

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

61602

DATE:

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS will provide comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (“County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”), to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS, through its Treatment Center for Trauma and Abuse (“TCTA”), will provide comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for the period from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The TCTA has been offering comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for the last several years. The program serves all of Westchester County with clinicians in our Hartsdale, Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and Peekskill clinics. TCTA serves the most vulnerable and needy in Westchester County: children who have experienced sexual abuse, witnessed or been victims of domestic violence, or experienced other forms of serious interpersonal trauma.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** because the TCTA will address the mental health and other needs of children, particularly those living in low-income, under-resourced communities, challenged by poverty. The TCTA is the only specialized trauma team in Westchester County that integrates the distinct and overlapping knowledge bases of social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. WJCS clinicians are uniquely qualified to help children heal from the trauma and abuse they are experiencing and return to normal developmental functioning through the use of state-of-the-art evidence-based practice.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to provide specialized trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families. WJCS will also provide consultation, information and guidance to other professionals to minimize the traumatic impact of abuse and to increase the ability for children to remain safely in their homes and in the community. A WJCS Trauma Center staff member is on site at the Child Advocacy Center providing assistance and referrals to families. WJCS Trauma Center professionals will actively participate in numerous community-wide collaborations that heighten the capacity of Westchester County to comprehensively and effectively meet the needs of children and families affected by abuse and violence.

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** as they are aimed at ensuring the health of the children and families of Westchester County. The TCTA is more than a treatment program; it is also a preventive program. Children who are sexually abused or victims of family violence are at increased risk for repeated abuse, school problems, self-destructive or anti-social behavior, substance abuse, serious mental illness including depression and suicide, and out-of-home placement. The early, effective, and coordinated intervention and state-of-the-art mental health services provided to traumatized children and their families will minimize the deleterious effects and will promote positive growth and pro-social behavior.

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as they are designed to enhance and ensure the safety of the children and families of Westchester County. WJCS Treatment Center professionals serve on the Westchester County Multi-Disciplinary Team, which includes representation from law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, victim assistance, and medical services. Multi-Disciplinary Team members work together to reduce the traumatic effects on child victims of serious abuse and neglect and determine the ability of children to remain safely in the community with their family.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert out-of-home placements of youth and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing youth from entering the foster care and juvenile detention systems will result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of the services provided using the mutual established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports and site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that, WJCS has provided services above 100% of annual contract capacity in 2017.

- Monthly numbers of children served: Varied from 8-17.
- Monthly percentages of children with improved 75-90%.
- 50 families and 55 children were served, exceeding the annual targets of 20 families and 20 children.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) viii which exempts contracts with medical or health related services and contracts with health care workers or agencies.

It should be noted that this agreement is not subject to the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the federal funding for this program falls under Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is attached herewith.

