

**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD  
Acting Commissioner

15827

DATE December 6, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. for the provision of intensive home based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, in an amount not to exceed \$223,080 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. to provide intensive home based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, known as the Partners-in-Parenting (PIP) Program. The proposed contract, in an amount not to exceed \$223,080, shall commence on January 1, 2011 and be completed no later than December 31, 2011. Payments shall be made on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The Department has provided this service through The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. (MHA) for the past several years. The amount requested reflects a 10% decrease from the previous contract period. These savings were mostly achieved from decreases in personnel, fringe and other than personnel costs. There is no programmatic or service impact on the families and children to be served.

This contract serves a **public purpose** in that it preserves the family, reduces risk of abuse, neglect and /or need for foster care placement as caregivers with mental health issues become better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

One **goal and objective** of this contract is compliance with OCFS regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandates that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placement. The MHA PIP Program is able to achieve its goal by providing parenting skills as well as community-based and at-home clinical services to the families. Licensed clinicians provide services to families at high risk due to mental health issues. The parents who are referred for services through the PIP Program are those who are traditionally

resistant to parenting skills and psychotherapy. These parents may have impaired emotional and/or mental functioning and are often subject to other serious conditions such as substance abuse and/or homelessness. **The goals of this program are met through the following objectives:**

- Improving overall functioning and ability of parents to care for their children
- Providing direct in-home clinical treatment and services to parents with mental health issues
- Providing 24/7 access to mental health clinician
- Enhancing direct service to the families
- Development and maintenance of parent/child and other family attachments
- Engaging families and their children so that they fully participate in intensive therapeutic, case management and supportive services

**The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, improving emotional and/or mental functioning and increasing the stability of families thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and /or need for foster care placements.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **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 costs can range from \$50.22 up to \$562.00 per day per child, depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized cost from **\$18,330.30 to \$205,130.00 per child per year.**
- **Contract program cost annualized per child.** The PIP Program annualized program cost is \$223,080. As of October 31, 2010, the program provided services to 220 children. At this current rate of service, the per child cost for the contract year projects to be **\$1,014.00 per child.**

**The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the contract, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor, and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of October 31, 2010, the Department is able to report that the vendor is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% contract capacity. As of October 31, 2010, of the 220 children served, MHA has averted 100% of foster care placements. As of October 31, 2010, MHA reported that 100% of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

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

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into this Agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc., for the above stated purpose.

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

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Acting 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 Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc., to provide intensive home based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$223,080 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with the approved budget; and be it further

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

**RESOLVED**, and this contract is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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 any and 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
2011 101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$223,080

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 1/1/2011 End Date: 12/31/2011

Funding Source

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

**\$223,080**  
(must match resolution)