



Metropolitan  
Transportation  
Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA  
90012-2952

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
February 20, 2002

**SUBJECT: MENTAL EVALUATION TEAM (MET)  
SERVICES FOR TRANSIT**

**ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Receive and file quarterly report on activities of the County's Mental Evaluation Team (MET) in support of regional transit operations.

**ISSUE**

At the request of Director Antonovich this report has been prepared to provide information to the Board on the programs and activities of the County's MET in support of regional transit operations.

**BACKGROUND**

On September 14, 1999, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors passed a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to provide a dedicated MET to support the regional public transit system. The Board of Supervisors allocated \$200,000 in funding from provisional financing uses for the creation of an MET team to triage and provide resources to individuals who sleep on bus benches and in subway areas.

The County's MET are deployed throughout the region to provide essential services and primary interventions for the homeless and mentally ill persons. The MET assigned to support regional transit operations are composed of a Los Angeles County Sheriff Deputy and a Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health Counselor/Registered Nurse.

After a period of mobilization that included acquisition of radios, a vehicle and other items of equipment, the MET began field operations in June 2000. The initial duties of the team included visiting all of the MTA bus and rail operating divisions to become familiar with their respective functions and performing extensive reconnaissance of the MTA's bus and rail routes to identify areas where their services would be required.

The next major task for the MET was training for both MTA Operations staff and for the dedicated law enforcement units assigned to the Transit Authority. This training included techniques for dealing with the homeless and mentally ill, details on the services provided by MET, and the protocols for contacting MET for assistance.

In December 2000 MTA Transit Operations revised its Standard Operating Procedures with the assistance of the MET. A special code was added so that Bus Operations Control could better track the monthly reporting of Operator generated calls regarding homeless persons at MTA bus stops.

During the second quarter of FY02 there were 175 contacts; 57 calls for service, 8 phone consultations and 110 homeless contacts where services (shelter and medical information) and resources (food, water, and hygiene kits) were offered.

	Origin of Intervention						Total
	MET Generated	MTA	L A Sheriff's Dept.	L A Dept. of Mental Health	Other Police Depts.	Access	
<b>FY02-Q1 Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>168</b>
Oct-01	28	3	18	0	0	0	49
Nov-01	38	11	17	2	0	0	68
Dec-01	40	3	14	0	0	1	58
<b>FY02-Q2 Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>175</b>

	Results						
	5150 Hospital	Shelter Placement	Left in Environment	Phone Consultations	Return to Board & Care	Arrested	Other Outcomes
<b>FY02-Q1 Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
Oct-01	9	1	37	0	0	0	2
Nov-01	14	0	46	5	0	1	2
Dec-01	7	0	45	3	1	0	2
<b>FY02-Q2 Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

The number of calls that were generated by MTA this second quarter have increased to nearly double, which is a result of the enhanced participation of MTA Operators and Supervisors to the MET Team Program.

The MET Team continues to respond in a timely manner to calls received from BOC generated by MTA Operators and Supervisors.

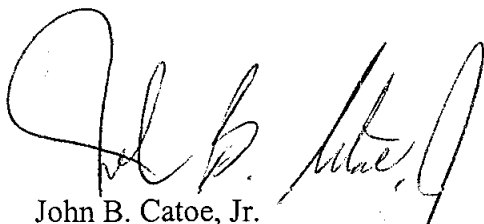
## NEXT STEPS

The MET will continue to conduct field operations and concentrate on areas where they have identified needs for their services. The team will also continue to provide training to MTA Operations staff and to transit law enforcement units on dealing with the homeless and mentally ill.

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

- A. September 14, 1999 Motion on the MET by Supervisor Antonovich before the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Prepared by: Tom Jasmin, Superintendent of Operations



John B. Catoe, Jr.  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Roger Snoble  
Chief Executive Officer

SYN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

SEPTEMBER 14, 1999

This Board has continually supported programs focusing on homeless outreach and crisis response intervention for individuals with mental illnesses. Programs such as the Mental Evaluation Team (MET) have proven to be a success financially and from a human standpoint.

The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has expressed interest in having a designated crisis response and intervention team similar to MET available to work with individuals who congregate at both subway stops as well as bus benches throughout Los Angeles County. A MET-like team would be able to triage and provide resources for individuals that currently sleep on bus benches and in our subway areas.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that \$200,000 from Provisional Financing Uses be allocated for the creation of a MET-like team to triage and provide resources to individuals who sleep on bus benches and in subway areas.

MDA:kbc  
c:\motions\MET team

# # #

MOTION

Molina	_____
Burke	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Antonovich	_____
Knabe	_____