

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**30784**

DATE November 30, 2012

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. for the provision of the "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$306,740 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") for the provision of the "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$306,740 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services provided through this contract serve a **public purpose** in that they help preserve the family, reduce risk of abuse or neglect, prevent delinquency and youth crime, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program promotes the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with OCFS regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. This program provides specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Southern Westchester. These services will now be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department of Social Services. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placements. The provider is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

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 the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success of the services provided by WJCS Mental Health Case Management Assessment using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor and site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report** that from January 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, WJCS has provided services to 342 children and 312 families. During that same period, 100% of FASP reports were completed on respective due dates, 95.6% of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare Connections System within 10 business days, and 94% of each family receiving services had a face-to-face contact with all family members, at minimum, every two weeks.

This contract is exempt from the requirements of the Common Grant Rule as this falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an Agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

A resolution requesting the same is attached 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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) for the provision of the “Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration” for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$306,740 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, and this contract is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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	-----	\$306,740

Budget Funding Year(s) 2013  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2013

End Date: 12/31/2013

Funding Source

**\$306,740**  
(must match resolution)

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