

George Latimer
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

80980

DATE: November 24, 2020

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 Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc. pursuant to which Samaritan will provide comprehensive substance abuse assessment services to parents with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 for an amount not to exceed \$875,000.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester acting by and through its Department of Social Services (“the Department”) to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc. (“Samaritan”) pursuant to which Samaritan will provide comprehensive substance abuse assessment services to parents with children at risk of foster care placement for the period from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021, for an amount not to exceed \$875,000 to be paid on a monthly basis, pursuant to an approved budget, and subject to appropriation.

The proposed agreement will provide substance abuse assessment, referral and placement for parents/guardians of substance-affected families. Samaritan will operate in five locations in Westchester County: at the four County District Offices (Mount Vernon, Yonkers, Peekskill, White Plains), and 10 County Center Road. The Samaritan Substance Abuse Specialists conduct home visits and provide community outreach on behalf of the families. Samaritan also provides on-the-spot substance abuse testing. This eliminates the need to wait for results of drug tests before the Department can determine a service plan for a family with children at high risk of abuse, neglect and foster care placement. The Samaritan Substance Abuse Specialists will provide training, education, case consultation, comprehensive substance abuse assessments, referrals to substance treatment and follow –up on referrals for up to 90 days. The Specialists will be part of a casework team offering substance abuse treatment services seamlessly with the other casework services.

The services to be provided pursuant to this agreement will serve a public purpose as these services provide substance abuse evaluation and referral for parents with children at risk of foster care placement. These services will increase safety and reduce risk of vulnerable children in

Westchester County. The primary population served is parents/guardians listed as the subject on Child Protective Services (CPS) reports and referrals from the Westchester County Cross Systems Unit (CSU). The services rendered by Samaritan are also offered to other substance affected families in the child welfare system.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public safety because the services provided are aimed at reducing abuse and neglect of children and reducing the need to place children in foster care. Because Samaritan specialists will be located in these five locations, early and convenient access to substance abuse services are available and this in turn allows the Department to determine the appropriate safety interventions for vulnerable children.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health in that the services provided will ensure the health and well-being of children and families of Westchester County. It has been widely recognized that children in substance affected families also need substance abuse supportive services. Prenatal and interpersonal exposure from parental alcohol and drug use can affect a child's social and psychological development through adulthood (*Substance Abuse: Information for School Counselors, Social Workers, Therapists, and Counselors*, Fisher & Harrison, 2009). Early identification of substance abuse is imperative to the health and well-being of children. Samaritan will match the substance abuse parent/guardian with the appropriate treatment provider while also taking into consideration the unique needs of the entire family. The services provided pursuant to this program will promote healthy family functioning.

The goals and objectives of this agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility as the program is designed to prevent foster care placement of children living in substance affected families. The diversion of foster care placement of children would result in substantial savings for the County and taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. Samaritan will submit monthly and quarterly statistical reports in the format approved by the Department. Other monitoring efforts will include but are not limited to periodic review of records and site visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department is able to report that to date, Samaritan provided credentialed alcohol and substance abuse counseling services to a total unduplicated count of 173 families. Samaritan received 489 referrals and did 278 assessments during this same period.

This agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) xvii for treatment, counseling and referral of those suffering from the disease of alcoholism or substance abuse.

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 of Westchester is hereby requesting authority to enter into an agreement with Samaritan Daytop Village, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/10/2020 - LISA MARIJAJ, SECRETARY

