

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Date: March 3, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

Subject: Authority for the County of Westchester to amend an agreement with River Valley Pediatrics, PLLC to provide medical services to both foster children and children post-discharge from foster care for an amount not to exceed \$225,770 for the period from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 by: 1) extending the term thereof by six months to end on September 30, 2010, and 2) increasing the not to exceed amount by \$112,885 from a total not to exceed \$225,770 to a new total not to exceed \$338,655 to be paid monthly pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Through a Resolution approved on April 6, 2009, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to enter into an agreement with River Valley Pediatrics, PLLC ("River Valley") to provide medical services to both foster children and children post-discharge from foster care who are attending school as part of a comprehensive support program. The term of the agreement was from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$225,770. The agreement was subsequently executed.

Authority is now being requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to amend the aforesaid agreement with River Valley Pediatrics, PLLC to provide medical services to both foster children and children post-discharge from foster care who are attending school as part of a comprehensive support program for the period from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$225,770 by: 1) extending the term thereof by six months to end on September 30, 2010, and 2) increasing the not to exceed amount by \$112,885 from a total not to exceed \$225,770 to a new total not to exceed \$338,655 to cover the cost associated with the services to be provided during the extended term, payable monthly, pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation. This extension is being requested to enable the Department to initiate an RFP process to procure the aforesaid services starting from October 1, 2010.

River Valley Pediatrics will provide full time equivalent of a pediatrician to work at the pediatric clinic, including on-call services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The clinic will be opened 5 days per week, with scheduled half-day clinic sessions for intake and discharge assessments as well as planned well-child care. The clinic will also provide evening Pediatric Clinic hours for children in foster care and children post-discharge from foster care who are attending school.

This contract serves a **public purpose** because it promotes the safety of children by meeting the medical service needs of children in foster care in the County of Westchester. Furthermore, foster parents have access to a clinic that is specialized and sensitive to the needs of the children in foster care. By having 24 hour 7 days a week access to the medical providers' care for the children in foster care, the Department will be able to maintain a comprehensive health history for the children as they enter care, while they are in care, as well as at the point of discharge. The availability of same day medical services reduces the trauma to children entering foster care.

The **goals and objectives** of this contract are to provide children currently in foster care with accessible medical services. The Vendor will also provide on-call services 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The clinic will also provide evening Pediatric Clinic hours for children in foster care and children post-discharge from the Westchester County foster care.

Services provided to foster care children include but are not limited to the following:

- Initial Visits and Assessments
- Determine level of foster care placements
- Well child visits
- Weight Checks
- Transfer Physicals
- Sick Visits
- Pre-Op Physicals
- Immunizations
- Follow-up Visits
- Emergency Room Follow-ups
- Discharge Visits
- Adoption Physicals

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health** of the children of Westchester County. Initial assessment for children coming into foster care is critical in order to quickly identify complicated, serious physical health, mental health, or developmental problems. The services provided by this contract will help to ensure that each child coming into foster care will have their needs and conditions evaluated and properly treated if needed. Furthermore, prevention strategies recommended and implemented by the pediatrician may help to lessen the ill effects of neglect and abuse.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety** of the children of Westchester County. Comprehensive assessments performed by the pediatrician allows for more detailed knowledge of the child's physical and mental health, thereby giving the Department the best recommendations of placements for each child as well as recommendations for the best treatment plan for each child if required.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the Department is able to place children at the appropriate level of care as

recommended by the pediatrician as well as to assist in the development of permanency planning for each child in foster care. Furthermore, in terms of fiscal responsibility, access to these services reduces the reliance on emergency room services which are very expensive.

The negative consequence for not approving this request for extension of the agreement will be that the Department may experience increased delays in medical treatment for foster children and unnecessary emergency room visits. Additionally, the Department may lose its ability to gather comprehensive medical assessments as a tool in determining appropriate levels of placements for these children. The inability of the Department to place children at appropriate levels of care adversely affects permanency planning and may increase the costs associated with placing children in higher levels of care than required. In the absence of this service, many of our children would be required to go to an emergency room for a medical clearance before entering foster care.

The **goals and objectives as stated in the resolution will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate success using the performance measurement indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include, but are not limited to, periodic reporting and onsite visits.

Based on the **Performance Measures Indicators, the Department is able to report** that the Vendor has provided medical services for 1023 children as of January 31, 2010. The Department is able to report that the vendor has satisfactorily met the goal of providing services to children referred to the clinic.

Except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

Accordingly, authority is being requested for the County of Westchester, acting by and through its Department of Social Services, to amend the Agreement with River Valley Pediatrics, PLLC ("River Valley") for the above said purposes.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-4-2010 PRIMARY/IE SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from Kevin P. Mahon, the Commissioner 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 amend an agreement with River Valley Pediatrics, PLLC to provide medical services for both foster children and children post-discharge from foster care for the period from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010 for an amount not to exceed \$225,770 by: 1) extending the term thereof by six months to end on September 30, 2010, and 2) increasing the not to exceed amount by \$112,885 from a total not to exceed \$225,770 to a new total not to exceed \$338,655 to cover the cost associated with the services to be provided during the extended term, payable on a monthly basis, pursuant to an approved budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended hereby, all other terms and conditions of the Original Agreement shall remain in full force and effect; and be it further

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

RESOLVED that this Agreement is 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 this Agreement. 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 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 authorized designee is hereby authorized to execute all instruments and take all actions necessary to implement this Resolution.

Amount of the Original Agreement:	\$225,770
This Amendment:	<u>\$112,885</u>
Total	\$338,655

Account to be
Charged/Credited

	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
2010	101	22	8900	5880	----	\$112,885

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-11 Start Date: N/A End Date: 09/30/10
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

\$112,885
(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars : 28%

State Aid: 47%

Federal Aid: 25%

Other _____

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 3-4-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY