



WELLNESS • RECOVERY • RESILIENCE

For Immediate Release

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**DIDI HIRSCH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES NOW PROVIDES KOREAN
LANGUAGE SUICIDE CRISIS LINE**

***NEW SERVICE IS PART OF AN EFFORT TO ADDRESS STIGMA RELATED TO
MENTAL HEALTH IN CALIFORNIA'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES***

LOS ANGELES, March X, 2013 – Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services is pleased to announce that it will be providing crisis line services in Korean for eight hours a day -- from 6:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. -- as part of an effort to expand mental health support services to members of California's diverse communities. The Los Angeles-area crisis line currently operates "24/7" hours in both Spanish and English. The crisis line can be reached at 1-877-7CRISIS (1-877-727-4747).

"I am so pleased to be offering this service to members of my Korean community," said Candace, a Korean speaking counselor. "Members of the Korean community are sometimes reluctant to reach out for help. Research shows providing a counselor from their own community with an understanding of their culture who speaks their language will help people feel comfortable accessing help when they need it most. It is encouraging to see California's mental health system transforming to meet the needs of Korean Americans and other diverse population groups that are a growing part of our state," she said.

"During peak evening hours, Korean-speaking counselors will now offer comfort and support to these callers in their first language," said Lyn Morris, MFT, Director of Didi Hirsch's Suicide Prevention Center. "We view this as a first step towards meeting the needs of Korean-Americans," Morris explained.

Since Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services began providing suicide crisis line services more than 50 years ago, its Crisis Line, has changed to meet the needs of its increasingly diverse clientele.

The recent expansion is funded by the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop. 63). It is one of several Prevention and Early Intervention Initiatives implemented by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities.



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Founded in 1958, Didi Hirsch’s Suicide Prevention Center was the first program in the nation to establish a 24-hour suicide prevention Crisis Line. In 2012, Didi Hirsch’s Crisis Line received more than 50,000 calls for help. The line serves callers from all over California and is managed by staff and over 200 trained volunteers. The toll free California Crisis Line number is 1-877-7-CRISIS (1-877-727-4747). Didi Hirsch also is part of the National Suicide Lifeline network; its toll-free number is 1-800-274-TALK (1-800-273-8255).

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About Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services

With 70 years of experience, Didi Hirsch Mental Health Services transforms lives by providing quality mental health care and substance abuse services in communities where stigma or poverty limit access. From 11 locations and 65 schools throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties, Didi Hirsch helps more than 70,000 children and adults each year, offering services that range from community education to outpatient care to residential treatment. Its Suicide Prevention Center was the first in the nation. Learn more at <http://www.didihirsch.org/>.

About The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA)

CalMHSA is an organization of county governments working to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities. Prevention and Early Intervention programs implemented by CalMHSA are funded through the voter-approved Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63). Prop. 63 provides the funding and framework needed to expand mental health services to previously underserved populations and all of California’s diverse communities. For more information, visit www.calmhsa.org.