

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

43853

DATE December 18, 2014

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner
Department of Social Services

RE: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an Agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") pursuant to which MHA will provide "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$233,060 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation

Authority of your Honorable Board is hereby requested for the County of Westchester (the "County") , acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the "Department"), to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. ("MHA") pursuant to which MHA will provide "Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration" for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$233,060 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The **public purpose** of this agreement is to preserve the family, reducing risk of abuse or neglect, thus averting the need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors. The program will promote the general safety and welfare of residents of Westchester County. This program will provide specialized programming for children and parents diagnosed with serious social, emotional, and behavioral issues, with a strong focus on restoring and/or stabilizing family functioning. The catchment area of this program is Northern Westchester.

The **goals and objectives** of this agreement are in compliance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandate that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement. Furthermore, through the

provision of this service, the Department seeks to avoid foster care placements. MHA will accomplish the goals and objectives through the provision of the following services:

- Network Facilitation and the Support Circle model of care coordination
- Wraparound planning
- Strength-based care coordination and service planning
- Family engagement skills
- Crisis and respite planning
- Safety planning for sexually reactive youth as well as those with fire setting behaviors
- Assessment of childhood mental health and behavioral issues
- Advocacy for Committee on Special Education and other school meetings
- Using community services to enhance family stability

These services will be accessed through the Cross Systems Unit of the Department of Social Services.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because this agreement will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placements.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department will be able to avert the need for foster care placements and the costs associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system will result in substantial savings for the County.

The **goals and objectives of the agreement will be tracked and monitored** using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Department will be responsible for setting the milestones/targets and tracking the achievements by reviewing the performance reports submitted by the vendor.

Based on Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that the Mental Health Case Management Assessment program has served 91 families and 161 children from January 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014. During that same period, 99% of case management documents were completed on respective due dates and 99% of each family receiving services had a face-to-face contact with all family members, at minimum, every two weeks

This contract is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy under Section 3(a) xviii. It should be noted that the agreement is exempt from the requirements of the Federal Common Grant Rules as funding from this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the Department hereby requests permission to enter into the above-described agreement with MHA for the above-stated purposes.

A resolution requesting the same is attached for your Honorable Board's approval.

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc. (“MHA”) pursuant to which MHA will provide “Mental Health Case Management Assessment and Collaboration” for families with children at risk of foster care placement for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for an amount not to exceed \$233,060 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this contract is subject to County Appropriation; and be it further

RESOLVED, and this agreement is 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 budget of the State budget and/or the adoption of the 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 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 |
|------|------|------|--|--------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 2015 | 101 | 22 | 8900 | 5960 | ----- | \$233,060 |
| | | | | | | |

Budget Funding Year(s): 2015 (must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2015

End Date: 12/31/2015

Funding Source

\$233,060
(must match resolution)

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