

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**37691**

DATE January 6, 2014

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 The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") pursuant to which MHA will provide a Partners-In- Parenting ("PIP") program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$258,080.

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department") to enter into an agreement with MHA pursuant to which MHA will provide a PIP program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$258,080 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

The services provided pursuant to this agreement serve a **public purpose** because they will preserve the family, reduce the risk of abuse, neglect and /or need for foster care placement as caregivers with mental health issues become better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement 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. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placement. The MHA PIP Program is able to achieve its goal by providing parenting skills as well as community-based and at-home clinical services to the families. Licensed clinicians provide services to families at high risk due to mental health issues. The parents who are referred for services through the PIP Program are those who are traditionally resistant to parenting skills and psychotherapy. These parents may have impaired

emotional and/or mental functioning and are often subject to other serious conditions such as substance abuse and/or homelessness. Listed below are the goals and objectives of this program:

- Improving overall functioning and ability of parents to care for their children
- Providing direct in-home clinical treatment and services to parents with mental health issues
- Providing 24/7 access to mental health clinician
- Enhancing direct service to the families
- Developing and maintaining parent/child and other family attachments
- Engaging families and their children so that they fully participate in intensive therapeutic, case management and supportive services

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this agreement will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, improving emotional and/or mental functioning 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 interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as 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 agreement will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the agreement. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by MHA and making onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of September 30, 2013, the Department is able to report that MHA is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% of contract capacity. From January 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013, MHA PIP program served 189 children. Of the 189 served, MHA has averted 85% of those youth from foster care placements and reported that 95% of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) viii and xvii. It should be noted that the agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules as funding for this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into this Agreement with the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, 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 acting by and through its Department of Social Services is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") pursuant to which MHA will provide a Partners-In-Parenting (PIP) program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$258,080 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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
2014	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$258,080

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

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 32%  
State Aid: 47%  
**\$258,080** Federal Aid: 21%  
(must match resolution) Other: \_\_\_\_\_