

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15847

DATE: December 7, 2010

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and terminating on December 31, 2011 whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic, counseling and dental services to children in foster care and parent training services to the foster child's birth parents or guardians in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to future appropriation

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic, counseling, and dental services to children in foster care and parent training services to the foster child's birth parents or guardians for an amount not to exceed \$900,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to future appropriation for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and terminating on December 31, 2011.

The WIHD therapeutic and counseling services are a critical program for children in family foster care who are in need of professional mental health services. WIHD also provides the necessary evaluation and mental health services to the children's biological parents. This gives the Department an integrated approach to providing the services and evaluating the parent/child prognosis for reunification, which serves as the basis for our recommendation to the court at permanency hearings. These services are mandated.

This is a fee-for-service contract that serves a **public purpose** by making available clinical services to children in foster care, parenting services to their birth parents, psychiatric assessments to determine the needs and treatment of children in foster care, including medication management and with special approval, court ordered psychiatric or psychological assessments of birth parents. Additionally,

WIHD provides dental services (as needed). These services are provided for children who are in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Social Services and allows for capacity up to 150 children, up to 80 families, and up to 25 children for medication management services.

The goals and objectives of this program are to:

- To ensure the well-being of children in foster care by providing clinical services, such as, individual and group therapy to assist in their adjustment to foster care, as well as, to help them resolve issues related to trauma, such as, the abuse experienced, separation from family and, in some cases, plan for permanency through termination of parents' rights and adoption
- To ensure permanency for children in foster care through returning them home to birth parents, by providing weekly parent training services to parents and children together, tailored to the needs of both parents and their children. Parent training services are provided using a curriculum developed by our staff specifically for this population.
- To provide adequate and appropriate documentation for caseworkers, the courts and others when termination of parents' rights is being considered
- To ensure that the mental health needs of children in foster care are met in a timely and supportive manner by a clinical staff well qualified to understand, diagnose and treat the mental health issues for children in foster care and collaborate closely with foster families and caseworkers to meet the planning needs for children and their families
To provide clinical consultation to caseworkers and others involved in the care and planning for children in foster care to assist in the development of timely permanency outcomes for children in foster care and to reduce the length of time children stay in care as well as to achieve the goals for permanency, safety and well being

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health as these treatment services will help reduce child behavior difficulties and achieve permanency either by returning these children home, or through alternative plans such as adoption, custody arrangements, etc., thus contributing to the well being of these children and their families. The professional expertise in the area of assessments and evaluations provided by WIHD on behalf of the Department ensures effective and efficient service delivery to the targeted population.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is paying the Medicaid rate for the services. Furthermore, lack of these services provided by WIHD could result in deteriorated functioning requiring placements in a higher level of care at a substantially higher cost. Family foster care can cost from \$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per child per year, depending on the age and level of care provided. Residential foster care can cost from \$18,330.30 to \$205,130.00 per child per year. This is a fee-for-service contract, so the Department only pays for services rendered.

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 by reviewing the performance reports submitted and making site visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators** reported as of October 31, 2010, the Department is able to report that the vendor has provided therapeutic services to 118 children and 47 families. WIHD

receives high praise from the Child Welfare Program and Field Office staff for their superior performance as the evaluations and assessments prepared by the vendor and used for court proceedings are well written and contain all the pertinent information.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant of Section 3 (a) viii of said policy.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into this Agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development for the above stated purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval. I recommend your favorable consideration of the annexed proposed Resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/22/2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic, counseling, and dental services to children in foster care and parenting training services to the foster child’s birth parents or guardians in an amount not to exceed \$900,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget for a term commencing on January 1, 2011 and terminating on December 31, 2011; 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 the 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents necessary 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	-----	\$900,000

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

Start Date: 01/01/11

End Date: 12/31/11

Funding Source

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

\$900,000
(must match resolution)