

**32443**

DATE: January 14, 2013

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin Cheverko  
Commissioner of Correction

RE: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. d/b/a St. John's Riverside Hospital to operate a violence prevention program for the term January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in amount not to exceed \$453,021, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

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Authority is requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") acting by and through its Department of Correction ("DOC"), to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. d/b/a St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") located at 967 North Broadway in Yonkers, New York, to operate a violence prevention program for the term January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$453,021, payable pursuant to an approved budget.

The Resolve to Stop the Violence Program ("RSVP") is based on a "restorative justice" model that has been successfully implemented at the San Francisco County Jail. St. John's has successfully implemented and operated the program since its inception on May 19, 2008 and enhanced the RSVP program by including concurrent chemical dependence treatment.

The goals & objectives are to address the unique treatment needs of males that have a violent history, are chemically dependent and incarcerated at the Westchester County Department of Correction (WCDOC). RSVP is a crime – victim driven program. It is a violence cessation project that reaches out to perpetrators. The goals of the program are:

- Ongoing recruitment and training of qualified program staff to implement the continuing operation of a 44 inmate program. This will include violence intervention training as well as victim impact and theatre arts components.
- Inmate learning of the tools and strategies necessary to understand the roots of their violent behavior and its impact on themselves, victims and the community.
- Provision of quality addiction treatment services with recognition of the linkage between addiction and violence.
- Improved conduct and program participation while an inmate at WCDOC.

- Successful transition to community and reduction in risk for relapse and recidivism due to violent behavior and drug usage. Availability of community center component upon discharge.

Quarterly program evaluations and an annual report will be completed to determine program effectiveness and the achievement of stated goals and objectives.

St. John's will also utilize the following subcontractors in performing services:

Victim Assistance Services  
2269 Saw Mill River Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(Victim impact panel sessions)

**Impact:**

RSVP is a Restorative Justice Model of violence intervention based on the principle that crime is an offense against the community, not simply a violation against the state, and creates an obligation to make things right. Offenders in this program learn how to avoid violence and are given the opportunity to understand and take responsibility for the harm done. Violent offenders incarcerated at WCDOC participate in a targeted intervention program that will identify and address the root causes of violence. They learn how to break the cycle of violence which leads to arrest and incarceration. RSVP's methodology incorporates offender accountability and community involvement to reduce recidivism, responsibly return ex-offenders to their communities, and prevent further violence. Inmates will also learn to use their hands on experience to become community advocates at different levels of opportunity in their life at home, and in their neighborhood, leading to the restoration of perpetrator, victim and community. The RSVP Community Center opened in March 2009. All successful discharges are referred to the Yonkers based Community Center for continued care and substance abuse treatment, if applicable.

**Evaluation:**

Evaluation of the program's effectiveness since inception on May 19, 2008 is summarized as follows:

Violent offenders with broadly defined violent charges such as assault, domestic violence, armed robbery, rape and murder are mandated to the program or have cases pending for violent offenses.

The program is located in an all male 44-bed direct supervision cell-block. The program consists of peer re-education classes (*Manalive curriculum*), group discussions, academic classes, role-playing, counseling sessions, substance abuse treatment services and discussions with victims/survivors of violence.

**In-house statistics and post release recidivism.**

- Number of inmates that have participated in RSVP since May 2008 to date - 899
- Number of inmates that have Completed RSVP since May 2008 to date- 421
- Number of inmates that participated in RSVP in 2012 - 173
- Number of inmates that completed RSVP in 2012 - 90
  - Number of inmates that completed RSVP and have recidivated in 12 months - 19 recidivated in 12 months.
  - Inmates that completed RSVP in 2012 have a recidivism rate of 21% .
  - The recidivism rate for inmates that did not participate in RSVP in 2012 is 35%. This means that inmates that complete RSVP have a 40% lower recidivism risk (than inmates that did not participate in the program).
- RSVP will have a positive financial and public safety impact on the County and its communities.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to section 3(a)(viii) and 3(a)(xvii) thereof.

Accordingly, I recommend adoption of the annexed Resolution.

KC/mlg

## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Correction, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester is authorized to enter into an agreement with Riverside Health Care System, Inc. dba St. John's Riverside Hospital ("St. John's") to operate a violence prevention program for the term January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$453,021, payable pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that St. John's is authorized to utilize the following subcontractors in performing these services:

Victim Assistance Services  
2269 Saw Mill River Road  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
(Victim impact panel sessions)

**RESOLVED** that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 duly authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute any documents and take any actions reasonably necessary and appropriate 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
101	35	1000	4230		\$453,021

Budget Funding Year(s) **2013** Start Date 01/01/2013 End Date: 12/31/2013  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars \$443,695  
State Aid \_\_\_\_\_  
\$453,021 Federal Aid \_\_\_\_\_  
(must match resolution) Other \$9,326 (Inmate Trust Fund)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 03/21/2013 - JIMMY VIERA, SECRETARY