

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Community Mental Health

Michael Orth, M.S.W.
Commissioner

72550

Date: November 08, 2019

To: Honorable Members
Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Michael Orth, M.S.W.,
Commissioner, Department of Community Mental Health

Dr. Sherlita Amler, M.D.,
Commissioner, Department of Health

Dr. Aleksandar Milovanovic, M.D.,
Acting Medical Examiner, Department of Laboratories & Research

Subject: Request authority to enter into:

- 1) each of two (2) successive agreements with Research for Mental Hygiene, Inc., to accept two (2) separate grants, each in an amount of \$48,000.00, and collectively in the total amount of \$96,000.00, to participate in a project entitled "Learning from Loss: Using Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities," for successive periods of one year, from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 and from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, for an effective, overall period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021;
- 2) a sub-awardee agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$20,500.00, pursuant to an approved budget, for consultation and support services in connection with aforesaid project, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021; and
- 3) a data sharing agreement with the New York State Office of Mental Health, for sharing information obtained from individuals who died by suicide, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021.

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

("Department"), to enter into each of two (2) successive agreements with Research for Mental Hygiene, Inc. ("RFMH"), in order to accept two (2) separate grants (collectively, the "Grant"), each in the amount of \$48,000.00, for a total aggregate amount of \$96,000.00, that will be used by the Department, the Department of Health and the Department of Laboratories & Research, pursuant to a separate inter-departmental agreement, for the County's participation in the RFMH's project entitled "Learning from Loss: Improving Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities" ("Project"), for successive periods of one year, from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 and from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, for an effective, overall period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021. The two (2) successive agreements (collectively, the "Grant Agreement") will be for the following individual terms and not-to-exceed amounts:

<u>Term</u>	<u>Not-To-Exceed Amount</u>
1.) 5/1/2019 through 4/30/2020	\$48,000.00
2.) 5/1/2020 through 4/30/2021	\$48,000.00
Total	\$96,000.00

We certify that the Department, a.) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the entity making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b.) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c.) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d.) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Authority is also respectfully requested for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into a sub-awardee agreement ("MHA Agreement") with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA"), in an amount not to exceed \$20,500.00, pursuant to an approved budget, for the County to obtain consultation and support services for the Project's staff in various areas related to the Project, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021. The MHA Agreement will be funded by a portion of the funds to be received by the County under the Grant Agreement. The balance of the Grant funds will be used to support the efforts developed by the County's Department of Health and the Office of the Medical Examiner ("Medical Examiner"), in collaboration with the Department, in connection with the Project.

Authority is further requested from your Honorable Board for the County, acting by and through the Department, to enter into a data sharing agreement (the "Data Sharing Agreement") with the New York State Office of Mental Health (the "OMH") to share information collected by the Medical Examiner on individuals who died in Westchester County by suicide, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021.

The objective of the Grant is to improve the current system for suicide death reporting and prevention initiatives at the State and local levels. On March 20, 2019, the New York State Health Foundation ("Health Foundation") awarded a grant to RFMH (Suicide Prevention Center of New York, hereinafter referred to as "SPCNY"), to improve the current system for suicide death reporting and develop effective suicide prevention initiatives throughout New York State. Under the Health Foundation grant, SPCNY intends to replicate an Oregon pilot program that trained county medical examiners to more accurately classify suicide deaths and transfer such

information collected by the medical examiners into the State's Violent Death Reporting System. In Oregon, the new system made it easier to identify risk factors, allowing such state to work with community organizations and medical providers to better develop targeted intervention and treatment initiatives. The Project will replicate the Oregon pilot program in four (4) counties of the State that have large numbers of annual suicides: Suffolk, Westchester, Onondaga and Saratoga. RFMH through SPCNY will develop, test and refine the suicide fatality review process and death investigation data collection tool and train a review team of medical examiners and medicolegal death investigators on such new improved system. The new reporting system will provide a more complete picture of the circumstances surrounding suicides to inform the development of prevention initiatives at the State and local levels.

The goals and objectives of the Grant Agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility, as it will provide the County with additional funds that will permit the implementation of an accurate and complete suicide reporting system for deaths by suicide occurring in New York.

The goals and objectives of the MHA Agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Department.

The Grant Agreement and the Data Sharing Agreement do not constitute procurement and, as such, are not subject to the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

The MHA Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)xvii thereof which exempts procurements "to provide care, treatment, counseling, referral or rehabilitative or preventative services to the mentally ill, mentally retarded, developmentally disabled and those suffering from the disease of alcoholism or substance abuse."

Therefore, authority is hereby respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County to enter into these agreements.

MO/CMC/TP

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, Commissioner of the Department of Health and Acting Medical Examiner of the Department of Laboratories & Research be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”) is authorized to enter into (i) each of two (2) successive agreements with Research for Mental Hygiene, Inc. (the “RFMH”), to accept a grant in the total amount of \$96,000.00, to participate in the project entitled “Learning from Loss: Using Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities” (the “Project”), for successive periods of one year, from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020 and from May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021, for an effective, overall period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021; (ii) a sub-awardee agreement (the “MHA Agreement”) with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. (the “Consultant”), in an amount not to exceed \$20,500.00, pursuant to an approved budget, to obtain consultation and support services for the Project’s staff in various areas related to the Project, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021; and (iii) a data sharing agreement with the New York State Office of Mental Health for the sharing of data collected by the Office of the Medical Examiner on individuals whose deaths were suicide, for the period from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2021; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MHA Agreement is subject to County appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MHA 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 the MHA Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to the Consultant, then the Consultant shall have the right to terminate the MHA Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effect the purposes hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2019-20	263	26	T15U	4380	T1015	\$10,250
“	263	26	T15U	5360	T1015	\$13,236
“	263	26	T15U	5365	T1015	\$ 4,500
2019	101	26	2000	Various		\$13,343
2020	101	26	2000	Various		\$20,014

2020-21	263	26	T15V	4380	T1015	\$10,250
"	263	26	T15V	5360	T1015	\$13,236
"	263	26	T15V	5365	T1015	\$ 4,500
2021	101	26	2000	Various		\$ 6,671
2019-20	263	26	T15U	9854	T1015	\$27,986
2019	101	26	2000	9713		\$13,343
2020	101	26	2000	9713		\$20,014
2020-21	263	26	T15V	9854	T1015	\$27,986
2021	101	26	2000	9713		\$ 6,671

Budget Funding Year(s) 2019-2021 Start Date: 05/01/19 End Date: 04/30/2021
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: _____
State Aid: _____
Federal Aid: _____
Other 96,000.00

(must match the resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/03/2019 - JOAN COUGHLIN, SECRETARY