



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

California Mental Health Services Authority
Contact: Mady Gorrell, 650-464-6496
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CalMHSA Selects RAND for Mental Health Program Evaluation
Evaluation program promotes fiscal integrity, accountability

Sacramento, CA -- The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) announced today the selection of RAND Corporation to conduct statewide evaluation for its Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) Initiatives. The PEI Initiatives are paid for through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63).

“CalMHSA is committed to fiscal integrity and accountability, and carrying out effective and efficient PEI initiatives. We look forward to working with the RAND Corporation to meet these goals,” said Wayne Clark, President of CalMHSA. “The RAND team’s experience in rigorous, objective evaluation makes them the right choice to design and implement our evaluation process.”

Funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63), CalMHSA’s three initial mental health programs are aimed at improving student mental health, eliminating and/or reducing suicides, stigma and resulting discrimination. These “Prevention and Early Intervention” initiatives are designed to shift California’s mental health services approach to meet the needs of our diverse communities and reach individuals before they reach the crisis point.

The PEI Statewide Evaluation Project will:

- o Improve data collection and evaluate effectiveness of PEI programs
- o Identify innovative programs that can be successfully replicated
- o Use research to design policies and programs that reduce suicide and suicide risks, reduce stigma and resulting discrimination, and improve student mental health in diverse populations across California.

“PEI initiatives are an important way that the state is taking action to promote mental and emotional health, reduce the likelihood of mental illness, and limit the negative impacts of mental illness on individuals and society,” said Audrey Burnam, a RAND researcher who will head the project. “By evaluating what works best and what can be improved for California’s system, we can help counties make the best use of scarce dollars during the state’s financial crisis.”

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CalMHSA staff recommended the RAND Corporation team after a thorough review of Statements of Qualifications submitted. Reviews were conducted by an independent panel of subject matter experts.

The vote by the CalMHSA board authorizes CalMHSA staff to negotiate a contract with Rand Corporation. Estimated cost for the evaluation program is \$8-10 million.

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About CalMHSA

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is joint powers authority (JPA) of California counties, funded by the voter approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63). It is focused on the efficient delivery of California Mental Health Projects. Member counties jointly develop, fund, and implement mental health services, projects, and educational programs at the state, regional, and local levels. The following 41 of California's 58 counties are members of CalMHSA: Butte County, Colusa County, Contra Costa County, El Dorado County, Fresno County, Glenn County, Humboldt County, Imperial County, Kern County, Lake County, Lassen County, Los Angeles County Madera County, Marin County, Mariposa County, Mendocino County, Modoc County, Monterey County, Napa County, Orange County, Placer County, Riverside County, Sacramento County, San Benito County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, San Francisco City & County, San Luis Obispo County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County, Siskiyou County, Solano County, Sonoma County, Stanislaus County, Sutter/Yuba County, Tuolumne County, Tri-City Mental Health Center, Trinity County Ventura County and Yolo County. For more information go to www.calmhhsa.org.

About CDMH

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH), entrusted with leadership of the California mental health system, ensures through partnerships the availability and accessibility of effective, efficient, culturally competent services. This is accomplished by advocacy, education, innovation, outreach, understanding, oversight, monitoring, quality improvement, and the provision of direct services. DMH employs more than 12,000 employees in eight locations throughout the state, including its headquarters in Sacramento, five hospital facilities, two acute care facilities within the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. As a state public agency, DMH has worked hard to transform and improve the state's mental health systems of care by working with the mental health constituency to develop a system of partnerships and coordinated interagency efforts. For more information go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov>.

About MHSOAC

With the passage of Proposition 63 in November 2004, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission was established to oversee specific parts of the Mental Health Services Act including Prevention and Early Intervention Programs,

Innovative Programs, Human Resources, Education and Training Programs and sections of the Adult and Older Adult System of Care Act and Children's Mental Health Services Act. The Commission has primary responsibility for Prevention and Early Intervention and Innovative Programs including issuing Guidelines and approving county plans for those two program areas. For more information go to <http://www.mhsoac.ca.gov>.

About CMDHA

The California Mental Health Directors Association (CMHDA) is a non-profit advocacy association representing the mental health directors from each of California's 58 counties, as well as two cities (Berkeley and Tri-City). The mission of the California Mental Health Directors Association is to provide leadership, advocacy, expertise and support to California's county and city mental health programs (and their system partners) that will assist them in promoting the recovery of persons with serious mental illness and serious emotional disturbance. CMHDA's goal is to assist in building a public mental health system that ensures the accessibility of quality, cost-effective mental health care. CMHDA will advocate for equity and full inclusion of vulnerable populations and secure social justice as measured by access to necessary quality services that promote mental health, wellness, resiliency and recovery in our communities. CMHDA members recognized the need for a vehicle (or should vehicle be replaced with "a Joint Powers Authority such as CalMHSA") for counties to act jointly to efficiently implement regional and statewide mental health programs and projects. CalMHSA appreciates CMHDA's advocacy and support of the statewide PEI projects. For more information please go to <http://www.cmhda.org/go/Home.aspx>.

About GHC

Founded in 1954, George Hills Company, Inc. (GHC) provides California's public sector and private insurance carriers best practice claims administration (liability and property) and litigation management services <http://www.georgehills.com/services/claims_litigation.php> . The firm also provides best practice, turnkey formation and management services to California JPAs <<http://www.georgehills.com/services/jpa.php>> . GHC has seven office locations in the State of California, including its corporate headquarters in Rancho Cordova/Sacramento. For more information go to <http://www.georgehills.com>.