

18742

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Diane G. Balistreri
Coordinator, Office for Women

DATE: April 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Authority to rescind five previously adopted resolutions to enter into five separate agreements with My Sisters' Place, Inc., and now enter into a single agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. to provide various non-residential domestic violence services for an amount not-to-exceed \$677,875 for the period January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

On April 21, 2011, your Honorable Board approved five resolutions (the "April 21st Resolutions") authorizing the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into five separate agreements with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place") pursuant to which My Sisters' Place would provide non-residential domestic violence support services, school-based education, legal services, education and training to medical facilities, and a coordinator of training, for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for a total amount not-to-exceed Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$677,875), to be paid quarterly pursuant to approved budgets (the "Agreements"). The Agreements have not yet been executed.

The County now respectfully requests authority from your Honorable Board to rescind the April 21st Resolutions, and now enter into a single agreement to provide these services. A single agreement would prove to be beneficial for both the County and My Sisters' Place as it would increase administrative efficiencies.

Accordingly, the attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County to enter into a single agreement (the "Agreement") with My Sisters' Place to provide the following non-residential domestic violence services, as more fully described in Schedule A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof:

- support services to victims, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance, through its Community Counseling and Advocacy Program (CCAP)

- school-based education through its Domestic Violence Education and Prevention (DVEP) program
- legal services in Yonkers to women victims
- education, training and domestic violence expert assistance to hospitals, healthcare providers and facilities in the County through its Operation Safety program
- a coordinator of training

The proposed Agreement will have a term of one year beginning January 1, 2011 and ending December 31, 2011, for an amount not-to-exceed Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$677,875), to be paid quarterly pursuant to an approved budget, of which

- the County's share will be \$340,719: \$106,425 through the budget of the Office for Women; and \$234,294 which is the County's share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services
- New York State's share will be \$205,722, which is the State share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services
- the Federal government's share will be \$131,434, which is the Federal share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services

Please be advised that Section 459-c of the New York Social Services Law directs social services districts, such as the County, to offer and provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance. Non-residential services programs must have the ability to provide the following services:

- 1) Information and Referral services
- 2) Advocacy
- 3) Counseling
- 4) Community education and outreach activities
- 5) Hotline services

The proposed Agreement will serve a public purpose by enhancing the safety and independence of abused women. If abused women are empowered to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are helped to become independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

Throughout its 30+ year history, My Sisters' Place has offered through the CCAP a holistic approach to the many and varied needs of domestic violence victims, including safety, advocacy and supportive healing services for themselves and their children. It works with each survivor to develop a plan to be free from the violence, taking the victim's entire life situation into account as it aims to restore the victim's sense of security and dignity. Over the years, My Sisters' Place has had numerous achievements as staff and clients together create strategies that offer protection from abuse and suffering, as well as a path to a safe and peaceful future.

The children's program focuses on working with children who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence in their homes. The program utilizes various skills and activities to help each child understand and heal from the trauma of their experience and to strengthen their relationships, both familial and peer. With this program, My Sisters' Place is able to assist victims to achieve safety, prevent future violence and begin the healing process, which ultimately saves lives and taxpayer dollars. Its numerous achievements have confirmed how important its much needed services are.

Through the school-based DVEP program, My Sisters' Place works with schools and various community organizations throughout Westchester to provide classroom presentations, discussion groups, individual counseling and an extracurricular program. By educating teens, they are given the tools to recognize the signs of abuse and break the cycle of violence, possibly preventing their involvement in an abusive relationship. My Sisters' Place developed this program based on its experience that educating teens themselves is the most effective way to stop teen dating abuse. There are several aspects which make this program valuable and unique. My Sisters' Place is able to reach thousands of middle and high school students on multiple levels because of the program's various components. The classroom presentations provide students with information to expand their knowledge of the issue. The discussion groups promote increased involvement and interaction while allowing teens to speak openly with each other. The individual counseling sessions, which are initiated by the students, are important because students are able to discuss private matters without fear of what others would think. My Sisters' Place even went one step further and created a program (S.A.F.E.R.) where teens have the opportunity to get involved and raise awareness of domestic violence through various community projects, walks, and other events.

My Sisters' Place began providing legal services under contract with the County in 1999 and has since effectively provided this assistance. The legal program serves women for representation in domestic violence, support, custody and visitation litigation, enabling those women to leave their abusive partners and survive independently. In addition, women are assisted with advice and brief legal counsel.

Education and training of professional communities is one of the state-mandated functions of non-residential domestic violence programs. Through the Operation Safety program, healthcare providers gain the proper education and training required to properly respond to the specific needs of domestic violence victims. As a result, victims receive the medical assistance they need as well as obtain vital information about domestic violence services available in Westchester.

As a result of the trainings provided by My Sisters' Place's Training Coordinator, domestic violence service providers are better equipped to assist victims with the struggles they face. The training program not only increases the safety of victims, but also reduces duplication of services within the domestic violence community by educating service providers on the specific needs of victims, preventing them from having to go to numerous agencies for assistance.

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement (as more fully described in Schedule A) are for My Sisters' Place to provide:

- support services to 480 unduplicated victims, assistance to 1,200 hotline callers, and assistance in 1,200 cases through the CCAP
- assistance to 30 unduplicated schools, making approximately 480 presentations and reaching nearly 4,800 students through the DVEP program;
- legal assistance to 125 unduplicated victims in at least 350 cases
- 80 presentations, reaching over 800 healthcare providers through its Operation Safety program
- 22 internal, 34 external trainings, community trainings, as well as develop one new curriculum on oppression, intersectionality, and domestic and intimate partner violence

During the previous contract term, My Sisters' Place provided:

- support services to 319 unduplicated victims, assistance to 844 hotline callers, and assistance in 900 cases through the CCAP
- assistance to 44 unduplicated schools, making 583 presentations and reaching over 5,600 students through the DVEP program
- legal assistance to 141 unduplicated victims in 486 case
- 72 presentations, reaching 930 healthcare providers through its Operation Safety program
- 29 internal and 39 external trainings, and developed one new curriculum on domestic violence screening for service providers

The goals and objectives of the proposed Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring My Sisters' Place's performance by means of site visits, as well as their monthly statistics and quarterly narratives.

The effectiveness of the CCAP will be determined by voluntary client surveys, which will be given in out in English and Spanish upon the closing of cases. This will serve to assess the client's overall satisfaction of the services rendered as well as recommendations for improvements. For example, in 2010 187 voluntary surveys reported that:

- 93% of clients know more ways to plan for their safety
- 90% of clients know more about community resources
- 94% of clients feel more comfortable asking for help
- 100% of clients were satisfied with the quality of services received

The effectiveness of the school-based DVEP program will be determined by pre- and post-tests provided to students. Outcome results will be measured by their understanding of teen dating violence dynamics; their knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence; and their understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping. For example, in 2010:

- 76% of students showed an increased understanding of teen dating violence dynamics
- 81% of students showed demonstrated knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence
- 76% of students showed an increased understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping

In addition, over 2,800 students completed the pre- and post-tests and showed a 12% average increase in their scores.

The effectiveness of legal services to victims will be determined by benefits received as a result of closed cases. Such benefits include: obtaining or maintaining custody of children; obtaining or preserving the right to visitation; obtaining a divorce, separation or annulment; obtaining an Order of Protection; and obtaining, preserving or increasing child support. The following are a few examples of benefits received as a result of 526 closed cases in 2010:

- 16 clients obtained or maintained custody of their children
- 7 clients obtained or preserved the right to visitation
- 11 clients obtained an Order of Protection
- 5 clients obtained, preserved, or increased child support
- 392 clients obtained advice and counsel on a family matter

The effectiveness of the Operation Safety program will be determined by in-depth evaluation forms distributed to healthcare providers. Outcome results will be measured by participants' knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence; their skill or comfort level in screening, assessing and/or responding to patients who may be victims of intimate partner violence; and their knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County. For example, in 2010 773 evaluations showed that:

- 98% of trainees had increased knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence and other forms of victimization
- 97% of trainees were able to relate the importance of domestic violence awareness to their professional or personal lives
- 98% of trainees had increased knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County

The effectiveness of the training program will be determined by in-depth evaluation forms. These forms will evaluate the trainer(s) as well as the content covered and quality of the overall presentations. Outcome results will be measured by participants' knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence and other forms of victimization; ability to relate the importance of domestic violence awareness to their professional or personal lives; and knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County. For example in 2010 , 783 evaluations showed that:

- 99% of trainees had increased knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence and other forms of victimization
- 98% of trainees were able to relate the importance of domestic violence awareness to their professional or personal lives
- 94% of trainees had increased knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County

The procurement for the school-based DVEP program is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(ix), which exempts contracts with "teachers, lecturers and other education professionals or experts," as well as Section 3(a)(xviii), which exempts contracts for the "advancement of the moral, physical, mental and social well being of the youth of Westchester County."

The procurement for the Operation Safety program and training program is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(ix), which exempts contracts with “teachers, lecturers and other education professionals or experts.”

Authority to exempt non-residential domestic violence support services through the CCAP and legal services from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof has been granted by your Board in accordance with a separate resolution of the same date hereof.

Accordingly, I recommend approval of the attached proposed Resolution.



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RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Coordinator of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the five resolutions approved on April 21, 2011 (the “April 21st Resolutions”), authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into five separate agreements with My Sisters’ Place, Inc. to provide non-residential domestic violence support services, school-based education, legal services, education and training to medical facilities, and a coordinator of training, for the period from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$677,785, to be paid quarterly pursuant to approved budgets, are hereby rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into a single agreement (the “Agreement”) with My Sisters’ Place, Inc., for the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, for provision of the following non-residential domestic violence services, as more fully described in Schedule A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof:

- support services to victims, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance, through its Community Counseling and Advocacy Program (CCAP)
- school-based education through its Domestic Violence Education and Prevention (DVEP) program
- legal services in Yonkers to women victims
- education, training and domestic violence expert assistance to hospitals, healthcare providers and facilities in the County through its Operation Safety program
- a coordinator of training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in consideration for services to be rendered, My Sisters’ Place, Inc. shall be paid an amount not-to-exceed Six Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Five Dollars (\$677,875), to be paid quarterly pursuant to an approved budget, of which:

- the County’s share will be \$340,719: \$106,425 through the budget of the Office for Women; and \$234,294 which is the County’s share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services
- New York State’s share will be \$205,722, which is the State share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services
- the Federal government’s share will be \$131,434, which is the Federal share of the Federal/State/County domestic violence money administered by the Office for Women under an Interdepartmental Cooperative Plan with the Department of Social Services; and be it further

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 be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all documents and take any actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| \$379,274 Basic Non-Residential | \$ 62,135 Operation Safety |
| 58,330 DVEP | 44,290 DVEP |
| 91,270 Legal Center | \$106,425 Tax levy funds |
| <u>42,576</u> Training Coordinator | |
| \$571,450 Trust funds | |

Account to be charged/credited:

| FUND | DEPT | Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars | |
|------|------|---|--------------------|---------------|-----------|--|
| 263 | 11 | 111L | 4380 | T111 | \$571,450 | |
| 101 | 11 | 0900 | 4380 | N/A | \$106,425 | |

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

\$677,875
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars \$340,719
 State Aid \$205,722
 Federal Aid \$131,434
 Other _____

Schedule A

COMMUNITY COUNSELING AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM (CCAP)

The Community Counseling and Advocacy Program (CCAP) offers community-based counseling and support services to adult and child victims of intimate partner violence and human trafficking. The full program includes a team of six experienced staff members, several of whom are bilingual in both English and Spanish. Staff provide short term supportive counseling both one on one and in support groups. An intake specialist speaks initially with each client to assess immediate needs and then a counselor is assigned to provide the most suitable services in a culturally and linguistically sensitive manner. Our staff members are trained in the dynamics of domestic violence, as well as in respecting and striving to understand each client's unique personal process and individual needs. Counselors address client trauma, provide safety planning, give information about options for safety and practical needs, and provide other helpful resources that benefit this specific victim population.

Under the terms of the agreement, My Sisters' Place shall provide the following services:

Community Counseling and Advocacy

A. Hotline Services: My Sisters' Place will continue to provide victims of domestic violence with crisis intervention, needs assessment, safety-planning, referrals and information via telephone during normal business hours (9a.m.—5p.m.) Hotline calls include calls received in the Yonkers Office, returned calls to potential clients who contacted us and outreach calls made on Domestic Incident Reports (DIR's). This objective will be **100 per month**.

B. Unduplicated Services (caseload): The Community Counseling and Advocacy staff will provide services within this contract such as individual counseling, information and referral, advocacy and support groups, to approximately **100 clients per month**.

C. New Clients: The Community Counseling and Advocacy staff will open approximately **40** new non-residential cases per month. A new case is defined as in-person contact with a client, and can include clients who are seeking counseling, information and referrals, advocacy, and support groups.

D. Counseling: The Community Counseling and Advocacy staff will provide individual counseling services to non-residential clients an anticipated **135** times per month.

E. Information and Referral: Community Counseling and Advocacy staff will provide information and referral services to non-residential clients with an anticipated objective of **125** times per month.

F. Advocacy: Staff will advocate on behalf of clients with the goal of securing services, resources and remedies to ensure safety for victims and their families through collaboration with internal programs and outside agencies. This objective will be **45** units of advocacy per month.

G. Support Groups: Community Counseling and Advocacy staff (2.43 FTE) who facilitate support groups at My Sisters' Place will provide approximately **4** ongoing support groups per month for the next 12 months; a total of **14** group sessions per month and a total of **40** group contacts per month. Support groups will be offered in English and Spanish; ASL interpretation is available as needed.

H. Community Education/Outreach: Over the next 12 months, staff will conduct presentations on such issues as victimization, domestic violence, and related topics to Westchester County agencies and organizations in an effort to educate, enhance public awareness and promote prevention through community outreach. We anticipate conducting **3 presentations to approximately 20 audience members per month.**

Reporting Requirements: Reports shall give a statistical and at times a descriptive account of the non-residential services rendered (exclusive of the victims' names) and may include a narrative on obstacles, trends, initiatives and other related variables which may result in deviations in meeting objectives. The reports shall be sent to the Office for Women by the 10th of each month to reflect the prior month's activities.

A. The contractor shall provide the County with all information required by the County's Consolidated Service Plan.

B. The contractor shall provide Community Counseling and Advocacy program services to victims of domestic violence in compliance with the eligibility and program standards set forth in Chapter 53 of the Laws of 1991 and Article 6-A of the Social Services Law.

My Sisters' Place will provide Community Counseling and Advocacy program services to adult and child victims of domestic violence in compliance with the eligibility and program standards set forth in applicable statutes. Services will be available in both English and Spanish.

| Service | Goal |
|---|--|
| Hotline Services-Units of Service We will provide telephone crisis intervention, support, information and referrals for those seeking help with domestic violence. | <u>100</u> calls per month |
| Community Counseling and Advocacy Services-Unduplicated Persons Per Month We will provide non-residential services, including but not necessarily limited to the following: information and referral; advocacy, including court accompaniment; individual counseling; safety planning; and crisis intervention to this number of persons: | <u>100</u> persons per month |
| New Clients-Unduplicated Persons Per Month Non-residential counseling staff will open new cases for the provision of non-residential services. A new case is defined as in-person. | <u>40</u> new cases per month |
| Counseling-Units of Service Staff will provide individual counseling services to non-residential clients. | <u>135</u> per month <u>1620</u> annual |
| Information and Referral-Units of Service We will provide information and referral services to non-residential clients. | <u>125</u> per month <u>1500</u> annual |
| Advocacy-Units of Service We will advocate on behalf of non-residential clients, including advocacy with legal, law enforcement, social services, housing, medical and education/employment interventions. | <u>45</u> per month <u>540</u> annual |
| Support Group-Units of Service Staff will facilitate support group services to non-residential clients. * "Contact" means one client visit to one group session; "total contacts" equals all sessions of all groups in month | <u>4</u> groups/mo <u>14</u> group sessions/mo <u>40</u> contacts/month* |
| Community Education and Outreach-Presentations We will conduct public education, awareness and prevention efforts. | <u>3</u> per month <u>36</u> annual |
| Community Education and Outreach-Audience We will conduct public education, awareness and prevention efforts. | <u>20</u> per month <u>240</u> annual |
| Number of staff (full-time equivalents) assigned to this contract | <u>2.41</u> direct svc <u>1.0</u> supervision <u>3.41</u> FTE's |

Measuring Program Effectiveness

As a result of receiving Community Counseling and Advocacy services, the following outcomes are expected:

- 80% of clients will report that they are satisfied with the quality of counseling services.
- 85% of clients will report that they know more ways to plan for safety.
- 85% of clients will report that they know more about community resources.

These outcomes will be measured by collecting data from client surveys which clients are encouraged to complete after participating in counseling sessions.

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EDUCATION AND PREVENTION (DVEP) PROGRAM

Since 1981, the **Domestic Violence Education and Prevention (DVEP)** Program has worked with schools and local organizations in Westchester County to educate teens about the reality of dating violence. In our experience we have found that the most effective way to end teen dating violence is by going to the source—teens themselves. By collaborating with educators, we give young people the tools to recognize and break the cycle of violence in their lives. Our team of educators works with middle and high school students through classroom presentations, individual counseling, and discussion groups.

Classroom Presentations

The Domestic Violence Education and Prevention (DVEP) Program works with schools and community organizations throughout Westchester County to provide educational prevention presentations to teens, serving both middle and high school students. Presentations usually occur over two periods/days with the collaboration of school educators, most often taking place in health classes. The goal of the presentations is to get the students involved in their own learning experience about the issue of dating violence. Using various techniques such as discussion, role play, and supplemental materials, our educators work *with* students to expand their knowledge of teen dating violence and healthy friendships.

Rap Groups

DVEP also offers two 6 – 8 week long student rap discussion group cycles during the school year. These discussion groups cover intersecting issues such as alcohol and drug abuse, stalking, community violence, sexual health and warning signs of violence in LGBTQ relationships. Facilitators include the DVEP Program Coordinator, as well as other community educators. By creating a supportive environment where students are encouraged to talk openly with one another, rap groups are designed to expand the students' level of personal growth, while covering topics that may not otherwise be included in their educational experience. It has been our experience that the most effective Rap groups include no more than 10 students each session. Students in these Rap groups form closer bonds, become more involved in discussions and are more active participants.

Individual Supportive Counseling

Although many teens are familiar with dating violence, our classroom presentations and rap groups might be the first time they have had the words to label their experiences as abusive. Often students have additional questions, or would like to speak with someone privately about their own experiences with teen dating violence, sexual assault, or family violence. They may request to do so anonymously at the end of a presentation, or may contact My Sisters' Place offices directly. A limited number of individual supportive counseling sessions may occur at the

school or at our agency's non-residential offices in White Plains or Yonkers with the DVFP Program Coordinator.

S.A.F.E.R.

S.A.F.E.R. (**S**tudents **A**dvocating for **E**quality in **R**elationships) is the DVFP Program's community service forum for teens. S.A.F.E.R. recruits volunteers through its prevention presentations and collaborates with existing youth groups in Westchester County schools and community agencies to provide community service projects on teen dating violence awareness; these projects can be in exchange for community service hours or credits. S.A.F.E.R. activities include fundraising, participating in events to raise awareness about domestic violence, and various other projects. S.A.F.E.R.'s focus is on working with participants to gain a full understanding of teen dating violence to prepare them to take a more active role as ambassadors and mentors in educating their peers.

My Sisters' Place will provide non-residential services to middle and high school students under this contract.

| Presentations | Level of Service-Goal |
|---|---|
| <p>Number of Schools: This program will make presentations to the following number of schools and community organizations over the coming calendar year:</p> <p>Number of Unduplicated Schools:</p> | <p><u>45</u> number of schools</p> <p><u>30</u> unduplicated schools</p> |
| <p>Number of Presentations: This program will make the following number of presentations per month (summer months will average much less than this). A presentation is defined as either a classroom hour or one community presentation. A two-day presentation counts as two presentations.</p> | <p><u>47</u> presentations per month</p> <p><u>483</u> presentations per year (47 presentations X 10 mo. + 13 summer presentations)</p> |
| <p>Number of students: This program will reach the following number of students:</p> | <p><u>471</u> students per month</p> <p><u>4795</u> annual (471 x 10 mo. + 85 students over the summer)</p> |
| Rap Groups | Level of Service-Goal |
| <p>A "contact" equals a client visit to a group session.</p> | <p><u>2</u> cycles per year</p> <p><u>6-8</u> sessions per cycle</p> <p><u>7-10</u> student contacts per cycle</p> |
| Individual Counseling | Level of Service-Goal |
| <p>This program will provide individual domestic violence counseling to students who request it.</p> | <p><u>10-12</u> clients per year</p> <p><u>24-48</u> sessions per year</p> |

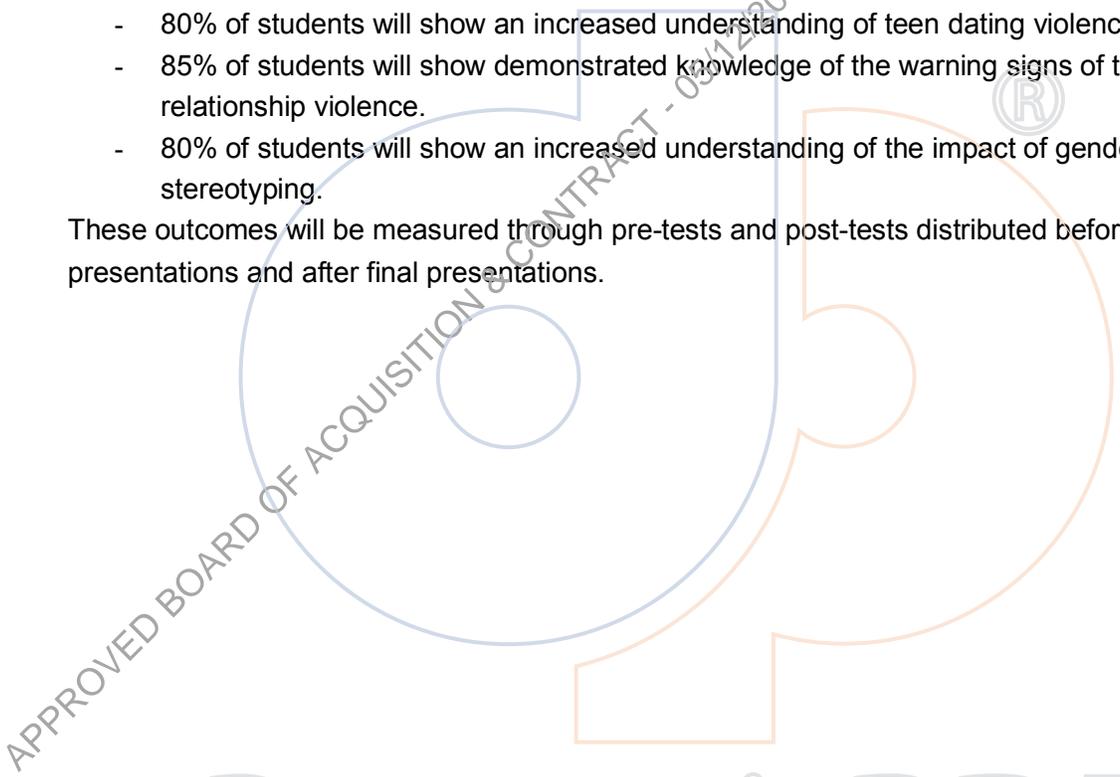
| | |
|---|--|
| Requests for Counseling | <u>6</u> requests per month |
| S.A.F.E.R. | Level of Service-Goal |
| S.A.F.E.R. collaborates with existing youth groups in Westchester County schools and community agencies to provide community service projects geared towards teen dating violence awareness in exchange for community service hours or credits. | <u>12</u> meetings per year <u>5 -10</u> students per meeting <u>6</u> community projects per year |

Measuring Program Effectiveness:

As a result of participating in DVEP presentations, the following outcomes are expected:

- 80% of students will show an increased understanding of teen dating violence dynamics.
- 85% of students will show demonstrated knowledge of the warning signs of teen relationship violence.
- 80% of students will show an increased understanding of the impact of gender stereotyping.

These outcomes will be measured through pre-tests and post-tests distributed before the initial presentations and after final presentations.



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LEGAL CENTER

For over 30 years, My Sisters Place has worked to meet the needs of a vulnerable population: victims of domestic violence, who are largely low-income, marginalized, and who are often actively fleeing their batterers. Our clients simultaneously must struggle with incredible challenges to their daily lives – securing safe and affordable housing, addressing medical issues, acquiring financial security, seeing to the needs of their children as well as engaging with the court system.

Since its founding in 1997 the Legal Center of My Sisters Place has a demonstrated capacity to deliver high quality legal services, free of charge, to eligible clients throughout Westchester County. The Legal Center has a total of nine full-time and part-time attorneys, including a General Counsel with considerable state and federal court expertise and an attorney with specialized experience in handling appeals, as well as four non-attorney bi-lingual legal advocates.

A MSP staff attorney will provide legal intake services, legal advice/brief services and direct representation for residents of Yonkers. The intake process allows us to assess the nature of the client's legal issues; to provide immediate legal advice and brief services as well as referrals, such as counseling, emergency shelters, and other service providers where appropriate; and to determine whether to accept a case for direct representation. Legal advice and brief services often includes an assessment of the caller's potential legal remedies, suggestions for collecting and preserving evidence, and directions on how to file various court papers without an attorney. In the last two years, the Legal Center has expanded its direct representation services by making a greater number of substantive written motions as well as taking on appellate cases, where appropriate. While this legal work tends to be time consuming, it is often the most effective way to vindicate the rights of vulnerable clients, especially where the abusers are engaging in repeated and frivolous legal proceedings as a means of continuing their harassment.

Non-residential funding from the Westchester County Office for Women will support one full-time attorney, and a portion of a translator and supervision.

Goals and Objectives

The MSP staff attorney will provide legal services (which may include direct representation, advice and counsel, brief services, information and/or referrals) to at least 125 victims of domestic violence in at least 350 cases in the contract year. The attorney will provide assistance to victims of domestic violence in the Yonkers Integrated Domestic Violence Court and the Yonkers Family Court in matters including family offenses, custody, visitation, paternity, child support and spousal support.

Performance Measurement

The proposed agreement will measure outcomes of closed cases according to the range of possibilities for family law matters listed below.

Cases Opened:

Cases Closed:

New Clients:

| Family Law Staff Attorney |
|--|
| Obtained or maintained custody of children |
| Obtained or preserved right to visitation |
| Obtained a divorce, separation or annulment |
| Obtained assistance in negotiating a separation agreement |
| Established paternity for child |
| Obtained protection from domestic violence |
| Obtained, preserved, or increased child support |
| Obtained downward modification of child support |
| Obtained, preserved, or increased spousal support |
| Obtained downward modification of spousal support |
| Obtained advice & counsel on a Family matter |
| Obtained non-litigation advocacy services on a Family matter |
| Obtained referral on a Family matter |
| Obtained benefit – none of the above – <i>specify</i> : |
| Client withdrew or benefit unknown: |

APPROVED FOR THE PROPOSED CONTRACT 05/12/2011 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

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OPERATION SAFETY

The American Medical Association has referred to intimate partner violence as a major social and public health problem. While it is true that many victims seek safety and assistance from service providers and the judicial system, an overwhelming number either do not know services exist or choose not to access them. However, many of these victims seek medical attention for injuries or illness symptoms that have long been correlated with ongoing domestic or intimate partner violence. Although societal awareness about the scourge of domestic violence has been increasing, most healthcare providers still fail to adequately screen domestic violence victims and may not routinely inquire about or document abuse as the cause of their patients' symptoms. Lack of training domestic violence and its toll on the health of victims/survivors have enabled providers to avoid asking appropriate and potentially lifesaving questions of their patients. At times healthcare professionals feel that it is their responsibility to fix their patients' lives as well as address their medical concerns; this may result in medical professionals exerting pressure on their patients to leave abusive partners, rather than providing support, relevant information, and resources.

The **Operation Safety Program** attempts to address such issues by offering specifically tailored presentations to professional and allied medical staff about domestic and intimate partner violence. These trainings provide information about dynamics and impacts of domestic and intimate partner violence and necessary tools for effectively screening, identifying, and supporting patients who may be victims/survivors. For the 2011 contract year, existing curricula will be revised and updated. Less traditional healthcare providers such as medical & nursing students, home health aides, dentists, and emergency medical technicians will be targeted for outreach. Special efforts will be made to offer series of trainings to a smaller number of professionals, which will provide for an increased knowledge base and improved skills capacity.

Our trainings emphasize that advising victims to leave their relationship is not necessarily an immediate or appropriate goal. Medical providers are encouraged to provide support, information, documentation, and validation of their patients' experiences. Trainings focus on delivering a reasonable, workable model for provider involvement by discussing methods of injury assessment, interviewing techniques, documentation in the healthcare setting. Participants learn to investigate patients' complaints of ambiguous symptoms, recurrent illness and unexplained somatic events and how to appropriately intervene in a sensitive, non-judgmental manner in order to give patients the resources and information necessary for achieving safety.

The Training Coordinator, under supervision of the Deputy Director of Programs, will continue to research, design and implement a wider range of curricula so as to address varied populations,

different types of practitioners and healthcare settings, and types of victimization. Operation Safety literature and materials will be updated with a goal of greatly enhancing distribution, and the responsiveness of providers to scheduling trainings.

As a result of training offered through Operation Safety, the following **outcomes** are expected:

- 85% of attendees will increase their knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence.
- 85% of attendees will gain or increase skill or comfort level in screening, assessing and/or responding to patients who may be victims of intimate partner violence.
- 85% of attendees will increase their knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County.

These outcomes will be measured through evaluation forms collected at the time of training.

| Presentations | Per Month | Per Year |
|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Number of Presentations | 6-7 | 80 |
| Number of Professionals Trained | 67 | 804 |
| Number of Outreach Efforts (meetings, phone calls, e-mails, literature drop) | 15 | 180 |

**Patients are not meant to be the target of trainings.*

TRAINING

Raising awareness of intimate partner violence and other forms of violence is an essential component of the work of ending domestic and intimate partner violence. My Sisters' Place plans to continue this ongoing work of raising awareness of and preparing individuals, communities, and professional organizations to recognize and better work with the victims and survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence through its trainings and presentations. These trainings will target community service providers, government and county agencies, and spiritual/faith communities. Additionally, funding through the Office for Women has enabled My Sisters' Place to provide the 70+ staff of the agency with professional, up-to-date staff development trainings on a variety of topics affecting their everyday work with victims and their families.

The Deputy Director of Programs, along with the Training Coordinator, will be responsible for the provision of all such trainings, for a total of **56** in 2011 (**22 internal and 34 external**).

In addition to MSP's existing training curricula, **one new curriculum** will be developed in 2011 on oppression, intersectionality, and domestic and intimate partner violence. This curriculum will describe the ways socially constructed oppressions are experienced in concert. Additionally, it will then explain how this intersection of oppressions impacts the lives of and service provision to victims/survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence.

As part of our targeted outreach plan for 2011, the Deputy Director of Programs and the Training Coordinator will work to continue collaborative training efforts on an ongoing basis with community service agencies, government agencies, police departments, CPS, DSS, and the Family Justice Center.

As a result of workshops and seminars conducted, the following outcomes are expected:

- 85% of attendees will increase their knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence and other forms of victimization.
- 85% of attendees will be able to relate the importance of domestic violence awareness to their professional or personal life.
- 85% of attendees will increase their knowledge about domestic violence services available in Westchester County.

These outcomes will be measured through evaluation forms collected at the time of training.