

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

43583

Date: December 1, 2014

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin M. McGuire
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 comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect in a child friendly environment for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 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 comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect in a child friendly environment for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The CAC at WIHD is a fully accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (“NCA”) which is the accrediting body for all Children's Advocacy Centers. By maintaining accreditation with NCA, WIHD establishes that they have met all 10 standards necessary for accreditation and best practices for CACs.

NCA accreditation is required for Tier 1 status with OCFS. WIHD has the only accredited CAC in Westchester County.

The CAC at WIHD is able to meet the medical standard for CACs because we have, on staff, a board certified child abuse pediatrician, the only one in Westchester County and one of only approximately 200 in the country. The child abuse pediatrician is also a recognized expert in court testimony and is the only recognized expert in Westchester County and the surrounding region.

Staff from the CAC and our mental health provider are trained in the Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention and Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy - the two leading evidence supported interventions for children who have experienced a traumatic event.

The CAC at WIHD has a child friendly environment in which to conduct forensic interviews and medical assessments in accordance with NCA guidelines.

The CAC at WIHD conducts monthly case review meetings in accordance with the standards set forth by the National Children's Alliance. The aforesaid facts make WIHD a sole source provider in delivering the required services under the proposed agreement.

Accordingly, this contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 9, as this is a sole source provider. The sole source exemption also applies to the Federal Common Grant Rules as well.

The CAC/MDT (Multidisciplinary Team) approach used in the proposed agreement serves a **public purpose** by promoting effective, efficient, multidisciplinary assessments of child victims of severe physical abuse and sexual abuse in a manner that reduces trauma and prevents re-victimization of the child and promotes family and public safety by conducting objective, thorough multi-disciplinary assessments of potential abuse in a child-friendly setting.

The goals and the objectives of the program are to provide the Department with expert, quality, timely and 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. The Children's Advocacy Center is designed to provide a child friendly location where children and adolescents who may have experienced abuse can receive all necessary components of a multidisciplinary assessment at one time. The multidisciplinary team includes Child Protection, Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Child Abuse Pediatrics medical providers, Mental Health treatment providers, Victim Advocacy and CAC staff. Forensic interviews, conducted by trained team members, can be observed by other

members of the team so that children do not have to recount their experiences multiple times to different people. The program provides services 24/7 to all children referred, ranging from ages 0-18 who are suspected victims of serious child physical abuse or child sexual abuse, sexual assault or neglect. 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 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 goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as research across the country demonstrates that the CAC approach is a cost saving measure when compared with assessments that do not use a multidisciplinary approach.

The goals and objectives will be monitored and tracked using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators** reported for the period January 2014 through September 2014, Children's Advocacy Center staff served 217 families and 267 children, 83% of the children had only one interview, thus preventing any additional trauma to these children. WIHD successfully met benchmarks for timeliness where average time from appointment request date and appointment was 2 days and reports were completed within ten days of WIHD's last contact with the children.

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.

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the 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 (“WIHD”) for the provision of comprehensive multidisciplinary assessment services at the Children’s Advocacy Center (“CAC”) for potential child victims of severe physical abuse, sexual abuse or neglect in a child friendly environment, for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$915,503 to be paid pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that based on the representations of the Commissioner of Social Services, this Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 9 (Sole Source) of said Policy as Westchester Institute for Human Development (“WIHD”) is the sole provider of this service; 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
2015	101	22	8900	5650	-----	\$915,503

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 Start Date: 01/01/15 End Date: 12/31/15
(must match resolution)

Funding Source Tax Dollars:
State Aid: 50%
\$915,503 Federal Aid: 50%
(must match resolution) Other: