

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

67124

DATE: January 8, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc., (“MHA”) pursuant to which MHA will provide a Partners-In-Parenting (“PIP”) program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$221,169.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”), to enter into an agreement with the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. pursuant to which MHA will provide a PIP program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 for an amount not to exceed \$221,169 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** because they will preserve the family, reduce the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement as caregivers with mental health issues become better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are in compliance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, the Department seeks to avoid foster care placements. The MHA PIP program is able to achieve its goal by providing parenting skills as well as community-based and at-home clinical services to the families. Licensed clinicians provide services to families at high risk due to mental health issues. The parents who are referred for services through the PIP program are those who are traditionally resistant to parenting skills and psychotherapy. These parents may have impaired emotional and/or mental functioning and are often subject to other

serious conditions such as substance abuse and/or homelessness. Listed below are the goals and objectives of this program:

- Improving overall functioning and ability of parents to care for their children
- Providing direct in-home clinical treatment and services to parents with mental health issues
- Providing 24/7 access to mental health clinician
- Enhancing direct service to the families
- Developing and maintaining parent/child and other family attachments
- Engaging families and their children so that they fully participate in intensive therapeutic, case management and supportive services

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this agreement will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, improving emotional and/or mental functioning and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placement and the cost associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department.** The Department will evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the agreement. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by MHA and making onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that MHA is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the agreement and is on track to serving 100% of contract capacity. From January 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018, MHA PIP program served 105 families. Of the 105 served, MHA has averted 100% of those youth from foster care placements and reported that 100% of the children served did not become the subject of an indicated CPS report while receiving services.

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

It should be noted that this agreement is not subject to the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the federal funding for this program falls under Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

