

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

22474

DATE October 21, 2011

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an Agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. for the provision of the "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$233,413 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority is requested to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") for the provision of the "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement. This program provides specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Northern Westchester. The proposed contract, in an amount not to exceed \$233,413, will be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with the approved budget and subject to appropriation for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. MHA has provided this service for the County for the past several years through an interdepartmental agreement between the Department of Community Mental Health and the Department of Social Services. These services will now be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department of Social Services. The contract will be monitored by the Department directly.

The services provided through this contract serve a **public purpose** in that it preserves the family, reduces risk of abuse or neglect, prevents delinquency and youth crime, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families are better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program promotes the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are in compliance with OCFS regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, we seek to avoid foster care placements. MHA is able to accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through this contract enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

- **Family Foster care cost annualized per child.** The cost of Foster Care in a family foster setting can range from \$17.10 to \$58.65 per day per child 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 child per year.**
- **Residential Foster care cost annualized per child.** The cost of Residential Foster Care costs can range from \$199.60 to \$446.78 per day per child. That translates into an annualized cost for residential care from **\$72,854.00 to \$163,074.70 per child per year.**

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the contract, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by the vendor, and making onsite visits.

Since the Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration is a new initiative, the Program Office will collect baseline data of Performance Measurement Indicators in this contract period.

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting permission to enter into an Agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. for the above stated purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/01/2011 - JOMARY NEIRA, SECRETARY

## RESOLUTION

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. for the provision of the “Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration” for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 in an amount not to exceed \$233,413 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, and this contract is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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 hereby authorized to execute any and all documents and to take all actions necessary and appropriate on behalf of the County of Westchester to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

| Fund        | Dept | Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit | Object/ Sub-Object | Trust Account | Dollars   |
|-------------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 2012<br>101 | 22   | 4500                                   | 4439               | -----         | \$233,413 |
|             |      |  |                    |               |           |

Budget Funding Year(s) 2012  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2012

End Date: 12/31/2012

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 41%

State Aid: 30%

**\$233,413**

Federal Aid: 29%

(must match resolution)

Other: