

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADULT JUSTICE, HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION SERVICES**

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT HOUSING PROGRAM

4.2.1—PROGRAM OVERVIEW

NARRATIVE DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

The plan is to completely redevelop the existing property located on the corner of 52nd and San Pedro. The lot encompasses addresses: 303 and 309-311 ¾ E. 52nd Street as well as 5132 San Pedro Place. All properties are within the South Central Los Angeles area (SPA 6); Council District 9. The goal is to create a mini community inclusive of 20 carefully designed units with bedrooms and kitchens and bathrooms that meet all the space requirements of permanent supportive housing 18 of which will be funded through the MHSA Housing Program. The units will extend and enhance MTSH's program for women in recovery with or without their children however; men with their children will not be excluded from housing consideration. Common areas to meet the unique needs of this population may include: library, outdoor recreation areas, terraces, community recreation/meeting rooms, gym, play area for children and an outreach office to house outreach workers and access to a resource database.

Support staff will be available on site, 24 hours, seven-days a week, 365 days a year. Each adult in the PSH units will have an individual lease and live independently, without care and supervision. Crisis services will be available 24/7 by the Tenant Support Team under the supervision of the Director of Residential Services.

Homelessness is a multi-faceted problem and needs a multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary solution. *Permanent supportive housing* through collaborative integrated systems is a tenable and effective solution to addressing the needs of the target population. A definition provided by the Corporation of Supportive Housing (*Opening New Doors*, January 2003) speaks to the effectiveness of this approach; "permanent supportive housing is: decent, safe, and affordable community-based housing that...is linked to voluntary and flexible supports and services designed to meet residents' needs and preferences." By integrating service and housing systems and providing holistic and individualized services, permanent supportive housing has proven effective in reducing the shelter use, hospitalizations, length of stay per hospitalization, and time incarcerated, *eliminating the revolving door in and out of homelessness*.

Mini Twelve Step House, Inc. has identified local service providers who have a long history of providing appropriate services for people with co-occurring substance abuse issues. They have included agencies to serve both the adults, and their children to ensure there is the opportunity for hope and healing relative to both generations within a healthy family structure.

Drug addiction is a brain disease that affects behavior. Drug addiction has well-recognized cognitive, behavioral and physiological characteristics that contribute to the continued use of illicit drugs, despite the harmful consequences. Effective drug abuse

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treatment engages participants in a therapeutic process, retains them in treatment for an appropriate length of time, and helps them learn to cope with life and thereby maintain abstinence over time. Providing appropriate, integrated services for the dually diagnosed can improve recovery success and overall health, as well as restructure the effects their disorders have on their family, friends, and society at large. By helping people sustain sobriety and housing, find jobs, develop better social skills, insight and judgment, there is the potential to restore lives, revive communities, and reduce the growing demand on public programs.

The collaborating agencies include:

- Special Service for Groups (SSG) - Adult Mental Health Services
- Drew Child Development Corp. (CDC) – Children & Family Mental Health Services
- Crystal Stairs – Child Care Services
- Maxine Waters Learning Center – Adult and Children Educational Services
- JWCH Institute, Inc. – Adult Health Care Services
- South Central Family Health Center (SCFHC) – Health Care Services
- Coach for Kids & Families (CFF) – Child Health Care Services
- Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) – Job Development Services

These collaborators offer a diversity of programs. The efforts through this collaboration are to build good communication and cross-agency training to increase effectiveness; reduce duplication of and gaps in services. The seamless coordination of services is central to success.

To ensure the quality, appropriateness, and timeliness required that meet the 7 Performance Based Criteria outcomes in the SOW a Quality Improvement Committee will be formed to oversee the modifications and implementation of the Plan. In addition examples of Specific Targeted Behavior Outcomes may include:

OUTCOME MEASURED	PROJECT GOAL
Use of alcohol or illegal drugs	Decrease dependency; increase person's ability to manage life's responsibilities; avoid relapse; 80% of participants who have substance use problems will participate in recovery services.
Frequency of use of alcohol/drugs	Decrease/manage and/or stop use as a means toward better health and management/control of one's life; 100% will demonstrate increased management and reduction of use after enrollment; 30% will stop use within the first 12 months after enrollment.
Ability to manage life's details	Increase this ability

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Obtaining and maintaining employment	Access employment opportunities and support to sustain the job; 20% of participants will obtain/maintain employment
Participating in education	Access educational opportunities, particularly basic literacy skills
Use of leisure/recreation time	Increase in ability to use leisure/recreation time constructively; increase community functioning
Developing independence	Increase independence & autonomy
Apathy/lack of interest	Decrease sense of apathy; increase social skills
Ability to concentrate	Increase skills
Memory	Enhance memory function
Quality of life	Increase sense of satisfaction with life
Income	Access and assist with obtaining benefits and/or employment income; 80% of participants who do not have SSI/SSDI benefits upon enrollment & who are eligible, will have these benefits within their first 12 months of participation
Arrests; time in jail/prison	Decrease arrests and time in jail by 80%; assure appropriate level of treatment & housing in community
Overall health	Enhance health; reduce symptoms of illness
Inpatient treatment use	Decrease reliance on/need for inpatient treatment; assure appropriate level of voluntary treatment is accessible
Outpatient treatment use	Increase by 90% appropriate use of mental health and substance use recovery and treatment services
Emergency room use	Decrease reliance on emergency room use