

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**37273**

Date: December 2, 2013

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 to be paid 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 Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The proposed agreement serves a **public purpose** in that the CAC/MDT (Multidisciplinary Team) approach promotes effective, efficient, multidisciplinary assessments of child victims of severe physical abuse and sexual abuse in a manner that reduces trauma and prevents re-victimization of the child and promotes family

and public safety by conducting objective, thorough multi-disciplinary assessments of potential abuse in a child-friendly setting.

**The goals and the objectives** of the program are to provide the Department with expert, quality and timely required specialized medical assessments for children, who are alleged to be victims of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse to ensure the health, safety and protection of vulnerable children. The Children's Advocacy Center is designed to provide a child friendly location where children and adolescents who may have experienced abuse can receive all necessary components of a multidisciplinary assessment at one time. The multidisciplinary team includes Child Protection, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Child Abuse Pediatrics medical providers, Mental Health treatment providers, Victim Advocacy and CAC staff. Forensic interviews, conducted by trained team members, can be observed by other members of the team so that children do not have to recount their experiences multiple times to different people. This contract provides services to all children referred, ranging from ages 0-18 who are suspected victims of serious child physical abuse or child sexual abuse, sexual assault or neglect with coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. WIHD also provides interpretation of reports for appropriate agencies, such as CPS, Law Enforcement, District Attorney and the County Attorney, when appropriate, via telephone or in-person meetings.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interests of the county in terms of public health** as they are designed to ensure the safety and physical well-being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual or physical abuse. Further, the information derived from the assessments of these victims is a key element in the identification and investigation of child abuse cases in Westchester County. The highly specialized WIHD staff respond to queries from local pediatricians and emergency departments in cases where child abuse is suspected, thus providing their expertise to the community-at-large.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as the program is aimed at promoting a safer environment for the children and the public alike by bringing the abusers to justice through court proceedings. The CAC/Multidisciplinary Team approach promotes effective, efficient multidisciplinary assessments of child victims of severe physical abuse and sexual abuse in a manner that prevents further trauma to the child. Children with suspected sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect that receive coordinated, multidisciplinary assessments are more likely to have positive outcomes in relation to medical care and mental health, and better protective and prosecutorial outcomes when applicable.

**The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the research across the country demonstrates that the CAC

approach is a cost saving measure when compared with assessments that do not use a multidisciplinary approach.

The **goals and objectives will be monitored using the performance measurement indicators** developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The provider will submit monthly statistics and quarterly performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators** reported as of September 2013, Children's Advocacy Center staff evaluated 281 children, 90% of the children had only one interview, thus preventing any additional trauma to these children. WIHD successfully met benchmarks for timeliness where average time from appointment request date and appointment was 2 days and reports were completed within ten days of WIHD's last contact with the children.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) viii of said Policy. This agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Common Grant Rule as this falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") to provide the aforesaid services.

An appropriate resolution is annexed herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 to be paid 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Account to be  
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2014	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$915,503

Budget Funding Year(s): 2014 Start Date: 01/01/14 End Date: 12/31/14  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 32 %  
State Aid: 47%  
**\$915,503** Federal Aid: 21%  
(must match resolution) Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & COMMERCE - 02/06/2014 - JOHNNY VIEIRA, SECRETARY