

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

30845

DATE: November 28, 2012

TO: Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester ("County") to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic and counseling services to children in foster care and parent training services to the foster child's birth parents or guardians in an amount not to exceed \$925,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic and counseling services to children in foster care and parent training services to the foster child's birth parents or guardians for an amount not to exceed \$925,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. There has been an increase in the amount requested for 2013. The Department is anticipating an increase in referrals in 2013 and the higher not to exceed amount is being requested to cover the additional costs associated with the anticipated increase in referral activity during 2013. Services provided under this contract are accessed by the field staff on behalf of children in family foster care placement.

The WIHD therapeutic and counseling services are a critical program for children in family foster care who are in need of professional mental health services. WIHD also provides the necessary evaluation and mental health services to the children's biological parents. This gives the Department an integrated approach to providing the services and evaluating the parent/child prognosis for reunification, which serves as the basis for recommendation to the court at permanency hearings. These services are mandated.

This contract serves a **public purpose** by improving the well-being of children in foster care by providing them with clinical services such as individual, sibling and group therapy to assist in a child's adjustment to foster care, as well as to reduce mental health symptoms by helping them resolve issues related to trauma, separation from family and in some cases, plan for permanency through termination of parental rights and adoption.

The goals and objectives of this program are to:

- To meet the mental health needs of children in foster care in a timely and supportive manner by clinical staff that is well qualified to understand, diagnose and treat the unique mental health issues of children in foster care;
- To collaborate closely with DSS staff, foster families and other collateral service providers to plan for the safety, well-being and permanency of children and their families;
- To plan for permanency for children in foster care through reunification with birth parents by providing weekly "hands on" parent training services to parents and children tailored to the individualized needs of both parents and their children;
- To provide sound documentation for caseworkers, the courts and others as needed in order to update progress in achieving treatment goals and to make recommendations for permanency planning;
- To provide clinical consultation to caseworkers and others involved in the care and planning for children in foster care to assist in the development of timely permanency outcomes for children in foster care and to reduce the length of time children stay in care.

The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health as these treatment services will help reduce child behavior difficulties and achieve permanency either by returning these children home, or through alternative plans such as adoption, custody arrangements etc., thus contributing to the well being of these children and their families. The professional expertise in the area of assessments and evaluations provided by WIHD on behalf of the Department ensures effective and efficient service delivery to the targeted population.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is paying the Medicaid rate for the services. This is a fee-for-service contract and the Department only pays for services rendered. Furthermore, lack of these services provided by WIHD could result in deteriorated functioning requiring placements in a higher level of care at a substantially higher cost.

The goals and objectives will be monitored using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking vendor's achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted and making site visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators**, as of September 30, 2012, the Department is able to report that the vendor has served 118 children and 49 families. WIHD consistently provides high quality services that support each child individually as well as supporting the Department in working towards the permanency of our children in foster care.

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

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) viii of said policy.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into this Agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development for the above stated purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/17/2015 JOMARY VIEIRA SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”) is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester Institute for Human Development whereby the Westchester Institute for Human Development will provide therapeutic and counseling services to children in foster care and parenting training services to the foster child’s birth parents or guardians in an amount not to exceed \$925,000 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement 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 the 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute 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
2013	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$925,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2013 Start Date: 01/01/13 End Date: 12/31/13
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 41%
 State Aid: 30 %
\$925,000 Federal Aid: 29 %
 (must match resolution) Other: