



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

March 03, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

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March 3, 2015

PATRICK OGAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR THE
AFRICAN AMERICAN MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE:
HOLISTIC WELLNESS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES
TO BE CONDUCTED FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host and conduct the African American Mental Health Conference: "Holistic Wellness for African American Families and Communities" to be held on June 18, 2015, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host and conduct the African American Mental Health Conference: "Holistic Wellness for African American Families and Communities" to be held on June 18, 2015, at an estimated cost of \$80,000, funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue and other conference fees.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health (Director), or his designee, to execute an agreement with the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel for facility rental, catering services, site technical support, and parking, at an estimated cost of \$49,725.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will allow DMH to host and conduct the African American Mental Health Conference: "Holistic Wellness for African American Families and Communities," which is to be held on June 18, 2015, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel. Through a host of workshops, presented by experts in the mental health field, this conference is intended to benefit the mental health community by providing training opportunities to both providers and consumers while promoting prevention and early intervention of mental illness for African American consumers in Los Angeles County.

DMH supports the funding of the conference as it will:

- (1) allow DMH to support and promote wellness and recovery to an under-represented population with significant mental health needs;
- (2) increase awareness of the specific needs and challenges experienced by African Americans as related to mental illness and recovery;
- (3) increase awareness of strategies specifically tailored to African American consumers and their families;
- (4) foster network opportunities to bridge the gap between DMH and other community service providers that deliver services to the African American consumers and their families;
- (5) encourage collaboration among DMH, community-based organizations, and community leaders such as faith-based/spiritual organizations/leaders, mental health/health care providers, consumers, and families;
- (6) provide an opportunity to develop new partnerships with community-based organizations; and
- (7) educate the Los Angeles community about wellness and recovery, which leads to healthy and meaningful lives.

The workshops for this conference provide participants, including consumers, their families, professionals, and other staff, with a broad range of information related to strategies that are culturally relevant and specific to the unique needs of the African American community. Special emphasis will be directed to navigating a system, consisting of a collaborative approach into our healthcare initiative, on the integration of health, mental health, and substance abuse services. Continuing education units will be offered for appropriate clinical disciplines.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

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

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated total cost of the African American Conference: "Holistic Wellness for African American Families and Communities" is \$80,000. This estimated cost includes \$3,978 for facility rental fees, \$43,148 for food and beverage service, \$1,999 for audio and visual services, \$600 for consumer parking, \$19,075 for speakers, \$5,000 for consumer stipends, \$1,000 for entertainment, \$5,000 for translation services, and \$200 for registration wrist bands.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Final Adopted Budget includes sufficient appropriation for the estimated cost of this Conference. The estimated total cost of \$80,000 will be funded by approximately \$32,250 in estimated fees paid by County employees, non-County participants, vendors, and donations; with the remaining estimated cost of \$47,750 funded by State MHSA revenue.

The final cost will be determined by the actual number of participants, which will be limited to a maximum of 650 people.

There is no net County cost impact associated with these recommended actions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

DMH conducted an annual African American Mental Health Conference beginning in 2003 and each year afterwards until 2008. The conferences were designed to provide strategies for recovery from mental illness but tailored to African American consumers and their families. Historically, information presented at these conferences has been critical to the provision of culturally competent services to African American consumers and their families throughout the County. This conference was presented annually for six years with approximately 1,100 attendees per year, which included 500 County employees, 400 non-County participants, and 200 mental health consumers. The conferences were open to persons of all racial and ethnic backgrounds. In addition, mental health staff and the parents and family members of consumers also attended the conferences, and this has played a continuing role in recovery from mental illness.

For the past five years, there has been resurgence in the demand for this conference by various stakeholders. The FY 2014-15 Conference will be designed to continue the previously successful trend and appeal to the same targeted audience. This conference will also host workshops that are aligned with the integration of health, mental health and substance abuse services that support DMH's goals of promoting hope, wellness, and recovery.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

DMH solicited quotes from five venues that met selection requirements for the conference. The Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel was determined to be the least expensive venue in comparison to the other four venues. This determination was made by the DMH Conference Committee whose goal was to reduce the costs associated for this conference. Committee members requested venues to submit proposals to accommodate 650 attendees, and to include the associated venue rates and/or fees for meeting rooms, catering, parking, and audio/visual equipment. A cost analysis of the received requests were reviewed by committee members and the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel offered the lowest, most reasonable rates and fees to the available funds and the most accommodating based on venue needs for 650 attendees. In addition, the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel was the preferred location based on availability and the ease of both personal and public transportation for consumers, presenters, volunteers, employees, and other participants.

DMH will enter into an Agreement with this venue following Board approval. Confirmation in the form of a deposit will be made to guarantee space, catering services, and other necessities for the conference.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The conference will benefit the mental health system by empowering consumers, especially African

American consumers, to effectively use recovery strategies and resources to improve their lives through the use of integrated services. It will educate and increase the understanding of the need for integrating health, mental health and substance abuse services in an age of healthcare reform. This conference is also aimed at reducing stigma and promoting wellness, recovery, prevention and early intervention strategies for African American consumers, families, and communities in Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "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:DM:CCS:RK:

gt

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