

78470

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Robin Schlaff
Director, Office for Women

DATE: August 31, 2020

SUBJECT: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation and other local entities in order to form and participate in the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team

Authority is requested to authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), to enter into a memorandum of understanding ("MOU") with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation, acting by and through the Westchester Medical Center ("WCHCC"), Hope's Door, Inc., My Sisters' Place, Inc., Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center, Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc./Victims Assistance Services, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, and the Elizabeth S. Haub School of Law at Pace University, acting by and through its Women's Justice Center, in order to form and participate in the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team ("DVHRT"). The proposed MOU will have a term commencing on June 1, 2020 and continuing through May 31, 2025, unless terminated earlier by any party and shall be at no cost to the County.

The DVHRT will seek to reduce the risk of lethality or serious harm to victims of intimate partner violence ("IPV") and their families. The Program would involve training responding officers in the Jackie Campbell danger assessment tool for IPV cases, immediately connecting high risk victims with advocates, and providing ongoing enhanced safety protocols for victims and their families.

Pursuant to the proposed MOU, WCHCC will operate a dedicated 24/7 telephone line staffed by dedicated highly-trained WCHCC advocates ("LAPline advocates") who will provide immediate assistance to victims screening in as "high risk" at the scene of a domestic incident. WCHCC will provide training for LAPline advocates, so they can provide the most effective immediate crisis intervention, safety planning and referrals for shelter/emergency housing if needed. Prior to completing a call with a victim, the LAPline advocate will ask the victim for permission to provide their contact and case information to a domestic violence service provider and to the County Office for Women, who will contact the victim and provide necessary services.

The MOU was authorized by the Westchester County Board of Legislators by Act No. 2020-134 on August 3, 2020, pursuant to Section 3307(4) of the New York Public Authorities Law which requires any agreements with WCHCC be approved by both the Board of Legislators and the Board of Acquisition and Contract.

The public purpose of the proposed MOU is that it will seek to reduce the risk of lethality or serious harm to victims of IPV and their families. Performance of the MOU will be measured by Office for Women personnel.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the attached resolution.

RS/jpi
Encls.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 09/03/2020 - LICAMIRIJAJ, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby:

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into a memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation, acting by and through the Westchester Medical Center, Hope’s Door, Inc., My Sisters’ Place, Inc., Putnam/Northern Westchester Women’s Resource Center, Westchester Community Opportunity Program, Inc./Victims Assistance Services, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, and the Elizabeth S. Haub School of Law at Pace University, acting by and through its Women’s Justice Center, in order to form and participate in the Westchester County Domestic Violence High Risk Team; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed MOU will have a term commencing June 1, 2020 continuing through May 31, 2025 unless terminated earlier by any party; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be and hereby is authorized and empowered to execute any and all instruments and to take all action necessary to implement the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year
					\$0	

Budget Funding Year(s) 2020-2025 Start Date: 6/1/2020 End Date: 5/31/2025
 (must match resolution)

\$0
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
 Federal Aid _____
 Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 19/05/31/2020 - USA MR/CAJ, SECRETARY