

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

ONBASE # 72872

DATE:

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 North American Family Institute, Connecticut, Inc. ("NAFI CT") pursuant to which NAFI CT will provide various services in connection with the Family Court Act §1055 Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$277,248.

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 North American Family Institute Connecticut, Inc. ("NAFI CT") pursuant to which NAFI CT will provide various services in connection with the Family Court Act §1055 Wraparound Program to support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases for the period from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 for an amount not to exceed \$277,248 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 assisting the County to keep the children out of foster care. These children are all subject to abuse and neglect proceedings who have been court ordered into an out of home placement. If the § 1055 placement cannot be safely preserved, the child will be placed in foster care. However, children do better when they can be placed with family, remain in their community/schools and maintain existing ties with the community.

The **goals and objectives of this agreement** are to support relatives and caretakers who come forward as a resource for children who would otherwise be placed in foster care and to strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics. Frequently kin become caregivers after a family crisis. They may have little preparation in terms of learning about the child welfare system, their role as kinship caregivers or how to access support. Studies indicate that kin are more likely to be single and to be poorer, older, in poorer health, and have less formal education than non-kin foster parents.

Therefore, relative caregivers may have a greater need for services and supports than non-kin foster caregivers. This program will provide services to the court directed custodian, the biological parent and children with the goal of preserving the placement, avoiding foster care placement and reuniting the family as quickly and safely as possible, thus promoting the welfare of these families. Services will include but not be limited to:

- Community linkages
- 24-hour on-call support
- Skill building
- Communication skills
- Limit setting (rewards and consequences)
- Parenting skills
- Education advocacy
- Parent partner/mentor
- Day respite
- Clinical assessments and recommendations
- Mentoring

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety as the §1055 Wraparound Program will support relative caretakers, biological parents and children in court-directed custody cases. The program will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional foster care placement; empower the caretakers and biological parents to gain strategies, skills and services, including limit setting, how to give rewards and consequences; provide linkages to supporting community based services and support in assisting the family to develop better decision-making and parenting skills. This will ultimately strengthen and develop improved patterns of behavior and communication that will contribute to positive family dynamics and allow the children to return home expediently and safely.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the program will preserve the §1055 family placement as an alternative to a traditional and more costly foster care placement.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. The Department's program office will be responsible for setting the milestones and tracking their achievements.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that from January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2019, services were extended to 13 families and 24 children. During this same period, 100% of the families served were not subject to an indicated CPS care while receiving services and 100% of progress notes were entered into the Child Welfare Connections database within 5 days of the event.

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 provided are to

advance the moral, physical, mental and social well-being of children in the County of Westchester.

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 North American Family Institute, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/12/2019 - USA MRSAJ SECRETARY

