

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

11350

Date: May 7, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Subject: **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations for the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$389,231 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (“CPS”) investigations within the areas covered under the Department of Social Services (“DSS”) Mount Vernon and Peekskill District Offices from the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$389,231 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. Family Ties of Westchester worked closely with the Department of Social Services in order to identify cost savings. Family Ties of Westchester was able to reduce their budget for the Every Kid Counts program without reduction in the number of families served. Family Ties of Westchester reduced their budget by eliminating the position of one full-time case manager and by discontinuing the Family Unity networking and support meetings. There has been a reduction of about 17% in the amount requested for the new contract from that of last year. The number of families expected to benefit from this program remains unchanged.

Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program is a strength-based preventive service program that provides a wraparound service model to work with at risk families who had previous CPS involvement. These families are not eligible for traditional Preventive Services provided by the Department of Social Services. Family Ties provides case management services for these families for a period of 3-9 months to reduce issues and behaviors that result in repeat CPS reports. Every Kid Counts is a community-based program where families are

linked to community service providers to address child safety, employment, housing, domestic violence, child support, education and transportation. Referrals to the program are received from the Department of Social Services, Mt. Vernon and Peekskill District Offices. The Department of Social Services will have the option of allocating services to either district office based on customer needs.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes healthy families and reduces the risk of children entering foster care. Family Ties uses the family unity model to strengthen families and to address dysfunction and mal-adaptation in family systems that place children at risk of out-of-home placements. These families had previous CPS involvement and it serves a public purpose when these families do not re-enter the child welfare system.

The **goals and objectives** of the Every Kid Counts program are to provide short term, preventive and follow-up services addressing the needs of families at risk of subsequent CPS investigations. The primary goal is to reduce and prevent family dissolution and substitute care for children. Secondary goals are to address family system dysfunction that places children at risk of abuse and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** because the Family Ties Every Kid Counts program addresses specific family systems issues that place children at risk of abuse and maltreatment. Families are guided through services, activities and trainings to inspire them to practice alternative ways of parenting, coping and managing their environment. Parents who adopt healthier lifestyles are often better prepared to parent healthier children.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** because services provided by Family Ties of Westchester reduce the rate of CPS intervention. Services provided through the Every Kid Counts Program address family system dysfunctions, which without intervention, would lead to further abuse and maltreatment of children. Ryan and Testa (2004) reported that children who are substantiated victims of abuse and maltreatment have a 47% higher youth delinquency rate compared to children not in the child welfare system (as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004).

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert temporary and permanent substitute care of children and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing substitute care can result in substantial savings for the County of Westchester.

- **Family Foster Care cost annualized per child** - The cost of Foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per child depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per child per year**.
- **Residential Foster Care cost annualized per child**. - The cost of Residential Foster care can range from \$47.14 up to \$627.00 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$17,206.10 to \$228,855 per child per year**.
- **Non-Secured Detention cost annualized per child** - The average cost to maintain a child in Non-Secured Detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$117,895 per child per year**

- **Secured Detention cost annualized per child** - The average cost to maintain a child in a Secured Detention facility is \$317 per diem per child. That translates into an annualized cost of **\$115,705 per child per year.**
- **Every Kid Counts program cost annualized per family** – Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program has an annualized program cost of \$389,231. The program expects to serve 75-80 families. The average length of service provision is 180 days. The per diem per family is \$28.83- \$27.03. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$5,189.74 - \$4,865.39 per family.**

The **negative consequence** for not approving this agreement may be that the Department of Social Services may experience an increase in CPS reports, foster care and residential placements. The Department of Probation and Family Court may experience increases in PINS Petitions. Communities in the County of Westchester may experience an increase in truancy, crimes committed by youth and an increase in the school drop-out rate in vulnerable school districts.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of the Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program. Goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to verify process, outcome and impact performance measures as will be indicated in the contractual agreement. Goals and objectives will also be tracked, monitored and verified through periodic reports submitted as per the terms of the contractual agreement. Department of Social Services will also verify goals and objectives through periodic site visits.

Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report that for the first 3 quarters of the contract, Family Ties has worked with 52 families and 120 youth in the Mt. Vernon and Peekskill area. In 2008, seventy percent (70%) of families served showed an increase in strengths that support healthy family functioning and a decrease in needs that place children at risk of foster care placement. In 2009, eighty-nine percent (89%) of the families served showed an increase in strengths that support healthy family functioning. This is a 19% increase in overall family functioning. Of the youth who received services from July 1, 2009 to present, 100% were diverted from foster care placement. Of the families that received services during the same period, 94.2% did not experience a repeated subsequent and/or initial CPS investigation and 98% of those families were diverted from a substantiated/indicated CPS investigation while receiving services from Family Ties.

This agreement is exempt from Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a) xiv and 3 (a) xviii thereof as this agreement is with a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing care, aid and support to persons in need of public assistance and also for the creation and support of a recreation program for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and for the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of the youth in the County of Westchester.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the aforesaid services.

A resolution requesting the same is attached herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the Every Kid Counts Program incorporating the Family Unity model for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations within the areas covered under the Department of Social Services' Mount Vernon and Peekskill District Offices from the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$389,231 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget (the "State Budget") proposed and adopted during the term of this Agreement. The County shall retain the right, upon the occurrence of any release by the Governor of a proposed State Budget and/or the adoption of a State Budget or any amendments thereto, and for a reasonable period of time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of any such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right to either terminate this Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Contractor, then the Contractor shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive, or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all documents and to take all actions necessary and appropriate on behalf of the County of Westchester to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	4500	4439	_____	\$194,616
2011	101	22	4500	4439	_____	\$194,615

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-2011
(must match resolution)
Funding Source

Start Date: 7/1/10 End Date: 6/30/11

\$389,231
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 38%
State Aid: 39%
Federal Aid: 23%
Other _____