

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

13213

Date: July 30, 2010

To: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Grant Mitchell, MD, Acting Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Re: Authorization for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") for a program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$264,043 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") for the Family Court Act §1055 Family Wraparound Program for the term from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND FORTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$264,043) to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. This request reflects a reduced not-to-exceed amount compared to the last contract. The Program Office successfully negotiated a ten percent decrease which reflects a reduction in personnel costs.

The Family Wraparound Program supports relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases. The program will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional foster care placement; empowering the caretakers and biological parents to gain strategies, skills and services, including limit setting, how to give rewards and consequences, linkages to supportive community based services and support in assisting the family to develop better decision-making and parenting skills. This will ultimately strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics and allow the children to return home expediently and safely.

The program serves a **public purpose** by assisting the County to keep the children out of foster care. These children are all subjects of abuse and neglect proceedings who have been court ordered into an out of home placement. If the §1055 placement cannot be safely preserved, the child will be placed in foster care. However, children do better when they can be placed with family, remain in their community/schools and maintain existing ties with the community.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to support relatives and caretakers who come forward as a resource for children who would otherwise be placed in foster care and to strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics. Frequently kin become caregivers after a family crisis. They may have little preparation in terms of learning about the child welfare system, their new role as kinship caregivers or how to access support. Studies indicate that kin are more likely to be single and to be poorer, older, in poorer health, and have less formal education than non-kin foster parents. Therefore, relative caregivers may have a greater need for services and supports than non-kin foster caregivers. This program will provide services to the court directed custodian, the biological parent and children with the goal of preserving the placement, avoiding foster care placement and reuniting the family as quickly and safely as possible, thus promoting the welfare of these families. Services will include but not be limited to:

- Community Linkages
- 24 Hour On-Call Support
- Skill Building
- Communication Skills
- Limit Setting (rewards and consequences)
- Parenting Skills
- Education Advocacy
- Parent Partner/mentor
- Day Respite
- Clinical Support
- Mentoring

The goals and objectives are **in the best interests of the county in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they preserve the \$1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional and more costly foster care placement. Children in family foster care can cost the County from \$17.10 to \$58.65 daily per child and from \$109.78 to \$627.00 per day per child placed in a residential treatment facility.

Cost Avoidance: During the current contract year-to-date, 56 children averted foster care placements resulting in an estimated cost avoidance totaling \$349,524 (\$6,241.50 annual cost of family foster care at the lowest level of care per child x 56).

The goals and objectives will be monitored using the Performance Measurement Indicators developed by the department and approved by the County Budget Office. The program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

The department is able to report that NAFI has met the performance goals for this contract year. To date, 33 families and 58 children have been served. Out of the children served, 56 successfully averted foster care placement. Out of the families served, 100% of the families had a service and safety plan developed within 30 days and 99% of the progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare database, known as Connections.

The aforesaid agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)xviii of said Policy as the services provided hereunder are

to advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of children in the County of Westchester.

For the foregoing reasons, approval of the attached Resolution is respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 8-19-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department") is authorized to enter into an agreement with the North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") for a program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for a term from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed TWO HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR THOUSAND FORTY-THREE DOLLARS (\$264,043) to be paid pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 time after such release(s) or adoption(s), to conduct an analysis of the impacts of such State Budget on County finances. After such analysis, the County shall retain the right either to 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 and empowered to execute any and all documents necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010		22	8900	5960	_____	\$ 88,014
2011		22	8900	5960	_____	\$176,029

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-2011 Start Date 09/01/10 End Date 08/31/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$264,043

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 41%

State Aid: 36%

Federal aid: 23%

Other _____

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