

16435

DATE: December 7, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin Cheverko
Commissioner of Correction

RE: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. dba St. John's Riverside to operate a violence prevention program for the term January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in amount not to exceed \$443,695, payable pursuant to an approved budget

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Correction ("DOC"), to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. dba St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") located at 967 North Broadway in Yonkers, New York, to operate a violence prevention program for the term January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$443,695, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

The Resolve to Stop the Violence Program ("RSVP") is based on a "restorative justice" model that has been successfully implemented at the San Francisco County Jail. St. John's has successfully implemented and operated the program since its inception on May 19, 2008 and enhanced the RSVP program by including concurrent chemical dependence treatment.

The goals & objectives are to address the unique treatment needs of males that have a violent history, are chemically dependent and incarcerated at the Westchester County Department of Correction (WCDOC). RSVP is a crime – victim driven program. It is a violence cessation project that reaches out to perpetrators. The goals of the program are:

- Ongoing recruitment and training of qualified program staff for the operation of RSVP's 44 inmate program. This will include violence intervention training as well as victim impact and theatre arts component.
- Inmate learning of the tools and strategies necessary to understand the roots of their violent behavior and its impact on themselves, victims and the community.
- Provision of quality addiction treatment services with recognition of the linkage between addiction and violence.
- Improved conduct and program participation while an inmate at WCDOC.

- Successful transition to community and reduction in risk for relapse and recidivism due to violent behavior and drug usage. Availability of community center component upon discharge.

Quarterly program evaluations and an annual report will be completed to determine program effectiveness and the achievement of stated goals and objectives.

St. John's will also utilize the following subcontractors in performing services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program
2269 Saw Mill River Road
Elmsford, NY 10523
(Victim impact panel sessions)

Impact:

RSVP is a Restorative Justice Model of violence intervention based on the principle that crime is an offense against the community, not simply a violation against the state, and creates an obligation to make things right. Offenders in this program learn how to avoid violence and are given the opportunity to understand and take responsibility for the harm done. Violent offenders incarcerated at WCDoc participate in a targeted intervention program that will identify and address the root causes of violence. They learn how to break the cycle of violence which leads to arrest and incarceration. RSVP's methodology incorporates offender accountability and community involvement to reduce recidivism, responsibly return ex-offenders to their communities, and prevent further violence. Inmates will also learn to use their hands-on-experience to become community advocates at different levels of opportunity in their life at home, and in their neighborhood, leading to the restoration of perpetrator, victim and community.

Evaluation:

Evaluation of the program's effectiveness since inception on May 19, 2008 is summarized as follows:

Violent offenders with broadly defined violent charges such as assault, domestic violence, armed robbery, rape and murder are mandated to the program or have cases pending for violent offenses.

The program is located in an all male 44-bed direct supervision cell-block. The program consists of peer re-education classes (*Manalive curriculum*), group discussions, academic classes, role-playing, counseling sessions, substance abuse treatment services and discussions with victims/survivors of violence.

In-house statistics and post release recidivism 2008 - 2010

- Since May 2008 there have been 522 participants in the RSVP program.

- In the past 29 months, only 11 total reportable acts of violence occurred on the unit (i.e. inmate fights, assaults), compared to a monthly average of 55 reported incidences in the jail's general population.
- 86 inmates completed the program in 2009 and 86 in 2010.
- All successful discharges were referred to the Yonkers based Community Center for continued care and substance abuse treatment in applicable.
- Upon release from jail, 85% of graduates were re-united with their families and 15% found suitable housing in the community.
- 60% of graduates reportedly secured full-time employment upon their release from jail.
- RSVP statistics for 2009:
 - Successful completions 86
 - Recidivists over 12 months 25
 - Recidivism rate 29%
- RSVP statistics for 2010
 - Successful completions 86
 - Note: (There are no recidivism rates for 2010 since this data reflects the numbers of prisoners that return to DOC in the next twelve months).

RSVP will have a positive financial and public safety impact on the County and its communities.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to section 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xvii) thereof.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the annexed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Correction, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. dba St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") to operate a violence prevention program for the term from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$443,695, payable pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that St. John's is authorized to utilize the following subcontractors in performing these services:

Westchester Community Opportunity Program
2269 Saw Mill River Road
Elmsford, NY 10523
(Victim impact panel sessions)

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 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 the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	35	1000	4230		\$443,695

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011 Start Date 1/1/11 End Date: 12/31/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$ 443,695
State Aid _____
\$ 443,695 Federal Aid _____
(must match resolution) Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-24-2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

St. John's Riverside Hospital
Behavioral Health Services

2011 Proposal for Resolve To Stop the Violence Program (RSVP)
Westchester County Department of Correction

The Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Department of St. John's Riverside Hospital (SJRH) proposes to operate a violence intervention and prevention program (RSVP) for inmates at the Westchester County Department of Correction (WCDOC). RSVP will be based upon the principles of Restorative Justice and will incorporate many of the design and programmatic components as well as the curriculum of the highly regarded "Resolve to Stop the Violence Project" (RSVP) operated by the City of San Francisco Sheriff's Department. Westchester's version of RSVP will also address the multi-faceted issue of offender violence from the perspective of perpetrator, victim and community with an overall goal of seeking a reduction in violent crime and violent inmate recidivism.

SJRH has provided accessible, high quality behavioral health services to Westchester County residents since 1967. They currently operate the largest system of chemical dependency treatment services in Westchester County. All of their treatment programs are licensed by the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and are accredited by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO). SJRH has partnered with WCDOC in the operation of the Solutions program since 2000.

Need:

- Violent offenders incarcerated at WCDOC require a targeted intervention and prevention program that will identify and address the root causes of their violent behavior and thereby break the cycle of arrest and incarceration and lead to the restoration of perpetrator, victim and community.

Goals:

- Ongoing recruitment and training of qualified program staff to implement the continuing operation of a 44 inmate program. This will include violence intervention training as well as victim impact.
- Inmate learning of the tools and strategies necessary to understand the roots of their violent behavior and its impact on themselves, victims and the community.
- Provision of quality addiction treatment services with recognition of the linkage between addiction and violence.
- Improved conduct and program participation while an inmate at WCDOC.
- Successful transition to community and reduction in risk for relapse and recidivism due to violent behavior and drug usage. Availability of community center component upon discharge.

Program:

Jail Component:

The jail component will consist of 44 male inmates, age 18 or above, drawn from the general jail population and housed in a dedicated pod. SJRH will collaborate with DOC on specific eligibility criteria but this will include: a charge related to domestic and/or general violence, a history/risk factors (including drug usage) indicative of continued violent behavior upon release, security classification within DOC and an expected length of stay at of at least sixty (60) days. Participants will be divided into four program groups led by a Counselor/Facilitator. New participants will be added at any time a slot becomes available.

SJRH proposes to follow, in general, the RSVP curriculum as it is defined by the San Francisco Sheriff's Department model. This will include the Manalive violence prevention component and a survivor (victim) component. SJRH proposes to enhance the model by including concurrent chemical dependence treatment utilizing principles and practices of our Solutions program. As such, our Counselor/Facilitator staff will be cross-trained in violence prevention and addiction treatment and we expect a percentage to be NYS Credentialed Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselors. We also propose that inmates with mental health histories and/or those currently taking psychotropic medications be considered for RSVP participation if acceptable criteria/guidelines can be agreed to with DOC. Finally, we are proposing the inclusion of program graduates to assume internship or per diem type roles within the program with respect to group facilitation or outreach responsibilities.

Proposed Hours of Operation for Jail Component:

Monday	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Tuesday	9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Wednesday	9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Thursday	9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Friday	9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Community Center (Post-Release) Component:

The community center component of RSVP plays three critical roles. First, it provides the ongoing training opportunity for participants to obtain the full 12 months of total training necessary to be considered a "graduate". Secondly, it is an essential "anchor" resource that provides professional and peer support necessary for the successful reintegration of participants into the community. Finally, the community center provides a platform for graduates to share what they've learned and to provide violence prevention and intervention services to the larger community. The community center will be scheduled to ensure maximum convenience for participants.

Staffing:

Director (.10 FTE): Direct supervision of RSVP.

Clinical Supervisor (1.0 FTE): Supervisory and clinical care coordination.

Counselor/Facilitator (4.0 FTE): Facilitate daily operation of program; maintain inmate caseload.

Budget:

Director	(.10 FTE)	9,725
Clinical Supervisor	(1.0 FTE)	67,660
Counselor/ManAlive Facilitator	(4.0 FTE)	<u>189,875</u>
Total:		267,260

Fringe Benefits@33% 88,196

OTPS Expense:

Office Supplies	1,500
Program Supplies	1,500
Toxicology Testing	2,000
Travel & Training	1,000
Misc.	1,000
Westcop/Victim Assistant Svcs.	21,200
Quality Assurance Review	5,000
Graduate Stipend	<u>7,500</u>
	40,700

Agency Administration/Overhead 47,539

TOTAL: \$443,695

Notes:

- Additional funding may be necessary if community center space needs increase or re-location is necessary.
- Budget assumes DOC will provide equipment, furniture, telecommunications
- There is only one subcontractor: Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. (Westcop). At the outset of RSVP, St. John's surveyed Westchester based providers for those who could deliver violence prevention services in a correctional environment. The Victim's Assistance Program operated by Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc. was selected and a contract with Westcop to provide those services in 2008 was executed. St. John's has subsequently renewed the contract each year because there is an established relationship and quality services are rendered to the RSVP participants.