

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

47971

DATE: August 3, 2015

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”), pursuant to which WJCS will provide comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families, for the period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget.

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement with WJCS, pursuant to which WJCS, through its Treatment Center for Trauma and Abuse (“TCTA”), will provide comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for the period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The TCTA has been offering comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for more than 25 years. The program serves all of Westchester County with clinicians in our Hartsdale, Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, and Peekskill clinics. TCTA serves the most vulnerable and needy in Westchester County: children who have experienced sexual abuse, witnessed or been victims of domestic violence, or experienced other forms of serious inter-personal trauma.

This agreement serves a **public purpose** because the services provided by the TCTA will address the mental health and other needs of children, particularly those living in low-income, under-resourced communities, challenged by poverty. The TCTA is the only specialized trauma team in Westchester County that integrates the distinct and

overlapping knowledge bases of social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. WJCS clinicians are uniquely qualified to help children heal from the trauma and abuse they are experiencing and return to normal developmental functioning through the use of state of the art evidence-based practice.

The **goals and objectives** of the agreement will provide specialized trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families. WJCS will also provide consultation, information and guidance to other professionals to minimize the traumatic impact of abuse and to increase the ability for children to remain safely in their homes and in the community. A WJCS Trauma Center staff member is on site at the Child Advocacy Center providing assistance and referrals to families. WJCS Trauma Center professionals will actively participate in numerous community-wide collaborations that heighten the capacity of Westchester County to comprehensively and effectively meet the needs of children and families affected by abuse and violence.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health** as they are aimed at ensuring the health of the children and families of Westchester County. The TCTA is more than a treatment program; it is also a preventive program. Children who are sexually abused or victims of family violence are at increased risk for repeated abuse, school problems, self destructive or anti-social behavior, substance abuse, serious mental illness including depression and suicide, and out of home placement. The early, effective, and coordinated intervention and state of the art mental health services provided to traumatized children and their families in Westchester County by WJCS will minimize the deleterious effects and will promote positive growth and pro-social behavior.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety** as they are designed to enhance and ensure the safety of the children and families of Westchester County. WJCS Treatment Center professionals serve on the Westchester County Multi-Disciplinary Team, which includes representation from law enforcement, child protective services, mental health, victim assistance, and medical services. Multi-Disciplinary Team members work together to reduce the traumatic effects on child victims of serious abuse and neglect and determine the ability of children to remain safely in the community with their family.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert out-of-home placements of youth and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing youth from entering the foster care and juvenile detention systems 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 of the services provided by WJCS using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by WJCS and site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, WJCS has provided services above 100% of annual contract capacity. Twenty-nine (29) families and forty (40) children received services during the term of the contract in 2014. At six month post-treatment, seventy-nine percent (79%) of the children served during that period experienced improvement in functioning with decreased symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. At the conclusion of treatment, eighty-six percent (86%) of the children served during that period experienced improvement in functioning with decreased symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

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

A resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is annexed herewith.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION
JANUARY 10, 2015 - JOHN COCCARONE, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from Kevin M. McGuire, 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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") pursuant to which WJCS will provide comprehensive trauma treatment to child victims of sexual abuse and their families for the period from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this agreement 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 duly authorized designee is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purpose 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	-----	\$60,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: 01/01/15 End Date: 12/31/15
(must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars:	41%
	State Aid:	33%
<u>\$ 60,000</u>	Federal Aid:	26%
(must match resolution)	Other	