

George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Community Mental Health

Michael Orth, M.S.W.  
Commissioner

[84227]

Date: April 8, 2020

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:

- 1) Enter into a grant agreement with Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc., in order to accept a grant in an amount of \$10,000.00, to continue to participate in a project entitled "Learning from Loss: Using Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities," for an additional period of one year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022;
- 2) Amend an existing 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, in order to 1.) extend the term of the agreement by one (1) additional year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022, and 2.) increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$2,500.00, to a new total contract amount of \$23,000.00; and
- 3) Amend an existing 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, in order to extend the term of the agreement by one (1) additional year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

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On December 5, 2019 ("2019 Resolution"), your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department"), to enter into 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, 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, for the Department, together with the Department of Health and

the Department of Laboratories & Research, pursuant to a separate inter-departmental agreement, to participate in an RFMH's project entitled "Learning from Loss: Improving Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities" ("Project").

Pursuant to the 2019 Resolution, your Honorable Board also authorized 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, 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.

In addition, pursuant to the 2019 Resolution, your Honorable Board authorized 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.

Authority is now hereby requested from your Honorable Board for the County to enter into a new grant agreement ("Grant Agreement") with RFMH in order for the County to accept additional grant funds in the amount of \$10,000.00 ("Grant"), for the County to continue to participate in the Project, for an additional period of one year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022.

Authority is hereby also requested from your Honorable Board for the County to amend the MHA Agreement in order to increase the contract amount by \$2,500.00, for a total aggregate amount under the MHA Agreement not to exceed \$23,000.00, and extend the term of the MHA Agreement for an additional one (1) year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022, for the County to continue to obtain consultation and support services for the Project's staff in various areas related to the Project.

Authority is hereby further requested from your Honorable Board for the County to amend the Data Sharing Agreement with the OMH for an additional one (1) year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022, in order to successfully implement the Project.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions contained in both the MHA Agreement and the Data Sharing Agreement shall remain in full force and effect upon the parties

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.

The objective of the Grant is to continue to improve the current system for suicide death reporting and prevention initiatives at the State and local levels. As a way of background, 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. SPCNY through RFMH 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, as amended, do not constitute procurement and, as such, are not subject to the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

The MHA Agreement, as amended, is exempt from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a)(vii) 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/TP/CMC/cmc

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/13/2022 - LIC# MHAJ, SECRETARY

## 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 a grant agreement ("Grant Agreement") with Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. (the "RFMH"), to accept a grant in the total amount of \$10,000.00, to continue to participate in the project entitled "Learning from Loss: Using Suicide Fatality Review for Effective Prevention Activities" (the "Project"), for an additional period of one (1) year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is authorized to amend a sub-awardee agreement (the "MHA Agreement") with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. (the "MHA"), 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, in order to increase the not-to-exceed amount of the agreement by \$2,500.00, for a total aggregate amount under the MHA Agreement not to exceed \$23,000.00, and extend the term of the MHA Agreement for an additional one (1) year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is authorized to amend a data sharing agreement (the "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 in order to extend the term of the data sharing agreement for an additional one (1) year, from May 1, 2021 through April 30, 2022; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions contained in both the MHA Agreement and the Data Sharing Agreement shall remain in full force and effect upon the parties; and be it further

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

**RESOLVED**, that the MHA Agreement, as amended, 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 MHA, then MHA 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
	263	26	T15W	4380	T1015	2,500
	101	26	2000	Various		2,500
	101	31	0010	Various		2,500
	101	27	0010	Various		2,500
	263	26	T15W	9854		2,500
	101	26	2000	9713		2,500
	101	31	0010	9708		2,500
	101	27	0010	9502		2,500

Budget Funding Year(s) 2021-2022 Start Date: 05/01/21 End Date: 04/30/2022  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: \_\_\_\_\_  
State Aid: 10,000 \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Aid: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

(must match the resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT 05/13/2021 - LISA MARIJA SECRETARY