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# AGENDA ITEM 13A

Action

November 20, 2014 Commission Meeting

Approve Contract with Statistical Analysis System (SAS) Institute Inc.

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**Summary:** The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC or Commission) will be provided with an overview of a proposed contract with Statistical Analysis System (SAS) Institute Inc., focused on data hosting services, analytic software, training, technical assistance, and support that will allow MHSOAC staff to securely access and manage confidential health data. Access to data is integral to performing the Commission's statutory role in evaluation of California's public community-based mental health system and is necessary in order to conduct research and evaluation activities internally.

In the past, the MHSOAC has relied on external contractors to evaluate the impact of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and monitor the performance of the statewide mental health system. This reliance on external contractors has limited the Commission's ability to perform its statutory role in evaluation, including implementation of robust and continuous performance monitoring activities.

Following approval of the MHSOAC Evaluation Master Plan and associated Implementation Plan in 2013, the Commission was provided with additional staffing resources that make completion of internal research and evaluation more feasible. This contract with SAS Institute Inc., in combination with the implementation of new policies, procedures, and training efforts, represents the next critical step in this continued effort. Once implemented, Commission staff will have the ability to access, manage, and analyze confidential and protected health information in a secure manner and in compliance with all state and federal regulations.

SAS Institute Inc. was identified as the preferred service provider following an extensive analysis of alternate private and public sector options that considered cost, service quality, functionality, and timeliness. SAS Institute Inc. is a leading provider of data analytic software and hosting services. The three-year contract will provide the quality and capacity of information technology services needed to support the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory authority regarding ongoing monitoring and evaluation of MHSA funded programs and mental health services throughout the State.

**Enclosures:** None

**Handouts:** A PowerPoint will be provided at the meeting

**Recommended Action:** Approve motion as stated below

**Presenters:** Renay Bradley, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation

**Motion:** Authorize the MHSOAC Interim Executive Director to enter into a contract with SAS Institute, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$900,000 over three years to provide data hosting services, analytic software, training, technical assistance, and support that will allow MHSOAC staff to access data and conduct research and evaluations internally.