

Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

**37398**

**Date:** December 6, 2013

**To:** Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

**From:** Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner, Department of Social Services

**Subject:** **Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Village, Inc. ("Samaritan") pursuant to which Samaritan will provide comprehensive substance abuse assessment services to parents with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$734,867 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with an approved budget and subject to appropriation**

Authority by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Village, Inc. ("Samaritan") pursuant to which Samaritan will provide comprehensive substance abuse assessment services to parents with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$734,867 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The proposed Agreement will provide substance abuse assessment, referral and placement for parents/guardians of substance-affected families. Samaritan will operate in five locations in Westchester County: at the four County District Offices: Mount Vernon; Yonkers; Peekskill White Plains, and 10 County Center. The 2014 budget for these services was increased in order to fund the three additional locations: White Plains, Yonkers and Peekskill. The Samaritan Substance Abuse Specialists conduct home visits and provide community outreach on behalf of the families. Samaritan also provides on-the-spot substance abuse testing. This eliminates the need to wait for results of drug tests before the Department can determine a service plan for a family with children at high risk of abuse, neglect and foster care placement. The Samaritan

Substance Abuse Specialists will provide training, education, case consultation, comprehensive substance abuse assessments, referrals to substance abuse treatment and follow-up on referrals for up to 90 days. The Specialists will be part of a casework team offering substance abuse treatment services seamlessly with the other casework services.

The services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement will serve a **public purpose** as these services provide substance abuse evaluation and referral for parents with children at risk of foster care placement. These services will increase safety and reduce risk of vulnerable children in Westchester County. The primary population served are parents/guardians listed as the subject on Child Protective Services (CPS) reports and referrals from the Westchester County Cross Systems Unit (CSU). The services rendered by Samaritan are also offered to other substance affected families in the child welfare system.

The **goals and objectives** of the Agreement to provide substance abuse assessment, referral and placement for parents/guardians of substance affected families **are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** because the services provided by Samaritan are aimed at reducing abuse and neglect of children and reducing the need to place children in foster care. Because Samaritan specialists will be located in these five locations, early and convenient access to substance abuse services are available and this in turn allows the Department to determine the appropriate safety interventions for vulnerable children.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** in that the services provided hereunder will ensure the health and well being of children and families of Westchester County. It has been widely recognized that children in substance affected families also need substance abuse supportive services. Prenatal and interpersonal exposure from parental alcohol and drug use can affect a child's social and psychological development through adulthood (*Substance Abuse: Information for School Counselors, Social Workers, Therapists, and Counselors*, Fisher & Harrison, 2009). Early identification of substance abuse is imperative to the health and well-being of children. Samaritan will match the substance abusing parent/guardian with the appropriate treatment provider while also taking into consideration the unique needs of the entire family. The services provided pursuant to this program will promote healthy family functioning.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as the program is designed to prevent foster care placement of children living in substance affected families. The diversion of foster care of children would result in substantial savings for the County.

**The goals and objectives of the agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Department** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Department of Budget. Samaritan will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in a format approved by the Department. Other monitoring efforts will include, but are not limited to, periodic review of records and site visits.

**Based on the Performance Measure Indicators, the Department is able to report that** Veritas Therapeutic Community, Inc. ("Veritas") satisfactorily met the performance goals for the first two quarters of 2013. Veritas merged with Samaritan in July 2013 and as of the end of the third quarter, Samaritan's performance is consistent with that of Veritas. Veritas/Samaritan provided credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counseling services to a total unduplicated

count of 786 families and 990 children at the close of the third quarter. Veritas/Samaritan received 412 referrals and did 314 assessments during this same period.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3 (a) xvii as this procurement is for treatment, counseling and referral of those suffering from the disease of alcoholism or substance abuse. The Agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rule as this falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, your Honorable Board's approval of the attached resolution authorizing the County to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Village, Inc. to provide comprehensive substance abuse assessments is respectfully requested.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/06/2014 - JOMAR VERIA, SECRETARY

**RESOLUTION**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Village, Inc. ("Samaritan") to provide comprehensive substance abuse assessment services to parents with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 for an amount not to exceed \$734,867 payable monthly, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Agreement 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 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
2014	101	22	8900	5960	-----	\$734,867

Budget Funding Year(s) 2014  
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/14

End Date: 12/31/14

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 32%  
State Aid: 47%  
Federal Aid: 21%  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$734,867**

(Must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACCOUNTS CONTRACT # C21067014 - JUMBA VEIRA, SECRETARY