

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

ONBASE #72871

DATE: November 20, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the 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 Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. (“JDAM”) pursuant to which JDAM will provide Andrus Parenting Services for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$225,000.**

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (“County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”), to enter into an agreement with Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. (“JDAM”) pursuant to which JDAM will provide Andrus Parenting Services for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$225,000 to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a **public purpose** by preserving the family, reducing risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement as families will be better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** will be to provide preventative services to families with children at risk of foster care placement. Trained Parent Aides will provide in-home family support services designed to strengthen parenting skills which will alleviate and/or prevent stress-induced family situations that may result in incidents of child abuse and neglect, family violence, foster care placement, PINS (Persons In Need of Supervision) petitions, and/or truancy. Services provided to children and parents under this agreement will include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Parenting skills education;
- Home and finance management;
- Behavior management techniques;
- Nutrition;
- Conflict resolution;

- Teaching alternative methods of non-violent discipline;
- Establishing routines;
- Understanding child developmental stages;
- Accessing well-child care, social services and community resources

The **goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety** because the services provided through 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 of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** as 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. This program will provide services to 66 families during the term of the agreement.

The **goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department.** They include, but are not limited to, the review of periodic reports submitted by JDAM and onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that JDAM is meeting targets and outcomes as outlined in the current agreement. From January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, JDAM provided services to 67 families and 113 children. This program has a 100% foster care diversion rate. During the same period, over 83.44% of the parents showed improvement in parenting skills, household management and knowledge of resources.

The procurement of this agreement is exempt from the application of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xviii as the services to be provided therein are for the well-being of children and youth in the County of Westchester who are at risk of foster care placement.

It should be noted that this agreement is not subject to 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 Social Services Block Grant.

Accordingly, the County is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

