

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

17044

Date: January 26, 2011

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

Subject: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development for the provision of medical services to both foster children and children on trial discharge from foster care in an amount not to exceed \$197,011 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation for the period from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through the Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD"), pursuant to which WIHD will provide medical services to both foster children and children on trial discharge from foster care as part of a comprehensive support program. The term of the Agreement will commence on April 1, 2011 and continue through March 31, 2012. In consideration for services to be rendered, the County will pay WIHD an amount not-to-exceed \$197,011, payable monthly in accordance with an approved budget.

Pursuant to the terms of the proposed Agreement, WIHD will provide one full-time equivalent of a pediatrician to work in the Department's pediatric office, including on-call services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The pediatric office will be opened 5 days per week, with scheduled half-day clinic sessions for intake and discharge assessments, sick-child visits as well as planned well-child care. WIHD will also provide sick-child visits at minimum when half-day clinic sessions are not taking place during weekdays and also on Saturdays. WIHD will also provide evening pediatric office hours for children placed in foster care in Westchester County DSS foster homes and children on trial discharge from foster care.

Although medical services are exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sec. 3(a) viii thereof, on September 23, 2010, the Department issued a Request For



Proposals (“RFP”) to solicit qualified agencies to provide pediatric medical services at the Department’s pediatric office located at 112 East Post Road in White Plains. In an effort to solicit as many proposals as possible, the RFP was posted on the County Website. On November 11, 2010, the Department received four (4) proposals in response to the RFP from the following agencies: River Valley Pediatrics, WIHD, The Healing Staff and Caring Pediatrics of White Plains, P.C. A review team comprised of eleven staff members from the Department’s Child Welfare units was assembled to evaluate the proposals based upon specified evaluation criteria as set forth in the RFP. One of the proposers, Caring Pediatrics of White Plains, P.C, was disqualified for failure to submit the required documentation in its application. Following a review of the remaining three (3) proposals with reference to the evaluation criteria set forth in the RFP, WIHD scored the highest rating from members of the review committee, including being the lowest net cost. Accordingly, the Department seeks to award the contract to WIHD.

This contract will serve a **public purpose** by promoting the safety of children by meeting the medical service needs of children in foster care in the County of Westchester. Furthermore, foster parents have access to a clinic that is specialized and sensitive to the needs of the children in foster care. By having 24 hours / 7 days a week access to the medical providers’ care for the children in foster care, the Department will be able to maintain a comprehensive health history for the children as they enter care, while they are in care, as well as, at the point of discharge. The availability of same day medical services reduces the trauma to children entering foster care and while in foster care. In the absence of this service, many of the children would be required to go to an emergency room.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide children currently in foster care with accessible medical services. The Vendor will provide on-call services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The vendor will also provide evening pediatric office hours to children in foster care and children on trial discharge from foster care who are attending school.

Services provided to foster care children include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Routine physical exams and immunizations
- Lab testing
- Nutritional assessments and counseling
- Developmental screenings
- Assessments for signs of abuse
- Referral to other physicians as necessary
- Ongoing care for sick children
- Testing at birth as state mandated
- Routine immunizations as required by NY State Law
- Coordination of specialty care appointments needed by children in family foster care
- Preparation of detailed, comprehensive health histories and health care plans for children in family foster care
- Basic assessment of dental care needs and referral to a dental clinic unless the child already has a community dentist
- Pre-screening for hearing problems at placement
- Education, support and guidance for foster parents concerning health or behavioral issues of children in their care
- Data collection and entry into the NYS CONNECTIONS system in compliance with NYS regulations

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health because services provided by this contract will help to ensure that each child coming into foster care will have their needs and conditions evaluated and properly treated, if needed. Initial assessment for children coming into foster care is critical in order to quickly identify complicated, serious physical health, mental health, or developmental problems. Furthermore, prevention strategies recommended and implemented by the Pediatrician may help to lessen the ill effects of neglect and abuse.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety because comprehensive assessments performed by the pediatrician allow for more detail knowledge of the child's physical and mental health, thereby, giving the Department the best recommendations of placements for each child, as well as, recommendations for the best treatment plan for each child, if required.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility because the Department is able to place children at the appropriate level of care as recommended by the pediatrician, as well as, to assist in the development of permanency planning for each child in foster care.

The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored through the application of performance measures as stipulated in the contract developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The Department will also review periodic reports submitted by the Vendor and make onsite visits. The program office will be responsible for establishing milestones and tracking the Vendor's achievements.

According to the performance indicators, the previous vendor River Valley Pediatrics, LLC served 971 children in 2010 under this program, which included 107 intake visits, 48 discharge physicals, 235 preventive health visits, and 357 sick visits.

Accordingly, authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") for the above said purpose.

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

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development to provide medical services for both foster children and children on trial discharge from foster care for the period from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012 for an amount not to exceed \$197,011 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract 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 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$147,758
2012	101	22	8900	5880	-----	\$49,253

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011-2012
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 04/01/11

End Date: 03/31/12

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 30%
State Aid: 41%
Federal Aid: 29%
Other:

\$197,011
(must match resolution)