


COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

ADULT SYSTEMS OF CARE

July 19, 2000

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

Larry Wicker
Deputy Director

FROM: Jim Allen 
Deputy Director

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED AB 34 PLAN**

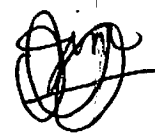
As requested, attached is the initial draft of the AB 34 Expansion Plan for your review. This plan was developed based on the experience gained from the initial AB 34 phase, new State DMH requirements, formal planning with community contract providers and input and recommendations from Departmental staff of the Emergency Outreach Bureau, Children's and Adult Systems of Care.

Please note, the cost per client amount reflected in this draft will be modified based on an analysis of the average cost per client for services during Phase I. This analysis is in process.

JCA:sem

Attachment

c: John Hatakeyama
Janet Abreu
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File

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

FY 2000-2001 AB 34 EXPANSION PLAN

Overview

In October 1999 AB 34 established funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 1999-2000 for three counties to demonstrate that counties can provide comprehensive services to severely mentally ill persons who are “homeless, recently released from a county jail or the state prison, or others who are untreated, unstable, and at significant risk of incarceration or homelessness unless treatment is provided to them.” These comprehensive, integrated services were to be based on the adult system of care integrated service agency models established in 1989, as outlined in Section 5808 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LAC-DMH) was selected to provide one of the three demonstration projects with funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 1999-2000 established at \$4,800,000. AB 34 required the State Department of Mental Health (DMH) to report to the Legislature by May 1, 2000 on the effectiveness of the strategies developed by the participating counties.

In implementing AB 34, LAC-DMH targeted adult and older adult homeless persons with severe mental illnesses who were: (1) living on the streets or in emergency/temporary shelters; (2) pending release or recently released from a Los Angeles County Jail; (3) identified or evaluated and referred by MET/SMART, County Court/Criminal Justice programs, social service or community-based agencies. For this demonstration project, which required a quick start-up and assessment of results within five months of start-up, the Department issued a Request For Information (RFI) to integrated services agencies with existing contracts for Adult Targeted Case Management Services (ATCMS) and PARTNERS programs, and, based on the response, contracted with 12 agencies.

The AB 34 program, as reported to the Legislature in May 2000, successfully demonstrated that utilizing an integrated service approach to the treatment and care of seriously mentally ill homeless people reduces subsequent psychiatric hospitalizations, incarcerations, and homelessness, and increases clients’ overall quality of life. As a result of the demonstrated success of the AB 34 program, AB 2034 establishes increased funding for the program. It is anticipated that LAC-DMH will receive spending authority in October 2000 for a total of \$15 million for FY 2000-2001 to continue and expand the AB 34 program in Los Angeles County. In addition to the existing criteria for persons to be served, the AB 2034 legislation specifically targets the following populations of homeless, seriously mentally ill clients:

- Women and families
- Transition Age Youth
- Veterans

Expansion Plans for Fiscal Year 2000-2001

The Department plans to expand the number of AB 34 clients served, increase and enhance the geographic areas served, increase the allocation for housing, establish a 23-hour crisis stabilization center with enhanced dual diagnosis competency, provide a transition team in the Los Angeles County Jail, and broaden the target population to specifically include homeless mentally ill women and families, transition age youth and veterans, per AB 2034 legislation. The LAC-DMH program administration staff will be increased to facilitate the identification and linkage of the expanded target population, staff the transition team and ensure the on-going success of the expanded program. Additional funding will be allocated to support the program's outcome evaluation process.

Expanded Services and Target Population:

The Department is proposing to increase the number of clients served by the AB 34 program from 831 to approximately 1400. In making Service Area allocations for this expansion, each Service Area's need will be evaluated based on available homeless and poverty data and general Service Area needs. Service Area I, the Antelope Valley, will have a program dedicated to that area's special needs and geographic accessibility issues. In addition, it is anticipated that the programs in Service Areas IV and VI will be expanded to meet the significant needs of these areas by increasing the allocation of clients and by expanding the network of service providers.

The target populations identified in AB 2034 represent particular challenges related to engaging clients in on-going mental health treatment, developing housing resources, and, for transition age youth, establishing a source of income or benefits. To meet the challenges presented by the three targeted groups, each contract program will be expected to establish outreach and comprehensive treatment services for these populations. Additional Departmental staff will be hired to work with the expanded contract programs.

An additional mental health professional will also be hired by the Department to enhance the existing AB 34 evaluation process in the juvenile and adult justice systems. This person will collaborate with Jail Mental Health Services staff to identify and link seriously mentally ill, homeless female inmates with families to AB 34 program services. This staff will also identify transition age youth inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail and work with the juvenile justice system to identify juveniles emancipating from the juvenile to the adult system, linking them to AB 34 program services. Finally, this staff will continue to work with Veteran's Administration (VA) staff in the Los Angeles County Jail to identify homeless mentally ill veterans in the jail.

The AB 34 programs will continue to outreach to veterans, utilizing the protocol developed between LAC-DMH and the VA. According to this protocol, AB 34 contract programs refer all eligible veterans engaged through their outreach efforts to a VA contact person who arranges for a formal assessment to be completed, with a determination made as to service eligibility. Those veterans who are eligible for VA

services are assisted with linkage to the VA services while maintaining their relationship with the AB 34 program.

Of Key Importance:

Crisis Stabilization: A 23-hour crisis stabilization services with enhanced dual diagnosis competency will be established through a contract provider as a temporary and emergent resource for AB 34 clients who do not meet the criteria for hospitalization but need crisis intervention and stabilization. This resource may be used for clients whose psychiatric condition is jeopardizing their living situation and, if not addressed immediately, may result in inpatient psychiatric care.

Dual Diagnosis Services: The Department is proposing to expand AB 34 services to include a dual diagnosis recovery program based on the Stages of Change Model developed by James Prochaska and Carlo DiClemente.

Housing: Housing of all types and levels continues to be the service that all the AB 34 contract agencies find most difficult to provide to their clients due to its high cost and limited availability. Funds for housing will be increased and additional resources and collaborations explored in an effort to meet this need. Presently the Department is exploring with two types of housing providers their resources which can be made available to the AB 34 program. One provider of supported permanent housing has agreed to set aside a specified number of semi-independent units for AB 34 clients; another has agreed to expedite applications as vacancies occur. Two providers of State licensed transitional and permanent adult residential facilities have indicated a willingness to collaborate with the AB 34 providers. In addition, contract agencies will be encouraged to link their clients with funds available in the new state budget through Emergency Housing Assistance for emergency shelters and transitional living units and through Supportive Housing for permanent housing.

Jail Transition Team: Treatment success with clients released from the criminal justice system is largely contingent upon the services provided prior to the clients' release from jail and relationships established prior to release. As clients are prepared for the challenges they will face upon release and provided with skills to meet those challenges, clients are more likely to remain in treatment after release from jail. As a result, assessment and release preparation services provided to AB 34 identified clients prior to their release from jail will be enhanced. A Transition Team, consisting of a substance abuse counselor, a psychiatric social worker, an employment specialist and a community worker, will work in conjunction with the AB 34 contract program staff and Jail Mental Health Services staff to comprehensively assess each AB 34 client's needs prior to release from jail and begin to prepare clients as they transition from the jail to the community. An initial service plan will be created prior to the client's release from jail, focusing on the client's housing, substance abuse treatment needs and readiness to become employed. The Transition Team will work with clients individually and in groups, utilizing structured relapse prevention techniques, to help clients minimize their

substance use upon release from jail. The Transition Team will establish goals prior to the client's release from jail and will work with clients toward accomplishing those goals.

Implementation

The Department plans to re-issue an RFI to existing ATCMS and PARTNERS/ISA programs contracted with the Department. The RFI will contain the program requirements listed in the previous AB 34 RFI, but will also request that responding agencies develop specific plans to outreach, house and treat women and families, transition age youth and veterans. Agencies will also be required to provide detailed plans for utilizing and/or developing various levels of housing for their AB 34 clients.

Funding Issues

Funding for the continuation and expansion of the AB 34 program in Los Angeles County is anticipated in the amount of \$15 million dollars annually. Based on this funding, the Department intends to allocate approximately \$7,515 per enrolled client. This amount includes outreach services, including those for individuals who do not become enrolled clients. The allocation does not include costs for state hospitalization, acute psychiatric hospitalization, placement in Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD), and forensic mental health costs. If client eligibility for Medi-Cal can be established, additional revenues will be available. In addition, participating agencies will be allocated approximately \$1,570 per enrolled client specifically for housing and emergent life-support related costs. The agencies will have the option of arranging an array of housing options with this funding as referenced above.

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COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

**AB 34 PROGRAM EXPANSION BUDGET
FY 2000-2001**

Administrative Costs

Positions:

Contract Program Support:

Mental Health Analyst I (2.0 FTE)	\$141,119
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Program Administration:

Mental Health Clinical Program Head	\$100,876
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Mental Health Analyst I ¹	70,559
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Psychiatric Social Worker II	66,833
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Mental Health Counselor RN ¹	75,981
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Staff Assistant I	43,585
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Secretary III ¹	<u>42,237</u>
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	\$400,071
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Total Positions	\$ 541,190
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Services and Supplies	\$ 50,924
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Outcome Data System [For State DMH Required Tracking of Client Data]	\$ 100,000
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Total Administrative Costs	\$ 692,114
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Specialized Services:

Crisis Resolution Program [23-Hour Crisis Stabilization with Enhanced Dual Diagnosis Competency]	\$ 1,300,000
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Jail Transition Team:

Psychiatric Social Worker II ¹	\$ 66,833
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Mental Health Services Coord II ¹	66,504
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Substance Abuse Counselor ¹	41,516
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Community Worker ¹	<u>38,602</u>
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	\$ 213,455
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Physician Services	\$ 72,210
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Total Specialized Services	\$ 1,585,665
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Agency Allocation:

Mental Health Services	\$10,522,221
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Housing & Emergent Life-Support Costs	2,200,000
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Total Agency Allocation	<u>\$12,722,221</u>
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Total State Allocation	\$15,000,000
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¹ New Positions