

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Grant E. Mitchell, MD
Acting Commissioner

15864

Date: December 9, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) in connection with comprehensive assessment of serious physical abuse and sexual abuse of children alleged to be victims of physical and sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,504 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) for the provision of services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) in connection with comprehensive assessments of serious physical abuse and sexual abuse of children alleged to be victims of physical and sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,504 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. There has been no increase in the amount requested for the 2011 proposed agreement.

The proposed agreement serves a **public purpose** in that it is aimed at providing a child-friendly environment where professionals conduct interdisciplinary assessments of children when serious physical or sexual abuse is suspected. The forensic medical and social work professionals collaborate with representatives of Child Protective Services, law enforcement, the legal and medical fields as well as mental health professionals to improve investigative outcomes and reduce further trauma to children.

The goals and the objectives of the program are to provide the Department with expert, quality and timely required specialized medical assessments for children who are alleged to be victims of sexual abuse or serious physical abuse to ensure the health, safety and protection of vulnerable



children. This contract provides services to all children referred, ranging from ages 0-18 who are suspected victims of serious child abuse or child sexual abuse, sexual assault or neglect with coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. WIHD also provides interpretation of reports for appropriate agencies, such as CPS, Law Enforcement, District Attorney and the County Attorney, when appropriate, via telephone or in-person meetings. The program provides the following services:

1. Sexual abuse evaluations for children with suspected sexual abuse
2. Follow-up sexual abuse examinations for children who have been previously evaluated for sexual abuse and need medical follow-up
3. Wellness examinations for children presumed to have no medical need for a sexual abuse evaluation but who have been exposed to a situation involving potential sexual abuse without a disclosure. At times, a disclosure may arise during this process.
4. Physical abuse evaluations of child victims of physical abuse
5. Physical abuse consultations for children with suspected physical abuse. This includes a comprehensive review of medical, casework and psychosocial information in order to provide a thorough forensic pediatrics approach.
6. Participation in Child Fatality Reviews to occur at the time of a child's unexpected death
7. Court testimony
8. 24 hours, 7 days a week coverage for the Multidisciplinary Team ("MDT") and Child Protective Services
9. Fellowship training of child abuse pediatrician
10. Education for the medical community

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the county in terms of public health** as they are designed to ensure the safety and physical well-being of the children who are the alleged victims of sexual or physical abuse. Further, the information derived from the assessments of these victims is a key element in the identification and investigation of child abuse cases in Westchester County. The highly specialized WIHD staff respond to queries from local pediatricians and emergency departments in cases where child abuse is suspected, thus providing their expertise to the community-at-large.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** as the program is aimed at promoting a safer environment for the children and the public alike by bringing the abusers to justice through court proceedings. The CAC/Multidisciplinary Team approach promotes effective, efficient multidisciplinary assessments of child victims of severe physical abuse and sexual abuse in a manner that prevents further trauma to the child.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the provider will seek to obtain private medical insurance or other billing, whenever possible, to offset and reduce the actual cost for medical assessments and evaluations.

The **goals and objectives will be monitored using the performance measurement indicators** developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The provider will submit monthly statistics and quarterly performance reports in the format approved by the Department. The program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported as of October 31, 2010, the Department is able to report that the vendor is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the contract and is on track to serving 100% contract capacity. As of October 31, 2010, 239 children have been seen

for sexual abuse and 19 children have been seen for physical abuse. WIHD Children's Advocacy Center staff made 16 court appearances and provided 14 trainings/presentations. WIHD also successfully met benchmarks for timeliness where reports were completed within ten days of WIHD's last contact with the children. In addition, 75% of the children had only one interview, thus, preventing any potential trauma faced by these children.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) viii of said Policy.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development ("WIHD") to provide the aforesaid services.

An appropriate resolution is annexed herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/22/2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, 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 enter into an agreement with Westchester Institute for Human Development for the provision of services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) in connection with comprehensive serious physical abuse and sexual abuse assessments of children alleged to be victims of physical and sexual abuse for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,504 to be paid 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 authorized designee is empowered to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes of this resolution.

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2011 101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$915,504

Budget Funding Year(s): 2011 Start Date: 01/01/11 End Date: 12/31/11
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars: 41%
State Aid: 36%
\$915,504 Federal Aid: 23%
(must match resolution) Other: