

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**50109**

DATE December 17, 2015

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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with 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 WJCS pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services provided through this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by preserving the family, reducing risk of abuse or neglect, preventing delinquency and youth crime, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are in compliance with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services regulations, 18 NYCRR, Part 423 et seq., which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. This program provides specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Southern Westchester. These services will now be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department. Furthermore, through

the provision of this service, the Department will seek to avoid foster care placements. WJCS is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability
- PINS pre-diversion assessment and service treatment
- Assessment and screening of sexually exploited youth for the Safe Harbor Program

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families 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 interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be 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.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success of the services provided by WJCS mental health case management assessment using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor and site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report** that as of September 30, 2015, WJCS has provided services to 181 children and 145 families. During that same period, 100% of FASP reports were completed on respective due dates, 100% of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare Connections System within 10 business days, and 96% of each family receiving services had a face-to-face contact with all family members, at minimum, every two weeks.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii.

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

An appropriate resolution requesting your Honorable Board's approval is attached.

**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 Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. (“WJCS”) pursuant to which WJCS will provide mental health case management assessment and collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 for an amount not to exceed \$364,141 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this agreement is subject to County Appropriation; 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
2016	101	22	4500	5960	-----	\$364,141

Budget Funding Year(s) 2016 (must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2016

End Date: 12/31/2016

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 27%  
 State Aid: 43%  
 Federal Aid: 30%  
 Other:

**\$364,141**  
 (must match resolution)