

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

DATE: April 2, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the purpose of operating the ADAPT (A Different Approach to Parenting Teens) program, a family mediation program, for the period from May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$54,900 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc., for the purpose of operating the ADAPT (A Different Approach to Parenting Teens) program, a family mediation program, for the period from May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$54,900 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been a decrease in the amount requested for the proposed agreement. This has been the result of a request by the Department to the contractor to cut the cost of the program by 10% for the new agreement.

ADAPT (A Different Approach to Parenting Teens) is a family mediation program that assists youth and their families in improving their abilities to resolve conflict that would otherwise lead to family court involvement (PINS) and family dissolution (out-of-home placement). ADAPT parent and teen mediation operates out of eight different locations throughout Westchester County (Mt. Vernon, Yonkers, Tarrytown, White Plains, Mount Kisco, Peekskill, Port Chester and Pelham). ADAPT is a free program for residents in the County of Westchester. The target population for the ADAPT program are youth ages 11-21 years. Referrals to the program are received from the Departments of Social Services and Probation, local school districts and self-referrals.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes healthy families and fosters a connection between the youth, the family and community resources. Healthy families equal healthy communities. The ADAPT mediation program assists families with resolving common conflicts that lead to truancy, youth criminal activity and family dissolution.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to divert families from family court proceedings (PINS) and to divert youth from placement in foster care, residential and detention programs. Families and youth attend mediation sessions to acquire conflict resolution skills in order to manage relationships within the family system and the immediate environment. The ADAPT program also provides truancy services for youth and their families. The goal is to reduce truancy and keep youth enrolled in school until they receive a high school diploma. In the past three decades, youth without a high school diploma have experienced a decline in income. The result is increased economic marginalization for youth with the least education (*Reducing the High School Dropout Rate*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, July 2009).

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health** as they are aimed at ensuring the health of the children and families of Westchester County. The services provided by Family Services of Westchester through the ADAPT program assist in early identification and eradication of issues within the family system that hinder appropriate child development. Further, the ADAPT program assists families in identifying new ways of parenting that support the social, emotional, physical, intellectual and spiritual well-being of their children.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety** as they are designed to enhance and ensure the safety of the children and families of Westchester County. The services provided by Family Services of Westchester through the ADAPT program allow families to work on behaviors within the family system that, without intervention, would lead to truancy and juvenile delinquency of youth. ADAPT receives many of their referrals from local school districts and the Department of Probation regarding truancy and juvenile delinquency. The ADAPT program gives families an opportunity to use new solutions to common problems in parenting.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert out-of-home placements of youth and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing youth from entering the foster care and juvenile detention systems can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of foster care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per youth depending on the age and level of care provided. That translates into an annualized foster care cost from **\$6,241.50 to \$21,407.25 per youth**.

- **Residential Foster Care cost annualized per youth** - The cost of residential foster care costs can range from \$47.14 up to \$627 per day per youth. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$17,206.10 to \$228,855 per youth.**
- **Non-Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in non-secured detention is \$323 per diem. This translates into an annualized cost of **\$117,895 per youth.**
- **Secured Detention cost annualized per youth** - The average cost to maintain a youth in a secured detention facility is \$317 per diem per youth. That translates into an annualized cost of **\$115,705 per youth.**
- **ADAPT program cost annualized per youth/family** – Family Services of Westchester ADAPT Program has an annualized program cost of \$54,900. The program expects to serve 90 youth/families. That translates into a cost of \$1.67 per diem **per youth/family.**

The negative consequences for not entering into this agreement will be that the Department may have an increase in the number of youth placed into foster care, residential, secured and non-secured detention resulting in an increase in costs associated with these placements. The Department may also show an increase in the number of Child Protective Service reports. Additionally, Westchester County may also show an increase in truancy, crimes committed by youth and an increase in the school drop-out rate for the County of Westchester.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success of the ADAPT Program and to determine outcomes realized by youth and families, using the mutually established performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing periodic reports submitted by the vendor and site visits.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that the Family Services of Westchester, Inc. met their established performance goals in 2009. Of the 61 youth served in the ADAPT Program from May 2009 through February 2010, 94% were successfully diverted from a formal Family Court PINS petition. The program's PINS diversion rate of 94% is 16% above the county-wide PINS diversion rate of 78%. Of the 61 youth served during the same time period, 96.17% were diverted from chronic truancy (as defined by 20 or more absences from school). The average diversion from truancy for Mount Vernon, Yonkers and Tarrytown is 79%.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii thereof as the program is aimed at providing services for the prevention of delinquency and youth crime and also for the moral, physical, mental and social well being of the youth in Westchester County.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the purpose of providing the aforesaid services.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-29-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Family Services of Westchester, Inc. for the purpose of operating the ADAPT (A Different Approach to Parenting Teens), a family mediation program, for the period from May 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011 for an amount not to exceed \$54,900 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; 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 duly authorized designee is empowered to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purpose hereof.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	4500	4439	-----	\$36,600
2011	101	22	4500	4439	-----	\$18,300

Budget Funding Year(s): 2010-2011 Start Date: 5/1/10 End Date: 4/30/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$ 54,900

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: 41%

State Aid: 41%

Federal Aid: 18%

Other _____

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