

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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Reply To: (213) 738-4601
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March 11, 2014

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

17 March 11, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR
THE SECOND ANNUAL CLIENT CONGRESS FORUM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host the Second Annual Client Congress Forum, scheduled to be held on June 27, 2014, for the purpose of addressing empowerment and advocacy issues related to mental illness.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host the Second Annual Client Congress Forum (Forum), which is scheduled to be held on June 27, 2014, at an estimated cost of \$46,594.05.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to prepare, sign, and execute an Agreement with the Levy Premium Food Service Limited Partnership for space and catering, at a cost of \$28,462.05, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to host the Forum, which is scheduled to be held on June 27, 2014, at the Conference Center at Cathedral Plaza.

The Client Congress of DMH, which will host the Forum, is an association composed of groups and individuals dedicated to promoting social inclusion. Through collective advocacy efforts, people

receiving public mental health services and those who support them, can make a positive contribution to their communities and impact the negative stereotypes that surround people with mental illness.

In an age of health care reform, it becomes vital that people with a psychiatric diagnosis become informed about the issues that affect them and develop a unified voice so that their values can be communicated effectively. The Forum is the vehicle for linking members and groups, integrating advocacy efforts, organizing countywide public service activities, and developing an annual community event dedicated to exploring issues important to mental health clients and their families.

The Forum will bring together people from all parts of the County, including from the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities, as well as from the deaf and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT), and other communities that have been traditionally underserved.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended Board actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness, and Strategic Plan Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost of the Forum is approximately \$46,594.05 fully funded by State MHSA revenue and is included in the DMH Fiscal Year 2013-14 Final Adopted Budget. The final cost will be determined by the actual number of participants, which will be a maximum of 600 people.

The \$46,594.05 budget for the Forum includes \$28,462.05 for facility rental, set-up, audio-visual equipment services, parking services, and food services for consumer attendees. The estimated cost also includes \$5,000 for charter buses to provide transportation for consumers, \$11,717 for translation services/interpreter services for 13 threshold languages, and \$1,415 for other miscellaneous items.

There is no net County cost impact associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On June 28, 2013, the first Client Congress Forum was held at the Conference Center at Cathedral Plaza in Los Angeles. More than 600 members and friends of the Client Congress pre-registered, and 411 individuals attended the Forum.

Based on the feedback received from the various participants, the Forum succeeded in meeting its goals of providing meaningful information on healthcare reform and mental health advocacy. The Forum also provided a common ground for various diverse groups to come together and discuss one or more advocacy issues that affect individuals and families living within the communities of Los Angeles County. The Department's mission is to ensure transparency on all levels throughout the mental health system. The Forum successfully provided that conduit for dialogue and direction on how participants can get more involved on a local and County level to address issues related to public mental health.

The Forum has been approved by DMH's Executive Management Team as appropriate under the MHSA plan. MHSA provides funding for outreach to mental health clients, their families, and parents of children receiving mental health services, including to consumers and families of underserved

communities and their community partners.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conference. A committee, composed of consumers, contract providers, and DMH administrative staff, determined that the Conference Center at Cathedral Plaza was the preferred location based on availability, size of accommodations, and availability of private and public transportation options for attendees.

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute an Agreement with the Conference Center at Cathedral Plaza to guarantee space, catering services, and other necessities for the conference and provide DMH with authority to expend funds in support of the conference. Confirmation, in the form of a deposit, will be made to ensure the reservation of space.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Forum will benefit the mental health system by empowering consumers, educating participants on current advocacy issues, promoting social inclusion, and increasing an understanding of the need for integrating health, mental health and substance abuse services in an era of healthcare reform. It is anticipated that between two percent and four percent of current consumers of public mental health services will become involved in legislative advocacy within each year that the Forum is held.

Respectfully submitted,



MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.

Director of Mental Health

MJS:DM:ADA:

RK:em

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