

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

50762

Date: January 27, 2016

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

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

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a licensed sexual abuse evaluator, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180 subject to appropriation.

Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a licensed sexual abuse validator, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016, in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180 subject to appropriation.

This Agreement will serve a **public purpose** by providing a State mandated service, as per regulation 18 CRR-NY432.3 (4) ii. Dr. Meltzer provides professional expertise in the area of comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse, thereby enabling the Department to provide appropriate referrals and services as recommended.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide timely, professional, expert assessments and evaluations of children alleged to have been sexually abused followed up with verbal and written reports. The assessment and testimony are used to support CPS determinations and to obtain a finding in Court. As Dr. Meltzer specializes in the dynamics surrounding child sexual abuse, she can provide a course of direction for CPS staff when there is no physical evidence or witness to corroborate the allegations. These assessments are extremely useful when the victim is young, and/or has limited language skills, and when the CPS interview alone is unproductive.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety and public health** because these evaluations assist the Department to obtain mental health evidence used to validate whether or not sexual abuse occurred with young children. These services promote the safety and health of the children in Westchester County by providing appropriate services to children who have been victims of abuse, neglect and maltreatment. This service is closely monitored by the Child Protective Services Program Office, who review and approve all requests for this service. High risk cases that need this type of expert consultation are pre-approved and monitored for results.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibilities** as the services provided by the Consultant assist the Department in determining the appropriate level of services needed by the children and families, thereby helping to avert out of home placement and the cost associated with placement. The services will be provided at an hourly rate and payments will be made for the actual time the Consultant spends on each case which results in more accountability on the part of the Department and the Consultants.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** by the program staff. According to the **Performance Measurement Indicator** reports for the period from January 2015 through December 2015, Dr. Meltzer received 5 referrals for evaluations. The child welfare program staff is satisfied with the service provided by the vendor.

This contract is exempt from the procurement policy pursuant to section 3(a) (vii) and 3(a) (viii) of said policy. This procurement is exempt from the competitive procurement requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (formerly, the Grants Management Common Rule) as the federal funding for this program falls under the Social Services Block Grant.

We respectfully request approval of the attached Resolution.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 2015-146 - LICHTENHUIS SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from Kevin M. McGuire, Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with Dr. Anne H. Meltzer, a licensed sexual abuse validator, trained to administer comprehensive psychosocial evaluations of children and adolescents alleged to be victims of sexual abuse in order to determine if the child's presentation is consistent with child sexual abuse for the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 in an amount not to exceed \$24,073 to be paid at an hourly rate of \$180; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these agreements are subject to County Appropriations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that these agreements are 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 these agreements. 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 these agreements or 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 the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his authorized designee is empowered to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Account to be Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2016	101	22	8900	5960	-	\$24,073

Budget Funding Year(s): 2016
(must match resolution)

Start Date: 01/01/2016 End Date: 12/31/2016

Funding Source

Tax Dollars: 27%
State Aid: 43%
Federal Aid: 30%
Other:

\$24,073
(must match resolution)