
COUNTY OF KERN
MENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

James A. Waterman, PhD, Director



*Working together toward
Hope, Recovery and Independence*

December 18, 2009

**REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST FOR
INTEGRATED PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
SERVICES TO ADULTS**

The County of Kern, through its Mental Health Department is seeking qualified primary health care clinics to provide Integrated Physical and Behavioral Health Care Services to Adults. Services must be available to unserved and underserved adults in the outlying areas of Kern County, including Arvin – Lamont; Delano; Wasco; Lake Isabella; Ridgecrest; and Tehachapi – Mojave. The Department is interested in multiple agreements with qualified local primary care clinics to provide services as described below.

1. Professional mental health services provided on-site (within the clinic), including:
 - Training to clinic staff, with a focus on primary care physicians, in the recognition, diagnosis and treatment of minor mental illnesses and substance abuse issues as part of standard physical examinations.
 - Case consultation with clinic staff on more complicated cases, including psychiatric consultation services when appropriate.
 - Evaluation, screening, and assessment of clinic clients, including medication management, using evidence-based methods.
2. The provision of basic literature on mental illness to staff and clients, including:
 - Substance abuse and mental illness prevention and treatment information
 - Self-assessment surveys on symptoms of mental illness and substance abuse
 - Treatment options for various disorders and illnesses
3. The provision of services in a culturally - competent manner, including:
 - All services and literature are available in the threshold languages clients prefer
 - Outreach to clients for participation on a program advisory committee

Services should begin no later than July 2010.

The Mental Health Department will retain all Letters of Interest, and select the most qualified applicants to interview from this group. If the Department receives a sufficient number of responses from qualified applicants, a Request for Proposal may be issued.

Kern County Mental Health Department has allocated approximately \$622,700 of Mental Health Services Act Prevention and Early Intervention funds toward this project; however, the actual contract amount is a negotiable item.

Those submitting Letters of Interest must:



3300 Truxtun Ave. • P.O. Box 1000 • Bakersfield, CA 93302
Voice: (661) 868-6600 • FAX: (661) 868-6666 • TTY Relay: 1-800-735-2929

1. Demonstrate the number of positions and hours of service that can be dedicated to these services.
2. Demonstrate, in a clear and concise manner, the agency's experience in providing primary physical health care services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of mental health and substance abuse issues within the area the clinic serves, and experience in working with individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.
4. Demonstrate experience in working in collaboration, and in positive working relationships, with a variety of community agencies and resources that may assist in providing services to this population, and in achieving successful outcomes.
5. Demonstrate experience in providing a variety of wellness and recovery classes.
6. Demonstrate experience in developing a work plan that can be utilized in mental health system transformation.
7. Demonstrate experience in having developed culturally competent outreach materials for individuals with mental health and/or substance abuse issues, and staff training materials to address those issues.
8. Demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the values and goals of the Mental Health Services Act, specifically the Prevention and Early Intervention component.
9. Demonstrate knowledge and ability in developing outcomes criteria, and in collecting and monitoring those outcomes.

Potential applicants may submit questions, via e-mail only to Allen Belluomini, abelluomini@co.kern.ca.us, and no later than January 8, 2010.

Letters of Interest must include address all the criteria listed above, or the letter will be rejected. Questions must be answered in the order provided above.

Qualified primary care clinics are encouraged to submit a Letter of Interest of no more than five pages, no later than Tuesday, January 19, 2010 by mail, fax, e-mail or hand-delivery to:

Allen Belluomini, Contract System Supervisor
P.O. Box 1000
Bakersfield CA 93302-1000

Fax: 661.868.6661
E-mail: abelluomini@co.kern.ca.us
Telephone: 661.868.6739

Letters may be hand-delivered to Mr. Belluomini at:

3300 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 100
Bakersfield, California