

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**19859**

**Date:** June 15, 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 Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations for the period July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$581,222 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the “Every Kid Counts” program for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (“CPS”) investigations within the areas covered under the Department of Social Services’ (“DSS”) Mount Vernon and Peekskill District Offices for the period July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$581,222 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase in the contract amount. It is to be noted that the proposed contract is for 18 months.

Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program is a strength-based preventive service program that provides a wraparound service model to work with at risk children who had previous CPS involvement. Family Ties provides case management services for these families for a period of 3-9 months to reduce issues and behaviors that result in repeat CPS reports and possible out of home placement. Every Kid Counts is a community-based program where families are linked to community service providers to address child safety, employment, housing, domestic violence, child support, education and transportation. Referrals to the program are received from the Department of Social Services, Mt. Vernon and Peekskill District Offices. The

Department of Social Services will have the option of allocating services to either district office based on customer needs.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes healthy families and reduces the risk of children entering foster care. Family Ties uses the family unity model to strengthen families and to address dysfunction and mal-adaptation in family systems that place children at risk of out-of-home placements. These families had previous CPS involvement and it serves a public purpose when these families do not re-enter the child welfare system.

The **goals and objectives** of the Every Kid Counts program are to provide short term, preventive and follow-up services addressing the needs of families at risk of subsequent CPS investigations. The primary goal is to reduce and prevent family dissolution and substitute care for children. Secondary goals are to address family system dysfunction that places children at risk of abuse and maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of the public health** because the services provided pursuant to the Family Ties Every Kid Counts program (the "EKC") address specific family systems issues that place children at risk of abuse and maltreatment. Families are guided through services, activities and trainings to inspire them to practice alternative ways of parenting, coping and managing their environment. Parents that adopt healthier lifestyles are often better prepared to parent healthier children.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of the public safety** because services provided by Family Ties of Westchester under the "EKC" program reduce the recidivism rate of CPS intervention. Services provided through the Every Kid Counts Program address family system dysfunctions, which without intervention, would lead to further abuse and maltreatment of children. Ryan and Testa (2004) reported that children who are substantiated victims of abuse and maltreatment have a 47% higher youth delinquency rate compared to children not in the child welfare system (as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004).

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert temporary and permanent substitute care of children and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing substitute care can result in substantial savings for the County of Westchester.

- **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. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$18,330.30 to \$205,130.00 per child per year.**

- **Non-Secured Detention cost annualized per child** - The average cost to maintain a child in Non-Secured Detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$117,895 per child per year**
- **Secured Detention cost annualized per child** - The average cost to maintain a child in a Secured Detention facility is \$317 per diem per child. That translates into an annualized cost of **\$115,705 per child per year.**
- **Every Kid Counts program cost annualized per family** – Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program has an annualized program cost of \$387,481. The program expects to serve 75-80 families irrespective of the number of children. The average length of service provision is 180 days. The per diem per family is \$27- \$29. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$4,844 – \$5,167 per family.**

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of Family Ties of Westchester Every Kid Counts Program. Goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored to verify process, outcome and impact of performance measures as will be indicated in the contractual agreement. Goals and objectives will also be tracked, monitored and verified through periodic reports submitted as per the terms of the contractual agreement. Department of Social Services will also verify goals and objectives through periodic site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that as of May, 2011, Family Ties has served over 90% of their annual contract capacity of 75-80 families. From July 2010 to May 2011, Family Ties has worked with 73 families and 174 youth in the Mt. Vernon and Peekskill areas. In 2009, eighty-nine percent (89%) of the families served showed an increase in strengths that support healthy family functioning. In 2010, ninety percent (90%) of the families served showed an increase in strengths that support healthy family functioning. Of the youth that received services from July 2010 thru May 2011, 99.9% were diverted from foster care placement. Of the families that received services during the same period, 96.6% did not experience a repeated subsequent and/or initial CPS investigation while receiving services from Family Ties.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a) xiv and 3 (a) xviii in that the aforesaid agreement is with a not-for-profit organization for the purpose of providing aid, care and support to persons in need of public assistance and this program creates and supports recreation projects and other appropriate programs for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the advancement of the well-being of the youth of Westchester County.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the aforesaid services.

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

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the 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 Family Ties of Westchester, Inc. for the provision of the Every Kid Counts Program incorporating the Family Unity model for families at risk of subsequent Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations within the areas covered under the Department of Social Services' Mount Vernon and Peekskill District Offices from the period of July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$581,222 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Contract 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 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,<br>Program &<br>Phase<br>Or Unit | Object/<br>Sub-<br>Object | Trust<br>Account | Dollars      |
|------|------|------|---|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| 2011 | 101  | 22   | 4500  | 4439                      | _____            | \$193,741.00 |
| 2012 | 101  | 22   | 4500  | 4439                      | _____            | \$387,481.00 |
|      |      |      |   |                           |                  |              |

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011-2012 Start Date: 7/1/11 End Date: 12/31/12  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 20%

State Aid: 33%

Federal Aid: 47%

**\$581,222**

(must match resolution)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION - JONATHAN VIEIRA SECRETARY