

**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon  
Commissioner

**12492**

**Date:** June 25, 2010

**To:** Board of Acquisition and Contract

**From:** Kevin P. Mahon  
Commissioner of Social Services

**Subject:** Authority for the County of Westchester to amend a short form contract (DSS704-10) with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC., to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$50,000 to a new total not to exceed amount of \$70,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

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On or about December 18<sup>th</sup> 2009, the County of Westchester entered into a short form contract (DSS704-10) with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC., to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers. The term of the agreement was for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$20,000. The agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested to amend the aforesaid short form contract with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC., by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$50,000 from a total not to exceed amount of \$20,000 to a new total not to exceed amount of \$70,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been an increase in the number of court ordered visitation. Additional funding is being requested to cover the cost associated with the continuation of providing transportation services throughout the term of the contract.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes the health, safety and welfare of families and children in Westchester County by providing transportation services for court ordered visitations, thereby promoting attachment and strengthening the parent-child relationship due to frequency and consistency of visitation. Additionally, regular visitation between children who are currently in foster care and their families facilitate family assessments and can help the Department as well as the court to determine whether reunification is the best permanency option for the child.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** of the children of Westchester County. Visitation allows for the preservation and strengthening of parent-child relationships as well as to serve as a strategy for reunifying families and achieving permanency. Visitation also reduces the negative effects of separation for the child and the parent.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the visitation program enables the Department to determine an appropriate plan or timeframe for reunification, thereby decreasing the length of stay in foster care placement and avoiding the associated costs. Additionally, the provision of transportation for the purpose of court ordered visitations affords the Department the ability to remain in compliance, thereby preventing possible sanctions and/or fines. Lastly, based on the results of a cost analysis to compare the cost effectiveness of using this transportation provider versus using a case manager to provide the same service, it was concluded that it is more cost effective to use this transportation company. By using this transportation company for the first 3 months of 2010, the Department had an estimated cost avoidance of \$21,894 to \$30,167 in overtime costs. By providing transportation services, the case manager had more available routine work hours to focus on other aspects of their jobs such as case planning and case management activities.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Accordingly, authority is requested to amend the agreement with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC., for the purpose stated above.

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

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to amend a short form contract (DSS704-10) with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC., to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 by increasing the not to exceed amount by \$50,000 to a new total not to exceed amount of \$70,000 to be paid 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 except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Original Agreement	\$ 20,000
<b>This Amendment</b>	<b><u>\$ 50,000</u></b>
TOTAL	\$ 70,000

Agreement # 704-A-10

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$50,000

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010 Start Date: 1/1/10 End Date: 12/31/10  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 30%  
State Aid: 41%  
**\$50,000** Federal Aid: 29%  
(must match resolution) Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 7-8-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY