



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**21797**

Date: September 14, 2011

To: The Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Re: Authority to amend the Resolution approved on December 16, 2010 authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into agreement with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$217,125, in order to add one more vendor at no additional cost to the County

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By Resolution adopted by your Honorable Board on December 16, 2010, the County of Westchester (the "County") was authorized to enter into agreements with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$217,125. The agreements were subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested to amend the Resolution approved on December 16, 2010 in order to add an eighth licensed consultant to provide the said services at no additional cost to the County. The licensed consultant to be added is Juanita Guerra, Ph.D. Dr.

Guerra will allow the Department to expand the pool of bilingual (English and Spanish) Consultants and will help better serve customers who are Spanish-speaking only. She is also willing to travel to White Plains to, to the County office buildings to conduct customer evaluations, which will further enhance service to customers, many of whom travel to Manhattan to receive the same services.

All Consultants are paid at an hourly rate for the actual time spent in review of referral records, interviews, conferences, interpreting test results and preparation of reports. The Consultants shall be available, upon request of the County Attorney, to testify in Family Court or other related proceedings as to the Consultants' evaluative findings and/or assessment of therapeutic progress. The Consultants will be compensated for such time and appearance by the Department. The Consultants are not compensated by the Department or the County Attorney's office if they are subpoenaed or called as a witness by the Court, the Law Guardian or any other party other than the County of Westchester.

These contracts serve a **public purpose** in that the licensed consultants provide professional expertise in the areas of evaluations, assessments and court ordered psychotherapy, thereby enabling the Department to provide appropriate referrals and services as recommended.

The **goals and objectives** of these contracts are to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service reports and families in which at least one child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one child has been placed in foster care. The services provided by the Consultants allow for interventions that promote the psychological and physical well-being of the child and/or parent as well as to assist and facilitate the reunification of the family where required.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety** because they are aimed at providing clinical evaluations of the customers referred to the Consultants. These evaluations help the Department to identify the mental health and/or developmental problems of the customers, including both children and parents and make appropriate referrals which would in turn help to reduce the risk of abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the services provided by the Consultants assist the Department in determining the appropriate level of services needed by the customers, thereby helping to avert placements and the costs associated with placements. Further, because the services will be provided at an hourly rate, payments will be made for the actual time the Consultants spend on each case which in turn would provide for more accountability on the part of the Department and the Consultants.

The **goals and objectives of this program will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success using the Performance Measurement Indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include feedback from District Office staff as well as the periodic review of reports submitted by the Consultants.

These contracts are exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) vii and viii.

Except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the Resolution approved on December 16, 2010 shall remain in full force and effect. The amendment is to the Resolution because no contract has been executed with Juanita Guerra, Ph.D.

Approval of the annexed resolution by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 11/13/2011 SOMARY WEIR, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the Resolution approved on December 16, 2010 authorizing the County to enter into agreement with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$217,125 is hereby amended in order to add an eighth licensed consultant listed below at no additional cost to the County;

Juanita Guerra, Ph.D.

and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these agreements are subject to County Appropriations; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that these agreements are 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 these agreements. 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 these agreements or renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Consultant, then the Consultant shall have the right to terminate the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the Resolution approved on December 16, 2010 shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and 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
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s): N/A  
(must match resolution)  
Funding Source

Start Date: N/A

End Date: N/A

N/A  
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: N/A  
State Aid: N/A  
Federal Aid: N/A  
Other: N/A

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 10/13/2011 - JOMARY WEIRA, SECRETARY