



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

30612

Date: November 21, 2012

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 Children's Village, Inc. for the provision of the Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents involved with PINS (Persons-In-Need of Supervision) Diversion for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$903,890 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("the Children's Village") for the provision of the Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents who are exhibiting truancy, academic problems, curfew non-compliance, non-compliance with directives at home and other anti-social behaviors for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$903,890 payable on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The Children's Village's MST program serves a valuable **public purpose** as it focuses on the diversion and prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the social and moral well-being of the youth of Westchester. Chapter 57 (Part E), NYS Laws of 2005, established requirements concerning the provision of diversion services to prospective PINS youth and their families for the purpose of avoiding the need to file a petition or to divert the detention of the youth. In addition, Chapter 57 (Part DD), NYS Laws of 2008 established additional requirements regarding alternatives to diversion and detention services. The referrals will be made to this program by Westchester County Cross Systems Units.

The **goals and objectives** of this program are to address youth behaviors that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. Youth referred to The Children's Village's Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program are often non-compliant with directives at home which place them at risk of abuse and neglect. Research reveals that childhood abuse and neglect increased a youth's likelihood of arrest as a juvenile by 59% (Maxfield & Widom, 1996; Widom, 1989, 1992, as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004). Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) provided by The Children's Village empowers parents and caregivers to take more control of their homes by creating a more, or sometimes less, structured environment. A Multi-systemic therapist, trained to deliver the MST Program model, focuses on helping parents and guardians to become more consistent with parenting. Parents and guardians learn to use their natural environment (other family members, church members, school personnel, adult supervised community centers) to meet and sustain treatment gains.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety** as the program is designed to reduce anti-social behavior and violent activities associated with those behaviors. Youth referred for Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) typically exhibit truancy, curfew non-compliance and substance abuse. According to Ryan & Testa (2004), the rate of delinquency increases among youth removed from their homes and placed in foster care (as cited in *Youth Involvement in the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Systems*, Morris & Freundlich, 2004). The Children's Village's MST program is designed to work with youth exhibiting multiple behavior issues that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. The MST Program ensures the safety of the youth, their families and the community by reducing out-of-home placements and youth delinquency.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** of the youth and families of Westchester County because the services provided by The Children's Village's MST Program incorporates the use of the youth's total environment in the resolution of anti-social behaviors that would impair the health of the youth, the family and the community. The MST Program allows the youth and the family to incorporate aspects of the youth environment that prove to be beneficial to the youth's social, emotional, intellectual, mental, spiritual and physical well-being. The MST model allows the infusion of extended family and concerned community members into the service plan for the benefit of the child and maintenance of the family system.

The **goals and objectives** of The Children's Village's Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program are **in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as this program is expected to reduce the number of future foster care placements and the cost associated with those placements. This initiative is a viable alternative to detention of Persons-In-Need of Supervision (PINS) and can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers. Youth that receive services through evidence based programs such as MST produce a cost/benefit for both the program participant and the taxpayers. MST is one of thirteen juvenile justice treatment programs evaluated for cost effectiveness by the Washington State Public Policy Group in 2001. The purpose of the analysis was to report on the "bottom-line" economics of various crime reduction programs. In that analysis, MST had the largest cost savings per program participant.

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of The Children's Village's MST Program and to determine and verify outcomes realized by youth,

their families and the community. Mutually established performance measurement indicators will be used to track and monitor the outcomes resulting in improved school attendance, reduced substance abuse, out-of-home placements, reduced anti-social behaviors and reduction in behaviors that lead to formal family court involvement.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that The Children's Village's MST Program met their established performance for the first three quarters of 2012. Fifty-seven (57) youth received services from January through September 2012. Of the 57 youth, 100% were diverted from foster care placement and 91% were diverted from subsequent abuse and neglect. In addition, the year-to-date PINS diversion rate for The Children's Village MST Program is 94%. Since its inception in August, 2001, the MST program operated by The Children's Village, Inc. has been successful in meeting these goals and objectives and working in conjunction with the Cross Systems Unit(CSU).

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) xviii thereof.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the purpose stated above.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/15/2013
JULIA M. VIEIRA, SECRETARY

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 The Children's Village, Inc. for the provision of the Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents involved with the Cross Systems Unit(CSU) and Persons in Need of Supervision ("PINS") Diversion for the period January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$903,890 payable 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 duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any and 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, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2013	101	22	4500	4439	_____	\$903,890

Budget Funding Year(s) 2013 Start Date 1/1/13 End Date 12/31/13
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$903,890
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 20%
State Aid: 46%
Federal Aid: 34%
Other: _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/03/2013 - JOSE MARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY