

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

11572

Date: May 13, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Subject: **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc. to provide permanency planning services for families in which the parent/caretaker has HIV/AIDS or another terminal illness for the period from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$61,482 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.**

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with the Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc., to provide permanency-planning services for families in which the parent/caretaker has HIV/AIDS or another terminal illness, for the period July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$61,482 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc., worked closely with the Department of Social Services to identify cost savings. Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc., was able to identify cost savings of at least 10% that resulted in no change to the number of families served annually.

Volunteers of America's Westchester Permanency Planning Program (WPP) focuses on providing assistance to families with HIV/AIDS and other terminal illnesses and the secondary crisis these families face. The Contractor also provides support groups, parenting groups and assistance in establishing medical proxy. Services provided under the terms of this contract restore and promote hope, dignity and self-reliance to families in which the parent/caretaker has HIV/AIDS or another terminal illness, through counseling, training, advocacy and outreach. Volunteers of America receives referrals from the existing service network and referral process that includes the Department of Social Services, Mental Health, Alcohol/Substance Abuse Treatment Centers, Hospitals, Home Health Care Agencies, existing HIV/AIDS programs, community advocacy groups, religious organizations and self-referral. Intake and assessments are conducted in the home, hospital or at the program's location.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes the establishment of a permanency plan for minor children whose parents are terminally ill. These children would otherwise come into foster care. The permanency program not only addresses the permanency needs of the child, but also the needs of the entire family by locating family and community resources to support the functioning of the family.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to identify a guardian/permanent resource for minor children whose parents/caretakers are terminally ill or infected with HIV/AIDS, thus averting the need for foster care placement and the costs associated with such placements. Under the terms of a contractual agreement, Volunteers of America will help families establish a viable permanency plan for their children and aid with the transition of the children into the newly formed family system.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** because the service provided pursuant to this program is focused on the needs of the parents /caretakers who have HIV/AIDS or who are terminally ill and the children who are in their care. This vulnerable population is often without the resources to manage their illness and provide efficiently for their children. The permanency program assists terminally ill parents in preparing a living will and medical proxy for themselves, therefore bringing hope and promise of a better tomorrow for the family system.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as they are aimed at ensuring the safety and well being of the children and families of Westchester County. The services provided by Volunteers of America pursuant to this program are designed to prevent homelessness and vagrancy of minor children who are left without resources upon the death of a terminally ill parent. Children connected to extended family and community resources are less likely to be truant and designated as a person in need of supervision (PINS).

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 out-of-home placement of children and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing out-of-home placement 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**
- **Volunteers of America cost annualized per family** – Volunteers of America Westchester Permanency Planning Program has an annualized program cost of **\$61,482**. The program expects to serve 32 families. That translates into an annualized cost of **\$1,921.31 per family per year**. The average length of service provision is 360 days. The per diem per family is \$5.34

The **negative consequence** for not approving this agreement may result in an increase in foster care 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. Vulnerable children of terminally ill parents may not have adequate guardianship and permanency plans that support their well-being. A number of children whose parents or guardians have HIV/AIDS might also be affected by HIV/AIDS. These children may miss the opportunity of being connected with required medical and mental health services rendered by professionals trained to work with the terminally ill.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of Volunteers of America Westchester Permanency Planning Program (WPP). Goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to verify process, outcome and impact of 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 Program Office will also verify goals and objectives through an annual site visit, monthly review of program roster, case specific summary/data sheets and agency reports.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that the Contractor met the established performance goals for the first three (3) quarters of the current contract year. Volunteers of America Westchester Permanency Planning Program worked with 50 families and 98 children. This was 56.3% above their expected annual contract capacity. Of the number of children served, 100% of the children were diverted from foster care placement. Of the number of families that received services, 100% were diverted from repeated subsequent and/or initial CPS investigations.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii in that this agreement with Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc. is for the provision of a program for the creation and support of recreation projects, youth service projects and other appropriate programs and services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social wellbeing of the youth of Westchester County.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Volunteers of America-Greater New York, 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 the Volunteers of America-Greater New York, Inc. to provide permanency planning services for families in which the parent/caretaker has HIV/AIDS or another terminal illness for the period from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$61,482 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved program budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement 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 necessary documents and take all necessary actions to effectuate the purpose of this resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$30,741
2011	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$30,741

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-11
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 7/1/10

End Date: 6/30/11

Funding Source

\$61,482
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 41%
State Aid: 36%
Federal Aid: 23%
Other: