



**Office of the District Attorney
County of Westchester**

MEMORANDUM

26755

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS
BOARD OF ACQUISITION AND CONTRACT

FROM: JANET DiFIORE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

RE: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER TO 1) ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES TO ACCEPT A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$129,890, WITH THE COUNTY CONTRIBUTING \$10,359 IN COUNTY MATCHING FUNDS, FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TO OPERATE THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER GRANT FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 1, 2012 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2013; AND 2) SUBCONTRACT WITH WESTCHESTER JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$24,419, PURSUANT TO AN APPROVED BUDGET, FOR PURPOSES OF IMPLEMENTING THE GRANT**

Authority is sought for the County of Westchester (the "County") to 1) enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$129,890 in State funds, with the County contributing \$10,359 in County matching funds, for the District Attorney's Office to operate the Multidisciplinary Team and Child Advocacy Center Grant (the "Grant") for the period February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013; and 2) subcontract with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") in an amount not-to-exceed \$24,419, pursuant to an approved budget, for purposes of implementing the Grant.

The Multidisciplinary Team and Child Advocacy Center Grant ("MDT/CAC") provide the coordination of all investigations that pertain to all suspected child abuse or maltreatment throughout Westchester County. It enables the successful investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases and comprehensive allocation of services for the therapeutic treatment of child victims. This process is coordinated through the Investigations Information Coordinator who ensures all team members are joined in any specific investigation and attend scheduled forensic interviews and medical exams of the child victim at the Child Advocacy Center. This process has successfully limited victims from being interviewed more than once by multiple agencies and preserved crucial prosecutorial evidence which has well enhanced prosecutorial cases. The MDT/CAC not only provides child victims a safe friendly environment to receive medical and therapeutic services, but also a place where a child can report any occurring abuse to law enforcement officials.

Pursuant to the subcontract with WJCS, the agency will provide a Mental Health Coordinator ("MHC") who will be available to the victim and family during the interview and examination

process and a supervisor who will oversee the MHC to ensure that team services are being provided.

In addition, a portion of the grant funds will be used directly by the District Attorney's Office to provide a Senior Domestic Violence Aide who will act as the MDT investigations information coordinator. This coordinator will review reports of child abuse to the State Central Registry provided by Child Protective Services ("CPS") to the District Attorney's Office and ensure that timely notification of cases is made to law enforcement, CPS, and the Child Advocacy Coordinator.

The goals and objectives of the Grant are to prevent duplication of interviews, increase the use of the Children's Advocacy Center by law enforcement, enhance prosecution by the immediate collection of evidence and help the establishment of state approved protocols for Westchester's MDT/CAC.

The goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety by promoting the health, safety and welfare of children who have been the victims of abuse or are suspected of being victims of abuse by enabling the County to increase the use of the CAC, limit the number of child interviews, encourage sound forensic interviews and investigations, and assist the County in State approval of the Multidisciplinary Team.

The goals and objectives will be monitored by the Office of the District Attorney and quarterly progress reports are submitted to the OCFS for their review and approval.

Because the Agreement with OCFS is for the acceptance of grant funds, it does not constitute a procurement and, as such, is not subject to the Westchester County Procurement Policy. The agreement with WJCS is exempt from the Procurement Policy pursuant to Sections 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xviii) thereof.

I certify that my department, a.) has copies of, or access to, all applicable laws, rules, regulations, grant applications, and grant agreements (including any master grant agreement), as well as any guidance or instructions received from the agency making the grant (the "Grant Terms"), b.) has reviewed the Grant Terms, c.) is aware of and understands all of the Grant Terms, and d.) can and will comply with all of the Grant Terms.

Accordingly, approval of the attached resolution is most respectfully requested.

JD/SV/jpg

RESOLUTION

Upon communication from Janet DiFiore, District Attorney, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is authorized to 1) enter into an agreement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to accept a grant in an amount not to exceed \$129,890 with the County contributing \$10,359 in County matching funds, to operate the Multidisciplinary Team and Child Advocacy Center Grant (the "Grant") for the period February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013; and 2) subcontract with Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc. ("WJCS") in an amount not-to-exceed \$24,419, pursuant to an approved budget, for purposes of implementing the Grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement with WJCS is subject to County Appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the agreement with WJCS 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 these agreements. 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 the Agreement or to renegotiate the amounts and rates approved herein. If the County subsequently offers to pay a reduced amount to WJCS, then WJCS shall have the right to terminate this Agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the District Attorney or her duly authorized designee is hereby empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish the purposes of this resolution.

Account to be charged

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/Sub Object	Trust Account		Dollars
263	37	850M	9854	T850	2011	\$129,890
101	37	0010	4912		2011	\$ 10,359
263	37	850M	4380	T850	2011	\$ 24,419

Budget Funding Year(s) 2011 Start Date 2/1/12 End Date 1/31/13
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source:	Tax Dollars	\$10,359
	State Aid	\$129,890
	Federal Aid	
\$140,249	Other :	