the need to provide child and youth mental health services in SA 1.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The AV Child and Family Mental Health Center would be the first mental health children and family center within this part of the County. DMH is committed to resolving issues related to the lack of treatment in this area by opening a new children and family clinic to service this community. This

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

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new mental health center will assist in resolving numerous factors that contribute to limited mental health services within this region and will provide a full array of direct mental health clinical care and services.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D.", written in black ink.

LISA H. WONG, Psy.D.

Interim Director

Lisa H. Wong, Psy.D. Interim Director

Enclosures

c: LHW:CDD:kr

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
 ANTELOPE VALLEY CHILD AND FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
 LIST OF POSITIONS**

Item Description	Item No.	ORD	FTE
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST II	8697A	6	6.0
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER	8103A	2	2.0
INTERMEDIATE TYPIST-CLERK	2214A	1	1.0
MEDICAL CASE WORKER II	9002A	2	2.0
MENTAL HEALTH CLINICAL SUPERVISOR	9038A	1	1.0
MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN II	9030A	2	2.0
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR,RN	5278A	1	1.0
MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM MANAGER II	4741A	1	1.0
MENTAL HEALTH PSYCHIATRIST	4735A	2	2.0
PATIENT FINANCIAL SERVS WORKER	9193A	1	1.0
PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER II	9035A	11	11.0
STAFF ASSISTANT I	0907A	1	1.0
SUPERVISING PSYCHOLOGIST	8712A	1	1.0
Total		32	32.0