



**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner

15683

DATE: November 19, 2010

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Grant E. Mitchell, M.D.  
Acting Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Diane Balistreri  
Coordinator, Office for Women

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with **Brooke Walsh** in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for consulting services at a rate of \$35/hour to assist in education, coordination and other services to victims of domestic violence and their household members for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for consulting services at a rate of \$35/hour, to assist in education, coordination and other services to victims of domestic violence and their household members, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase in the amount requested for 2011.

Funding to implement this initiative is provided through the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance and through the Children and Family Services Block Grant. While numerous support and service programs are available in Westchester, this initiative will concentrate efforts on improving service delivery through education and training, linkage and coordination of services between service providers and victims of domestic violence and their household members.

The **public purpose** of the services to be provided pursuant to the proposed agreement is to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the victims of domestic violence in the County of Westchester, by providing them with safe temporary shelter and linkage to supportive services.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to provide the following services:

- to assist victims of domestic violence and their household members with domestic violence related issues with referrals for mental health services and advocacy for benefits.
- to provide a linkage to supportive services, as well as relocation assistance when necessary. These supportive services are aimed at avoiding placements of this population at the shelters for domestic violence.
- to address the needs of victims of domestic violence to overcome the barriers associated with relocating from their primary residence to escape the abuse towards themselves and their household members.

The goals and objectives are in the **best interest of the County in terms of public health and public safety** as they are aimed at ensuring and enhancing the health and safety of the targeted population.

- The County enhances public safety by providing assistance with information and referrals to supportive services, to victims and their household members
- Victims of domestic violence and their household members are linked up with mental health providers and other healthcare providers.
- Referrals are made to group and individual counseling sessions structured around empowerment, independence and self-sufficiency in order to reduce the number of families returning to their abusers.

The goals and objectives are in the County's **best interests in terms of fiscal responsibility** as they are designed to provide assistance to women and their household members in order for them to be removed from a dangerous environment to an undisclosed safe living arrangement. This would lead to lower costs associated with responding to emergency calls for help and protection by the victims of domestic violence. Listed below are some of the ways in which the program would help cut costs and thereby reduce the County's financial burden:

- As individuals are moved to safe housing, there are a reduced number of emergency response calls to the police department and ambulance services, as well as expenses associated with Medicaid as a result of injuries due to domestic violence assaults.
- The frequent individual and group counseling sessions empower some of the victims to permanently leave the abusive relationships. This can be associated with a reduction in the number of referrals for abuse to Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services divisions. Providing this service is potential cost avoidance with expenditures associated with the APS and CPS staff and court costs.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored** using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The consultant is required to submit to the Department, quarterly statistical reports on all activities related to the program.

The **Department is able to report that the vendor's Performance Measurement Indicators** reflect that the program met its goal of eligible customers referred by the Department. The consultant assisted 100% of appropriate referrals during the 2010 contract period. This service effectively provides information and referrals to victims of domestic violence and household members. As of 9/30/10, the following outcomes were achieved by this vendor:

- 125 customers received a service from the vendor
- 136 customers were provided with information and referrals

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) (viii).

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12-30-2010 JOMAR VIEIRA, SECRETARY

# RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Social Services and the Coordinator of the Office for Women, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Brooke Walsh in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for consulting services at a rate of \$35/hour to assist in education, coordination and other services to victims of domestic violence and their household members for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly appointed designee is authorized to execute all documents to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
263	22	751L	4380	T751	\$55,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011 (Grant year)  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/11

End Date: 12/31/11

Funding Source

Tax Dollars:

State Aid:

**\$55,000**

(must match resolution)

Federal Aid: 100%

Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 30-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA SECRETARY