



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15454

DATE: November 20, 2010

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Authority to amend an agreement with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 and/or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to February 28, 2011 at no additional cost to the County

On or about December 18, 2009, the County of Westchester entered into a short form contract (DSS704-10) with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 and/or children currently in foster care to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers. The term of the agreement was for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, for an amount not to exceed \$20,000. The agreement was subsequently executed.

Through a resolution approved on July 8, 2010, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to amend the aforesaid short form contract by increasing the not-to-exceed amount by \$50,000 from a total not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 to a new total not-to-exceed amount of \$70,000, to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. The amendment was subsequently executed.

Authority is now requested to further amend the above said agreement with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to February 28, 2011 at no additional cost to the County, to guarantee the provision of these services until a provider is chosen. The Department will be soliciting bids shortly and the contract will be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes the health, safety and welfare of families and children by providing transportation services for court ordered visitations, thereby promoting attachment and strengthening the parent-child relationship due to frequency and consistency of visitation. Additionally, regular visitation between children who are currently in foster care and their families facilitates family assessments and can help the Department, as well as the court, to determine whether reunification is the best permanency option for the child.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 and/or children currently in foster care, to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** of the children of Westchester County. Visitation allows for the preservation and strengthening of parent-child relationships, as well as to serve as a strategy for reunifying families and achieving permanency. Visitation also reduces the negative effects of separation for the child and the parent.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the visitation program enables the Department to determine an appropriate plan or timeframe for reunification, thereby decreasing the length of stay in foster care placement and avoiding the associated costs.

Additionally, the provision of transportation for the purpose of court ordered visitations affords the Department the ability to remain in compliance, thereby preventing possible sanctions and/or fines. Lastly, based on the results of a cost analysis to compare the cost effectiveness of using this transportation provider versus using a case manager to provide the same service, it was concluded that it is more cost effective to use this transportation company. By providing transportation services, the case managers had more available routine work hours to focus on other aspects of their jobs, such as case planning and case management activities.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Accordingly, authority is requested to amend the agreement with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC for the purpose stated above.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith requesting your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACTS
JUNE 2010 - JUMBA HEIRA SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to further amend an agreement (DSS704-10) with Jo Jo Bee's Children Transport Services LLC, to provide transportation services for children placed under Article 1017, Article 1055 and/or children currently in foster care, to transport them to and from court ordered visitation with custodial and/or non-custodial caretakers, by extending the end date of the agreement from December 31, 2010 to February 28, 2011 at no additional cost to the County, and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement as amended shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Original Contract Amount: \$20,000
 First Amendment: \$50,000
 This Amendment: -0-
 Total: \$70,000

Account to be
 Charged/Credited

Budget Year(s)	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	---	\$N/A

Start Date: N/A End Date: 02/28/11

(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: N/A
 State Aid: N/A
\$N/A Federal Aid: N/A
 (must match resolution) Other:

APPROVED BY BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12-16-2010 - JOMAR VIEIRA, SECRETARY