

46854

DATE: May 21, 2015

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Mark S. Herceg, Ph.D., Commissioner
Department of Community Mental Health

SUBJECT: Authority to enter into an agreement with Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc., pursuant to which it will provide various community mental health services, for a term commencing on June 1, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed \$543,855.00.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc. ("MHEP"), pursuant to which MHEP will provide various community mental health services (the "Services"), for a term commencing on June 1, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed \$543,855.00, pursuant to an approved budget.

The Services will include outreach services through the Criminal Justice Recovery Coach Project; advocacy services through the Community First Peer Support & Bridger Project; and drop-in center services through the Community First Recovery Center, which will include advocacy services through the Warmline, which is a 24-hour confidential, non-crisis support line.

The Services were previously provided to the County by the Westchester Consumer Empowerment Center, Inc. ("WCEC") under an agreement between the County and WCEC (the "County-WCEC Agreement"). Recently, the New York State Office of Mental Health ("OMH") advised the Department that it terminated its agreement with WCEC for mental health services, due to certain findings by OMH's auditors. The County followed the lead of OMH and terminated the County-WCEC Agreement. Consequently, both OMH and the County sought to find a replacement service-provider for such services. OMH determined that it would contract with MHEP for such services. OMH has now requested that the County also contract with MHEP for the various community mental health services the County needs.

As the services OMH needs and the services the County needs are similar, the Department believes that it is in the best interests of the County to work together with OMH by using the same contractor to replace WCEC. In that way, the County and OMH can, together, deliver a full complement of services in this area through MHEP. The County contracting with MHEP will also ensure that these necessary and vital services for residents of Westchester County who are affected by mental health disabilities will be provided with the minimum possible disruption.

In serving a vulnerable population such as this, the Department believes it is in the best interest of the County and its residents to minimize any such disruption or gap in services.

It is the intention of the County to conduct, at the appropriate later time, a request for proposals for the Services for the period beyond the end of the originally-intended term of the County-WCEC Agreement (i.e., December 31, 2016).

The proposed agreement will serve a public purpose by providing the County with necessary and vital mental health services for residents of Westchester County who are affected by mental health disabilities.

The goal and objective of the proposed agreement is to provide the County with necessary and vital mental health services for residents of Westchester County who are affected by mental health disabilities.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of health, as it will provide the County with necessary and vital mental health services for residents of Westchester County who are affected by mental health disabilities.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement will be tracked and monitored by the staff of the Department.

The proposed agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a)(xvii) thereof.

I recommend your favorable consideration of the annexed proposed Resolution.

MSH/TP/bdm/nh

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/26/2015 - JOSEPH VIERA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health (the "Department"), is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (the "Agreement") with Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc. ("MHEP"), pursuant to which MHEP will provide various community mental health services, for a term commencing on June 1, 2015 and continuing through December 31, 2016, for an amount not-to-exceed \$543,855.00, 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 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 authorized to execute all instruments and to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Activity	Dollars
263	26	177Q	9854	T177		\$217,542
263	26	177R	9854	T177		\$326,313
263	26	177Q	4380	T177	4000	\$217,542
263	26	177R	4380	T177	4000	\$326,313

Budget Funding Year(s): _____ Start Date: 6/1/2015 End Date: 12/31/16
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: _____
State Aid: \$543,855.00
Federal Aid: _____
Other: _____
\$543,855.00
(must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 05/28/2015 - JOMAR NEIRA, SECRETARY