



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

38913

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

Date: March 6, 2014

Re: **Authority for the County to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI") pursuant to which NAFI will provide the Parenting with Love and Limits Program ("PLL") to include parent education and group therapy as well as family therapy for parents whose adolescent children are in foster care, for the term February 14, 2014 through February 28, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$252,885 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget**

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 **North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI")** pursuant to which NAFI will provide the **Parenting with Love and Limits Program ("PLL")** to include parent education and group therapy as well as family therapy for parents whose adolescent children are in foster care (the "Agreement"). The term of the Agreement will commence on February 14, 2014 and continue through February 28, 2015. In consideration for services to be rendered, the County will pay NAFI an amount not to exceed \$252,885 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriations.

The agreement with NAFI will serve a **public purpose** by providing youth between the ages of 10 and 18 who are in foster care and who suffer from extreme emotional or behavioral problems such as running away, extreme disrespect, chronic truancy, depression, or drug or alcohol abuse with parent education and group therapy and with four or more individual family therapy sessions for adolescents and their

parents. These services will be geared toward reducing the length of stay of youth in foster care and reducing their rate of recidivism.

The goals and objectives of the PLL are to provide a six-week parent education and group therapy program with four or more individual family therapy sessions for adolescents and their parents. PLL is an evidence based model used to ensure that families are prepared to handle the return of their children from residential placement more effectively and in an expedited manner.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety and fiscal responsibility because the services to be provided under the proposed Agreement will reduce the length of time that adolescents remain in foster care which benefits both the affected children and their biological parents, as well as reduces related costs to the County. Reducing the length of stay is possible, as implemented by NAFI, through high parent and community involvement, before and after discharge, by lowering the measurable risk levels in both the parent and the youth simultaneously. The program is intended as a demonstration of one approach to reducing the length of stay in foster care and thereby reducing the cost of such care to the County.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. NAFI will submit monthly statistics and performance reports in a format approved by the Department. The Program Office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements. During the contract period, DSS program staff maintains ongoing phone and face-to-face contact with the vendor.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from March 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, the NAFI PLL program has provided services to 30 families and 37 children. NAFI 's PLL staff were able to successfully engage 92% of their referrals; the national average engagement rate for PLL is 80%.

The proposed agreement with NAFI is exempt from the County's Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)xiv, xvii and xviii thereof.

It should also be noted that this agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules as the program falls under the Social Services Block grant.

Accordingly, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), is authorized to enter into an agreement with North American Family Institute, Inc. ("NAFI"), pursuant to which NAFI will provide the Parenting with Love and Limits Program to include parent education and group therapy as well as family therapy for parents with adolescents in foster care, for the term February 14, 2014 through February 28, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$252,885 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is also subject to further financial analysis of the impact of any New York State Budget ("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 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 impact of any such budget(s) 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

