

Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Office for Women

Camille Failla Murphy
Director

March 30, 2010

To: Board of Acquisition and Contract

From: Camille Failla Murphy
Director, Office for Women

Re: Authority to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. for the provision of a part-time counselor at the Family Justice Center at the White Plains Court Complex for an amount not-to-exceed \$26,000 for the period from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

The attached Resolution, if approved by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County") to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place would provide a part-time counselor at the Family Justice Center at the White Plains Court Complex, for the period from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, for an amount not-to-exceed Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000), to be paid quarterly pursuant to the workplan and budget attached hereto as Schedules A and B.

The counselor to be provided by My Sisters' Place under the proposed agreement will be assigned to provide education and supportive counseling, crisis intervention, safety planning, emergency shelter placement when deemed necessary, advocacy, and referrals to other My Sisters' Place services and outside agencies. My Sisters' Place will also be compensated for travel expenses necessary to accomplish this work. In addition, in-kind trainings will be provided by My Sisters' Place on topics related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The funding for the proposed agreement would be provided by part of a \$1,000,000 federal grant to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program awarded to the County's Office for Women by the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. My Sisters' Place is one of several partner agencies that will be involved in all three aspects of this federal grant: 1) establishing and implementing a Family Justice Center; 2) installing an automated victim notification of protective orders (VNPO) system; and 3) training police, prosecutors, the judiciary, advocates and service providers.

The proposed agreement will serve a public purpose of promoting the public health, safety and general welfare by enhancing the safety and independence of abused women. If abused women are empowered to learn how to develop and maintain their own safety, they are not as likely to return to dependence on their abusers, thereby reducing public safety costs and medical costs. If they are helped to empower themselves to be independent and self-sufficient they are not as likely to be dependent on public assistance.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are for My Sisters' Place to provide crisis intervention, individual counseling, advocacy and follow-up to 10 new victims per month, or approximately 100 new victims during the proposed term.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement are in the best interests of the County in terms of public health and safety because of the aforementioned anticipated results of enhancing the safety and independence of abused women by empowering them to develop and maintain their own safety.

The goals and objectives of the proposed agreement will be tracked and monitored by the Westchester County Office for Women, which will be responsible for monitoring My Sisters' Place's performance under this Agreement by means of site visits, as well as their monthly statistics and quarterly narratives. The effectiveness of this program will be determined in a variety of ways. As a result of services provided by the part-time counselor, it is expected that voluntary surveys will report that at least 80% of clients: are satisfied with the quality of services received; know more ways to plan for their safety; and have more knowledge of community resources. Outcomes of trainings will be determined by participants' increased knowledge of specialized topics based on pre- and post-tests and evaluations.

If this resolution were not approved, the safety and security of victims of abuse would be compromised. Without receiving these vital support services, the probability of continued and escalating abuse is substantially increased. This may consequently endanger their lives and the lives of their children.

Authority to exempt this agreement from the requirements of the Westchester County Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, has been submitted to your Honorable Board in accordance with a separate resolution of even date herewith.

Please be advised that Section 459-c of the New York Social Services Law directs social services districts, such as the County, to offer and provide non-residential services to victims of domestic violence, whether eligible or ineligible for public assistance. Non-residential services programs must have the ability to provide the following services:

- 1.) Information and Referral services
- 2.) Advocacy
- 3.) Counseling
- 4.) Community education and outreach activities
- 5.) Hotline services

I recommend approval of the attached proposed Resolution.

RESOLUTION

Upon communication from the Director of the Office for Women, be it hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County") is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with My Sisters' Place, Inc. ("My Sisters' Place"), pursuant to which My Sisters' Place will provide a part-time counselor at the Family Justice Center at the White Plains Court Complex, for the period from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011, for an amount not-to-exceed Twenty-Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000), to be paid quarterly pursuant to the attached workplan and budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Agreement is subject to County appropriations; 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 My Sisters' Place, then My Sisters' Place 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 reasonably necessary to implement this Resolution.

Account to be Charged/Credited

Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars	Funding Year
263	11	988J	4380	T988	\$19,500	2010
263	11	988J	4380	T988	\$6,500	2011

Budget Funding Year(s) 2010-2011 Start Date 4/01/10 End Date 3/31/11
 (must match resolution)

Funding Source	Tax Dollars	_____
	State Aid	_____
<u>\$26,000.00</u>	Federal Aid	<u>\$26,000.00</u>
(must match resolution)	Other	_____

Schedule A

Family Justice Center Workplan – My Sisters’ Place

Description of Services:

The Domestic Violence Counselor at My Sisters’ Place (MSP) will be responsible for providing education and supportive counseling, crisis intervention, safety planning, emergency shelter placement when deemed necessary, advocacy, and referrals to other MSP services and outside agencies. MSP will also provide in-kind trainings to the staff of all partner agencies working within the FJC. Possible training topics include Dynamics of Domestic Violence; Effects of DV on Children; Stalking 101; Women, Media and Violence; Human Trafficking; DV & Pet Abuse; Immigrant Victims of DV; and DV in Same Sex Relationships

Service Providers:

Part-Time My Sisters’ Place Domestic Violence Counselor

Goals for Fiscal Year:

The Counselor will provide crisis intervention, individual counseling, advocacy and follow-up to approximately 10 new victims of domestic violence per month, or 100 new victims during the contract year. Based on the level of each client’s needs, some of these new cases will stay with the Counselor for ongoing services; many however are expected to be referred out to other MSP offices for continued, in-depth services.

Outcome Measurements – to be measured using client surveys:

As a result of receiving MSP Counseling Services at the Family Justice Center, the following outcomes are expected:

- 80% of clients will report they are satisfied with the quality of services received.
- 80% of clients will report knowing more ways to plan for their safety.
- 80% of clients will report having more knowledge of community resources.

Schedule B

**My Sisters' Place
Family Justice Center - Arrest Grant
Budget 4/01/2010 to 3/31/2011**

Personal Services		
Counselor		
Salary	\$41,667 x 50% time	\$20,834
Benefits	\$20,834 x 20%	\$4,166
Total Personal Services		\$25,000
Other Than Personal Services (OTPS)		
Travel Expenses		\$1,000
Total OTPS		\$1,000
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$26,000

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 4-22-2010 - JOMARY VIEIRA, SECRETARY