

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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## DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

<http://dmh.co.la.ca.us>

550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) 738-4601  
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April 18, 2002

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:

**APPROVAL OF A NEW MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENT- LEGAL ENTITY  
WITH THE CHILDREN'S CENTER OF THE ANTELOPE VALLEY  
FOR FISCAL YEARS 01-02, 02-03 AND 03-04  
(SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 5)  
(3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve and delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign, and execute a new Mental Health Services Agreement – Legal Entity, substantially similar to Attachment I, with The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley for the provision of case management/brokerage, mental health, and medication support services to children who are victims or at risk of child abuse and their families in the Antelope Valley. This new Agreement will be effective on Board approval for Fiscal Years (FY) 01-02, 02-03 and 03-04. The Maximum Contract Amount (MCA) is \$1 for each FY 01-02, 02-03 and 03-04.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to prepare, sign and execute future amendments to the Mental Health Services Agreement - Legal Entity with the Children's Center of the Antelope Valley, provided that: 1) any such Amendment shall be used to reflect program and/or policy changes; 2) approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Officer or his designee is obtained prior to any such Amendment; and 3) the Director of Mental Health shall notify the Board of Supervisors of Agreement changes in writing within 30 days after execution of each Amendment.

**PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Board approval is requested to enter into a new Legal Entity Agreement with The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley for the provision of case management/brokerage, mental health, and medication support services to children who are victims or at risk of child abuse and their families in the Antelope Valley.

**Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:**

The recommended Board action is consistent with the County's Fourth Goal – Fiscal Responsibility, Strategy 3, with the Countywide Strategic Plan. Approved services are provided through the collaborative efforts of government agencies and community-based organizations.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

In order to access Medi-Cal revenue through the Department of Mental Health (DMH), The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley is required to have a contract with DMH and to become Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal (SD/MC) certified after Board approval is obtained. SD/MC certification will authorize The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley to provide SD/MC reimbursable services as defined in the Agreement and to establish access to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) Program to cover the cost of services.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The contractor will generate Medi-Cal revenues from the EPSDT Program. There will be no impact on net County cost.

**FINANCING:**

For each FY 01-02, 02-03 and 03-04, the MCA will be \$1 in Realignment funds. It is estimated that The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley will provide mental health services with an approved Net Program Budget totaling \$461,749 to Medi-Cal eligible children and youth.

The cost for delivery of services under this Agreement will be fully offset by EPSDT funds for the delivery of full-scope Medi-Cal reimbursable EPSDT services. The EPSDT Program is a federally-mandated, fully-funded State and Federal mental health program for Medi-Cal eligible children and youth under 21 years of age.

The allocation of Realignment funds and sufficient appropriation are included in DMH's FY 01-02 Adopted Budget. The funds for FYs 02-03 and 03-04 will be requested as part of the Budget process for those fiscal years.

**FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The term of this Agreement will commence from the date of Board approval through June 30, 2002, with provisions for two automatic one-year renewals. The mental health services provided under this new Agreement will meet the medical necessity requirements under the EPSDT Program and will be eligible for reimbursement through Title XIX Medi-Cal. By entering into a new Agreement with DMH, The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley will have the opportunity to expand the delivery of mental health services to young children and sibling groups through the generation of Medi-Cal revenues from the EPSDT Program.

The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley was established in 1990 as a private non-profit community agency in response to community concern about the high rate of child abuse in the Antelope Valley. The mission of the agency is to protect children residing in Antelope Valley from child abuse and neglect. Services provided include prevention, intervention, treatment and educational services to victims of child abuse and neglect and their families in the Antelope Valley.

Clinical and administrative staff from DMH are assigned to supervise and administer the Agreement, evaluate the program, ensure that quality services are being provided to clients, and ensure that both the Agreement's provisions and departmental policies are being followed.

This Mental Health Services Agreement – Legal Entity has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel. In addition, these proposed actions have been reviewed by the Chief Administrative Office and DMH's Financial Services Bureau and Comprehensive Community Care staff.

The complete Los Angeles County Community Business Enterprise (LAC/CBE) Program, Firm/Organization Information form is attached (Attachment II).

**CONTRACTING PROCESS:**

In order to access EPSDT funds through DMH, a provider must be SD/MC-certified and have a contract with DMH. SD/MC-certification authorizes the provider to provide Medi-Cal services as defined in the Agreement and establishes access to EPSDT funds to

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cover the cost of services. Upon your Board's approval, DMH will execute a new Legal Entity Agreement with The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley to fill an unmet need to an underserved children and youth population in the Antelope Valley.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:**

This Agreement will enhance mental health services to young children and allow The Children's Center of the Antelope Valley to be reimbursed by Medi-Cal revenues through the EPSDT Program. Approximately 120 children receive direct services each month through the agency; this new Agreement will enable the agency to provide mental health services to these children.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Department of Mental Health will need one (1) copy of the adopted Board action. It is requested that the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, notify the Department of Mental Health's Contracts Development and Administration Division at (213) 738-4684, when this document is available.

Respectfully submitted,

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Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.  
Director of Mental Health

MJS:RK:KT:PEP

Attachments (2)

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

KT:PEP: BOARD LETTER THE CHILDREN'S CENTER OF ANTELOPE VALLEY