



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

43630

Date: December 4, 2014

To: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a psychologist, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a psychologist, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180 pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

This Agreement will serve a **public purpose** by providing a State mandated service, as per regulation 18 CRR-NY432.3 (4) ii. Dr. Meltzer provides professional expertise in the area of comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, thereby enabling the Department to provide appropriate referrals and services as recommended.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide timely, professional, expert assessments and evaluations of children alleged to have been sexually abused followed up with verbal and written reports. The assessment and testimony are used to support CPS determinations and to obtain a finding in Court. As Dr. Meltzer specializes in the dynamics surrounding child sexual

abuse, she can provide a course of direction for CPS staff when there is no physical evidence or witness to corroborate the allegations. These assessments are extremely useful when the victim is young, and/or has limited language skills, and when the CPS interview alone is unproductive.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety and public health because these evaluations assist the Department to obtain mental health evidence used to validate whether or not sexual abuse occurred with young children. These services promote the safety and health of the children in Westchester County by providing appropriate services to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect and maltreatment. This service is closely monitored by the Child Protective Services Program Office, who review and approve all requests for this service. High risk cases that need this type of expert consultation are pre-approved and monitored for results.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibilities as the services provided by the Consultant assist the Department in determining the appropriate level of services needed by the children and families, thereby helping to avert out of home placement and the cost associated with placement. The services will be provided at an hourly rate and payments will be made for the actual time the Consultant spends on each case which results in more accountability on the part of the Department and the Consultant.

The goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored by the program staff. According to the **Performance Measurement Indicator** reports for the period January 2014 through September 2014, Dr. Meltzer received 5 referrals for evaluations. The child welfare program staff is satisfied with the service provided by the vendor.

This contract is exempt from the Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a) (vii) and 3(a) (viii) of said Policy. This contract is exempt from the application of the Federal Common Grant Rule as the funding falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

We respectfully request approval of the attached Resolution.

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 Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a psychologist, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse , in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180 pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement 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 (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 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.

Account to be

Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2015	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$24,073

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: 01/01/2015 End Date: 12/31/2015
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 32%
 State Aid: 47%
\$24,073 Federal Aid: 21%
 (must match resolution) Other:

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS 01/15/2015 JOMAR VIEIRA SECRETARY