

**Robert P. Astorino**  
County Executive

Office for Women

Camille Failla Murphy  
Director

April 23, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Camille Failla Murphy  
Director, Office for Women

Re: Resolution to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement with Hope's Door, Inc. (formerly The Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc.) for the provision of non-residential domestic violence services, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

---

Authority is hereby requested from your board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy an agreement (the "Agreement") with Hope's Door, Inc., formerly The Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc., ("Hope's Door"), to provide non-residential domestic violence services in accordance with the Department of Social Services Consolidated Services Plan for Non-Residential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, for a term of one year commencing January 1, 2010 and terminating December 31, 2010 in an amount not-to-exceed Ninety-Four Thousand One Hundred Sixteen Dollars (\$94,116) to be paid quarterly pursuant to an approved workplan and budget.

Ordinarily under Section 5(b) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, the County is required to solicit written quotations from no fewer than three entities customarily providing the requested services.

However, since 1992 Hope's Door has provided non-residential domestic violence services to Westchester County through contracts administered through the Westchester County Office for Women, pursuant to the Westchester County Consolidated Services Plan, as updated annually. Since 1992, Hope's Door has carried out its contractual responsibilities in a capable and professional manner. Hope's Door is especially qualified to provide non-residential domestic violence services by reason of its expertise, leadership and longevity in the field, and because of its intimate connection with residential domestic violence services.

The proposed agreement will promote the public health, safety and general welfare by enhancing the safety and independence of abused women. If abused women are helped to become safe they are not as likely to experience physical and/or mental abuse by returning to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are enabled to be independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance. In 2009, Hope's Door served 180 unduplicated victims of domestic violence, maintained an average caseload of approximately 160 cases per month, and assisted nearly 1,000 hotline callers. During the proposed contract term, it seeks to serve approximately 180 unduplicated victims, maintain an average monthly caseload of 135 cases, and assist 840 hotline callers.

The effectiveness of the non-residential program as well as client satisfaction will be determined by assessments conducted of a diverse cross-section of clients at varying stages of their involvement; and multi-lingual focus groups will be held along with client satisfaction surveys and follow-up questionnaires. Outcome results will be measured by the victim's ability to break the silence about family violence; demonstrate increased knowledge of domestic violence, safety and their options; develop and begin implementation of a safety plan, and identify their options and their goals. For example, in 2009:

- 95% of adults and children who received services were able to break the silence about the abuse in their lives
- 99% of adults and 95% of children demonstrated increased knowledge of abuse and abuser behaviors
- 95% of adults and 97% of children developed and began implementation of a safety plan;
- 97% of adults were able to identify their options and their goals
- 98% of children showed age-appropriate improvement in gross and fine-motor skills, cognitive skills and/or language skills

If this resolution were not approved, the safety and security of domestic violence victims would be compromised. Without receiving these vital support services, the probability of continued and escalating abuse is substantially increased. Consequently, this may endanger their lives and the lives of their children.

Payments will be made to Hope's Door, quarterly, for services rendered in accordance with an approved budget. The Westchester County Office for Women will be responsible for monitoring Hope's Door's performance under this Agreement by means of site visits, as well as their monthly statistics and quarterly narratives.

Further, Sections 3(a)(xvii), (xvii) and (xix) exempt the procurement of social services for those in need of public assistance, those in need of mental health or alcoholism services, and for youth and the elderly. Although not all victims of domestic violence fall into the above named categories, many of them do. The provision of social services to victims of domestic violence is not so substantially different from the provision of services to the above named groups that it should not be similarly exempt, so as to give the County absolute discretion to choose those agencies that it believes are best suited to provide these services. Your Honorable Board waived the requirements of the Procurement Policy with respect to previous non-residential domestic violence services agreements with Hope's Door.

Pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi), the Westchester County Procurement Policy is not applicable to any procurement for which the Board determines, by resolution passed prior to commencing such procurement, that compliance with the Policy would not be in the best interests of the County. For the reasons set forth above, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by entering into this Agreement.

Accordingly, I recommend that your Honorable Board make the determination that it is in the best interests of the County to exempt this contract from the application of procedural requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy.

An appropriate resolution is herewith attached.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-6-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY

# RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, it is hereby determined that application of the procedural requirements contained therein, including the necessity of soliciting price quotations, is neither cost effective nor expedient, and accordingly not in the best interests of the County in connection with the procurement of an agreement for non-residential domestic violence services from Hope's Door, Inc. (formerly The Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc.), 39 Washington Avenue, P.O. Box 203, Pleasantville, New York 10570.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 5-6-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY