



Department of Emergency Services

Memorandum

12089

DATE: June 9, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Anthony W. Sutton, Commissioner of Emergency Services

RE: **Authorization for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation whereby the County will provide WCHCC with radiation detection equipment in order to detect radiological contamination, monitor patients and staff and prepare for, respond to and mitigate the effect of a radiological event, for a five year term commencing upon execution**

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services ("Department"), to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation ("WCHCC") whereby the County will provide WCHCC with radiation detection equipment in order to detect radiological contamination, monitor patients and staff and prepare for, respond to and mitigate the effect of a radiological event. WCHCC will use and operate the equipment, at no charge, in and around the hospital and also during training, drills and exercises that it sponsors or in which it participates. The radiation detection equipment was obtained using grant funds awarded to the County by the New York State Office of Homeland Security ("NYSOHS") to be used to prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from threats or acts of terrorism involving the use of radiological or nuclear weapons, as well as those from improvised explosive devices (IED) containing radiological sources. This agreement will enable the County to comply with the objectives of the NYSOHS grant program.

The agreement will have a five (5) year term commencing upon execution, with a mutual right to terminate on thirty (30) days written notice. Upon expiration or termination, the radiation detection equipment will be returned to the County in good working order, subject to ordinary wear and tear.

As your Honorable Board is aware, Section 3307(4) of the New York State Public Authorities Law requires the approval of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and Board of Acquisition and Contract for agreements between the County and WCHCC. Accordingly, on May 24, 2010 the Board of Legislators adopted Act No. 54-2010 and authorized the County to enter into an agreement with WCHCC for the aforesated purposes.

In addition, on April 8, 2010, your Honorable Board authorized the County to enter into agreements with ten (10) other 911 receiving hospitals for the provision of radiation detection equipment at no charge. The attached resolution, if adopted, would authorize the County to enter into a similar agreement with WCHCC.

The goal and objective of this agreement is to provide WCHCC, a 911 receiving hospital, with an enhanced ability to screen, detect and monitor radiation contamination on patients, visitors and staff entering the hospital.

It is possible that a terrorist event, such as an IED could be radiological in nature. An accident at a medical facility using radiological sources or a transportation accident involving a vehicle transporting radiological devices/sources is also possible. This agreement, and the other agreements previously authorized by your Honorable Board, are in the best public interest because Westchester has only eleven hospitals receiving patients from the "911" system. If a patient, visitor, or staff member were to enter the facility with radioactive contamination, the resulting contamination could shut an emergency department or the entire institution until it could be completely decontaminated, monitored and declared "clean". This program will give WCHCC the added ability to monitor persons entering and also to monitor the facility itself.

The Department will monitor the effectiveness of this effort through a series of trainings and exercises. The Department will also include program review in all its regularly scheduled meetings with WCHCC.

Based upon the foregoing, I recommend your Honorable Board's approval of the annexed Resolution.

AWS/tsa
attachment

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (“County”), acting by and through its Department of Emergency Services (“Department”) is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Health Care Corporation (“WCHCC”); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County shall provide WCHCC with radiation detection equipment in order to detect radiological contamination, monitor patients and staff and prepare for, respond to and mitigate the effect of a radiological event. WCHCC shall use and operate the equipment, at no charge, in and around the hospital and also during training, drills and exercises that it sponsors or in which it participates; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Agreements shall have a five (5) year term commencing upon execution, with a mutual right to terminate on thirty (30) days written notice, and upon termination or expiration, the equipment shall be returned to the County in good working order, subject to ordinary wear and tear; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all instruments and take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/credited

Fund	Agency	Capital Project Or Org	Object/ Sub Object	Trust Account	Activity	Dollars
						N/A

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-2015 Start Date upon execution End Date 5 year term
 (must match resolution)
 Funding Source Tax Dollars _____
 State Aid _____
\$N/A Federal Aid _____
 (must match resolution) Other _____

*Note. Equipment purchased with funds from (FY07SHSP- T873H)