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BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2002

Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

**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 is 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 is 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 fourth quarter of FY02 there were 165 contacts; 72 calls for service, 10 phone consultations and 83 homeless contacts where services (shelter and medical information) and resources (food, water, and hygiene kits) were offered.

Origin of Intervention							
	MET Generated	MTA	L A Sheriff's Dept.	L A Dept. of Mental Health	Other Police Depts.	Access	Total
FY02-Q3 TOTAL	129	20	22	0	2	0	173
Apr-02	32	5	16	3	0	0	52
May-02	33	7	11	3	1	0	54
Jun-02	28	11	13	2	0	0	54
FY02-Q4 TOTAL	93	23	40	8	1	0	165

Results							
	5150 Hospital	Shelter Placement	Left in Environment	Phone Consultations	Return to Board & Care	Arrested	Other Outcomes
FY02-Q3 TOTAL	19	1	139	6	1	2	6
Apr-02	7	0	35	36	0	0	3
May-02	11	0	35	5	0	0	4
Jun-02	7	0	40	0	1	3	4
FY02-Q4 TOTAL	25	0	110	41	0	3	11

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

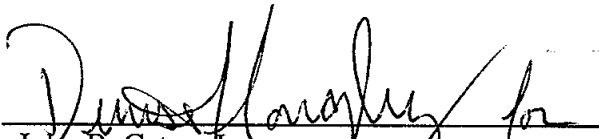
NEXT STEPS

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)

NONE

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John B. Catoe, Jr.
Deputy Chief Executive Officer



Roger Snoble
Chief Executive Officer