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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

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### **LACDMH UNITES PRIVATE COMPANIES & PUBLIC AGENCIES TO CREATE HOUSING FOR LA'S HOMELESS AND MENTALLY ILL** *Housing Institute 2012 focuses on partnerships that will help individuals and families in need.*

**Los Angeles, CA** – The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) is proud to host its fifth annual **Housing Institute 2012** on **Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** and **Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**, from **8:30 A.M.-4:45 P.M.** each day, at the **California Endowment** (1000 N. Alameda Street) in downtown Los Angeles. This year's theme is *Partnerships in Permanent Supportive Housing* which is part of LACDMH's long-standing commitment to recognize and embrace its responsibility to end homelessness for individuals with mental illness.

"It is an established fact that Permanent Supportive Housing is an outstanding investment for conserving public resources and improving people's lives. The Housing Institute shares a wealth of information about how to make Permanent Supportive Housing work not as an abstract concept but in real neighborhoods, like ours in Los Angeles," said Marvin Southard, D.S.W., LACDMH Director.

For two solid days, attendees will be provided with information, resources and dozens of workshops to enhance their knowledge and understanding in developing much-needed housing. The event is also an opportunity for private companies and public agencies to network and create partnerships with the focus of building new supportive housing.

So far, with the help of the 2004 voter-passed Proposition 63, also known as the Mental Health Services Act or MHSA, LACDMH has invested over \$115 million and leveraged over \$400 million of local, state and federal funding to build 33 housing communities throughout Los Angeles County. Ten of those 33 projects have been completed with individuals and families already living in them.

**(More)**

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The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States, directly operating 75 program sites and more than 100 co-located sites. Each year, it contracts with approximately 1,000 agencies and individual practitioners to provide a spectrum of mental health services to more than 250,000 residents of all ages. The Department's mission -- enriching lives through partnership to strengthen our community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency -- is accomplished by working with stakeholders and community partners to provide clinically competent, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to clients in the least restrictive manner possible.

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