

DATE: April 26, 2010

TO: The Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Marlene E. Furtick, Executive Director  
Westchester County Youth Bureau

RE: Authority to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in the total amount not-to-exceed \$74,675 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget.

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Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through the Westchester County Youth Bureau, (the "Youth Bureau") to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. ("Student Advocacy") to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program (the "Program"), for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. In consideration for services to be rendered, the County will pay Student Advocacy an amount not to exceed \$74,675 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget. Funding amount for this program will be provided by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services under a portion of the County's Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SDPP) grant. It should be noted that there is no County match requirement for this funding stream.

SDPP is a specific initiative targeted to youth with well-defined needs. SDPP supports services aimed at keeping youth from becoming involved or dependent upon the juvenile justice and/or human service systems. It also promotes efforts to reduce the need for longer term acute or chronic care services.

The Program will serve a public purpose by getting at-risk youth on track to school success. The Program offers educational advocacy services to the families of at-risk youth facing significant school problems such as academic failure, dropping out, disciplinary problems or failure to enroll. It results in more appropriate school services that ensure: access to school, improved behavior and better educational progress leading towards graduation.

The goals and objectives of the Program are:

- Of the 90 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 75 will benefit from parents who have improved parenting skills regarding the resolution of school problems as measured by parent reports.
- Of the 90 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 72 will benefit from new instructional opportunities and educational supports at school which build on the child's strengths while incorporating services tailored to address educational needs as measured by an analysis of changes in school services before and after our advocacy
- Of the 90 youth who receive educational advocacy services, 75 will achieve one or more of the following:
  - Improved attendance at school
  - Improved academic progress at school
  - Decreased disciplinary problems at school
  - Improved attitude towards school

The proposed Agreement is in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety because the Program provides youth with the support they need to avoid high risk behaviors including gang involvement, substance abuse and criminal behavior due to lack of educational skills.

If this resolution were not approved, the taxpayer would be faced with increased costs due to increased gang involvement, substance abuse and criminal behavior.

It should be noted that this program was also funded in 2009. Below are actual outcomes that were achieved in 2009

- Of the 90 youth who received educational advocacy services, 75 benefited from parents who had improved parenting skills regarding the resolution of school problems as measured by parent reports. Achieved Outcome: Of the 96 (6 more than contracted for) completed cases, 77 (two more than contracted for) parents reported improved skills regarding resolution of school problems.
- Of the 90 youth who received educational advocacy services, 72 benefited from new instructional opportunities and educational supports at school which built on the child's strengths while incorporating services tailored to address educational needs as measured by an analysis of changes in school services before and after advocacy services. Achieved Outcome: Of the 96 (6 more than contracted for) youth for whom services were completed, improved education services were achieved for 91 (19 more than contracted for). These included access to school for youth who had been denied entry, special education services tailored to the child's needs, minimal loss of school time following a suspension, and/or bilingual educational services.
- Of the 90 youth who received educational advocacy services, 75 achieved one or more of the following:
  - Improved attendance at school
  - Improved academic progress at school
  - Decreased disciplinary problems at school
  - Improved attitude towards school

The success of this program is measured by parent reports. Since parents provide the baseline report on these measures, Student Advocacy asks parents to report on improvements following intervention. Achieved Outcome: 78 (three more than contracted for) of the at-risk youth served are on track to school success according to parent reports.

- Improved attendance at school (83 %)
- Improved academic progress at school (87%)
- Decreased disciplinary problems at school (84%)
- Improved attitude towards school (88%)

Pursuant to Act No. 19 – 2010 adopted by the Westchester County Board of Legislators on March 22, 2010 the County of Westchester was authorized to participate in a Resource Allocation Plan to provide State reimbursement for certain youth services programs which operate with funding provided by the County's Special Delinquency Prevention Program.

This Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to section 3(a)xviii thereof. Nevertheless, in 2008 the Youth Bureau issued an RFP to cover the program years 2009 – 2011. This agency is one of 94 agencies that submitted a proposal in response to the RFP. However due to the precariousness of the funding stream from the state, the Youth Bureau deemed it appropriate to enter into one year contracts with this agency as opposed to a three year contract as stated in the above

mentioned RFP. The agency has agreed to contract with the County on a year to year basis for the 2009 – 2011 period based upon appropriation and contract compliance.

An appropriate Resolution is attached hereto for your Honorable Board’s consideration.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-13-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an Agreement with Student Advocacy, Inc. to operate the Overcoming the Odds II program for the program period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in the total amount not-to-exceed Seventy Four Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Five (\$74,675) Dollars to be paid pursuant to 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 their Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee be, and hereby is, authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

| Account to be charged/credited  | Fund                     | Dept. code | Unit # | Object/<br>Sub Object | Trust Account | Dollars  |
|---|--------------------------|------------|--------|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
| SDPP  | 263                      | 11         | 040K   | 4380                  | T040          | \$74,675 |
| Budget Funding Year(s) <u>2010</u> Start Date <u>January 1, 2010</u> End Date <u>December 31, 2010</u><br>(must match resolution) |                          |            |        |                       |               |          |
| Funding Source  | Tax Dollars \$ _____     |            |        |                       |               |          |
|   | State Aid \$74,675 _____ |            |        |                       |               |          |
| \$74,675  | Federal Aid \$ _____     |            |        |                       |               |          |
| (must match resolution)   | Other _____              |            |        |                       |               |          |