



George Latimer  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Leonard G. Townes  
Commissioner

89645

DATE: December 17, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes, 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 Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$296,000.

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Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester ("County") 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 Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$296,000 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 as they preserve the family, reducing risk of abuse or neglect, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program will promote the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County. This program will provide 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 Northern Westchester.

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. MHA will 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

These services will be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department of Social Services.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health because this agreement 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 of this agreement 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 will result in substantial savings for the County.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Department will be responsible for setting the milestones/targets and tracking the achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from January 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the Mental Health Case Management Assessment program has serviced 24 families and 45 children. During that same period, 99% of progress note entries completed and submitted within 10 business days of family visit and 94% of each family receiving services had a face-to-face contact with all family members, at minimum, every two weeks, and 94% of youth that were diverted from out of home placements.

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

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.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/06/2022 - RAYMOND SCULK, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") pursuant to which MHA 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, 2022 through December 31, 2022 for an amount not to exceed \$296,000 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 appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 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 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be charged/credited:

	FUND	DEPT	Major Program, Program & Phase, Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	101	22	8900	5960	---	\$296,000

Budget Funding Year(s): 2022 Start Date: 1/1/2022 End Date: 12/31/2022  
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source: Tax Dollars: 30%  
 \$296,000 State Aid: 42%  
 (must match resolution) Federal Aid: 29%

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 01/06/2022 RAYMOND SCALKY, SECRETARY