



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mady Gorrell, CalMHSA
650-464-6496
mady.gorrell@georgehills.com

California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) Recommends Review and Approval of Contract Awards for Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and Student Mental Health

Second phase of Mental Health Service Act Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention funds soon to be rolled out with Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and Student Mental Health Program Contracts

SACRAMENTO, CA (June 9, 2011) – The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), a joint powers authority (JPA) of counties focused on the efficient delivery of California mental health projects and programs, announced today it has taken action to begin contract negotiations for the fulfillment of Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and Student Mental Health Services. The announcement follows last month's announcement of action to begin contract negotiation for Suicide Prevention.

Recommended for review and approval on June 9, 2011 by CalMHSA's Board of Directors in the area of Stigma and Discrimination Reduction are: California Network of Mental Health Clients; Runyon, Saltzman & Einhorn; Mental Health Association of San Francisco (MHASF) on behalf of the Center; Entertainment Industries Council, Inc.; Community Clinics Initiative; National Alliance on Mental Illness, California (NAMI); Mental Health Association of San Francisco; and Disability Rights California.

Recommended for review and approval on June 9, 2011 by CalMHSA's Board of Directors in the area of Student Mental Health are the sole source applicants of the California Department of Education, California State University Office of the Chancellor, California Community Colleges Office of the Chancellor, and Regents of the University of California.

Contract awardees for Stigma and Discrimination Reduction and the Student Mental Health will provide services to clients throughout California including creating a supportive environment for all consumers and those at risk for mental health challenges; promoting awareness, accountability and changes in values, practices, policies and procedures; increasing knowledge of effective and promising programs and practices; identifying and eliminating discriminatory policies and practices; implementing training, peer-to-peer support and suicide prevention programs in K-12 and high education systems; developing relationships between school systems, foster care systems and county mental health departments and providing school-based programs, systems and policy developments, education and training and technical assistance in schools districts.

--more--

Three statewide projects are currently administered by CalMHSA—Suicide Prevention, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction, and Student Mental Health Services. All were developed under the Mental Health Services Act passed by California voters in November 2004. In 2007, the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) approved five prevention and early intervention (PEI) statewide projects and corresponding funding amounts. In 2008, MHSOAC determined that three Statewide PEI projects would be implemented most efficiently and effectively if administered through a single statewide entity and subsequently developed Strategic Plans for each project: the Suicide Prevention Initiative, Stigma and Discrimination Reduction Initiative and the Student Mental Health Initiative. In April 2010, the Department of Mental Health (DMH) contracted with CalMHSA to administer the funding and implementation of mental health services, projects and educational programs at the state, regional and local levels.

Last month's announcement of CalMHSA's Suicide Prevention contract review and recommendations included: Didi Hirsch Psychiatric Services, Transitions Mental Health Association, North Bay Suicide Prevention Project, Family Services Agency of Marin, San Francisco Suicide Prevention, Family Services Central Coast, Kings View Suicide Prevention Program, Institute on Aging Center for Elderly Suicide Prevention (CESP), AdEase, Inc, and LivingWorks Education, LP.

All CalMHSA contract proposal requests and review processes are handled by George Hills Company (GHC), CalMHSA's administration firm. GHC is a best practices TPA and JPA management firm with 57 years of experience serving California.

"CalMHSA respects and promotes the values of the California Mental Health Services Act," says CalMHSA Board President Allan Rawland, ACSW, MSW. "Central to CalMHSA's success is the promotion of systems and services arising from community mental health initiatives that increase emotional health and enhance well being."

In total, California will invest nearly \$100 million directly to improve mental health in California.

About CalMHSA

The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) is joint powers authority (JPA) of California counties and 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 35 counties are members of CalMHSA: Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Imperial, Kern, Lake, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Yuba, Ventura and Yolo. For more information go to <http://calmhsa.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>.

--more--

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 on MHSOAC go to <http://www.dmh.ca.gov/MHSOAC>.

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. The firm also provides best practice, turnkey formation and management services to California JPAs. GHC has seven office locations in the State of California, including its corporate headquarters in Rancho Cordova/Sacramento. For more information on GHC go to <http://www.georgehills.com>.

###