



Robert P. Astorino  
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire  
Commissioner

43838

**Date:** December 12, 2014

**To:** 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 The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents involved with Persons-In-Need of Supervision ("PINS") Diversion for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$855,360 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.**

Authority is requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. pursuant to which Children's Village will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy ("MST") Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents who are exhibiting truancy, academic problems, curfew non-compliance, non-compliance with directives at home and other anti-social behaviors for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$855,360 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The Children's Village's MST Program serves a valuable **public purpose** as it will focus on the diversion and prevention of delinquency and youth crime and the social and moral well-being of the youth of Westchester. Chapter 57 (Part E), NYS Laws of 2005, established requirements concerning the provision of diversion services to prospective PINS youth and their families for the purpose of avoiding the need to file a petition or to divert the detention of the youth. In addition, Chapter 57 (Part DD), NYS Laws of 2008 established additional requirements regarding alternatives to diversion and

detention services. The referrals will be made to this program by Westchester County Cross Systems Units.

The **goals and objectives** of this program will address youth behaviors that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. Youth referred to Children's Village's MST Program are often non-compliant with directives at home which place them at risk of abuse and neglect. Research reveals that childhood abuse and neglect increased a youth's likelihood of arrest as a juvenile. MST provided by Children's Village empowers parents and caregivers to take more control of their homes by creating a more, or sometimes less, structured environment. A Multi-systemic therapist, trained to deliver the MST Program model, will focus on helping parents and guardians to become more consistent with parenting. Parents and guardians will learn to use their natural environment (other family members, church members, school personnel, adult supervised community centers) to meet and sustain treatment gains.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public safety** as the program is designed to reduce anti-social behavior and violent activities associated with those behaviors. Youth referred for MST typically exhibit truancy, curfew non-compliance and substance abuse. According to research, the rate of delinquency increases among youth removed from their homes and placed in foster care. Children's Village's MST program is designed to work with youth exhibiting multiple behavior issues that place them at risk of out-of-home placements. The MST Program will ensure the safety of the youth, their families and the community by reducing out-of-home placements and youth delinquency.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** of the youth and families of Westchester County because the services provided by Children's Village's MST Program will incorporate the use of the youth's total environment in the resolution of anti-social behaviors that would impair the health of the youth, the family and the community. The MST Program will allow the youth and the family to incorporate aspects of the youth's environment that prove to be beneficial to the youth's social, emotional, intellectual, mental, spiritual and physical well-being. The MST model will allow the infusion of extended family and concerned community members into the service plan for the benefit of the child and maintenance of the family system.

The **goals and objectives** of Children's Village's Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) Program are **in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as this program is expected to reduce the number of future foster care placements and the cost associated with those placements. This initiative will be a viable alternative to detention of PINS and will result in substantial savings for the County. Youth that receive services through evidence based programs such as MST will produce a cost/benefit for both the program participant and the County.

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success of Children's Village's MST Program and to determine and verify outcomes realized by youth, their families and the community. Mutually established performance measurement indicators will be used to track and monitor the outcomes resulting in improved school attendance, reduced substance abuse, out-of-home placements, reduced anti-social behaviors and reduction in behaviors that lead to formal family court involvement.

Based on the **Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report** that Children's Village's MST Program met their established performance for the first three quarters of 2014. Fifty-four (54) youth received services from January through September 2014. Of the 54 youth, 100% were diverted from foster care placement and 99% were diverted from subsequent abuse and neglect. In addition, the year-to-date PINS diversion rate for Children's Village MST Program is 57%. Since its inception in August, 2001, the MST program operated by Children's Village, has been successful in meeting these goals and objectives and working in conjunction with the Cross Systems Unit (CSU).

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3 (a) xviii thereof.

It should be noted that this agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules as this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County of Westchester is hereby requesting authorization to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. for the purpose stated above.

An appropriate resolution is attached herewith for your Honorable Board's approval.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION - JOMAR VENTURA, 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"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Children's Village, Inc. ("Children's Village") pursuant to which Children's Village will provide a Multi Systemic Therapy Program, a community-based intensive case management program for families with adolescents involved with Persons in Need of Supervision Diversion for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$855,360 to be paid on a monthly basis in accordance with 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,<br>Program & Phase<br>Or Unit | Object/ Sub-<br>Object | Trust<br>Account | Dollars   |
|------|------|------|--|------------------------|------------------|-----------|
| 2015 | 101  | 22   | 8900   | 5360                   | _____            | \$855,360 |
|      |      |      |  |                        |                  |           |

Budget Funding Year(s) 2015 Start Date 1/1/15 End Date 12/31/15  
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

**\$855,360**  
(must match resolution)

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 02/05/2015 - JOSE MARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY