



Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner

Date: February 12, 2010

To: The Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Kevin P. Mahon
Commissioner of Social Services

Re: Authority is hereby requested for the County of Westchester to amend a Resolution approved on October 1, 2009 authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into agreements with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in order to add two (2) new licensed consultants listed below to the list of already approved licensed consultants at no additional cost to the County

Through Resolution approved on October 1, 2009, your Honorable Board authorized the County of Westchester to enter into agreements with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$241,250 to be paid at an hourly rate pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation.

Authority is now requested to amend the aforesaid Resolution in order to add two (2) new licensed consultants listed below to the list of already approved licensed consultants at no additional cost to the County:

**Add: Dr. Julie Low
Dr. Manuel Lopez-Leon**

All consultants are paid an hourly rate, for the actual time spent in review of referral records, interviews, conferences, interpreting test results and preparation of reports. The consultants shall be available, upon request of the County Attorney, to testify in Family Court or other related proceedings as to the Consultants' evaluative findings and/or assessment of therapeutic progress. The consultants will be compensated for such time and appearance by the Department. The consultants are not compensated by the Department or the County Attorney's office if they are subpoenaed or called as a witness by the Court, the Law Guardian or any other party other than the County of Westchester.

These contracts serve a **public purpose** in that the professional expertise of these licensed consultants enables the Department to provide appropriate referrals and services to the targeted population as recommended.

The **goals and objectives** of these contracts are to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service reports and families in which at least one child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one child has been placed in foster care. The services provided by the consultants allow for recommendations for interventions that promote the psychological and physical well-being of the child and/or parent as well as to assist and facilitate the reunification of the family where required.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and public safety** because they are aimed at providing clinical evaluations of the clients referred to the consultant. These evaluations help the Department to identify the mental health and/or developmental problems of the clients, including both children and parents and make appropriate referrals which would in turn assist to reduce the risk of abuse, neglect or maltreatment.

The **goals and objectives are in the best interests of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility** in that the services provided by the consultant assist the Department in determining the appropriate level of services needed by the clients, thereby helping to avert the costs associated with unnecessary or unwanted levels of services. Further, because the services will be provided at an hourly rate, payments will be made for the actual time the consultant spends on each case which in turn would provide for more accountability on the part of the Department and the consultants.

The **negative consequence for not approving these agreements** would be that the Department would not be able to provide court ordered evaluations for uninsured parents and children. The inability of the Department to provide these services may adversely affect its ability to determine

appropriate levels of services. Furthermore, the Department would be out of compliance with the court order to complete a clinical evaluation.

The **goals and objectives of this program will be tracked and monitored** to evaluate the success using the Performance Measurement Indicators developed by the Department and approved by the County Budget Office. They include feedback from District Office staff as well as the periodic review of reports submitted by the consultant.

Because the aforesaid consultants are new, the Department does not have any outcomes to report at this time. The Department will be monitoring the performance of these consultants to make sure they meet the targets and are in compliance with Department's performance measurement indicators.

These contracts are exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy pursuant to Section 3(a) (vii) and (viii) (i.e. expert witnesses and medical or health-related services).

Except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the Resolution approved on October 1, 2009 shall remain in full force and effect.

Approval of the annexed Resolution by your Honorable Board is respectfully requested.

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

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the Resolution approved on October 1, 2009 authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into agreements with seven (7) licensed consultants to provide psychological testing and evaluations, psychiatric evaluations, mental health evaluations, sibling consults, fire setting evaluations, safety assessments and court ordered psychotherapy to uninsured parents and children who have been subjects of Child Protective Service Reports and families in which at least one (1) child is at risk of foster care placement or in which at least one (1) child has been placed in foster care for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$241,250 **is hereby amended in order** to add two (2) new licensed consultants to the list of already approved licensed consultants at no additional cost to the County.

Add: Dr. Julie Low
Dr. Manuel Lopez-Leon

and be it further

RESOLVED, that except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the Resolution approved on October 1, 2009 shall remain in full force and effect; 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 Consultant, then the Consultant shall have the right to terminate the agreement upon reasonable prior written notice; and be it further

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

Account to be
Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Budget Funding Year(s): N/A Start Date: N/A End Date: N/A
(must match resolution)

Funding Source

N/A

(must match resolution)

Tax Dollars: N/A

State Aid: N/A

Federal Aid: N/A

Other _____

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