

88907

DATE: November 16, 2021

TO: The Honorable Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Sherlita Amler, M.D.
Commissioner of Health

Re: Authority for the County of Westchester (“County”) to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with HopeRising Psychiatric Consulting PLLC (“HPC”), pursuant to which HPC, through its principal Dr. Abiola Adelaja, will participate as a coalition partner in a COVID-19 - related health promotion program, specifically for incarcerated residents, for the period commencing upon execution and continuing through June 30, 2022, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$12,000, payable at the hourly rate of \$575, with the County reserving an option to renew the agreement for an additional one year period on the same terms and conditions.

Authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Health (the “Department”), to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with HopeRising Psychiatric Consulting PLLC (“HPC”), pursuant to which HPC, through its principal Dr. Abiola Adelaja, will participate as a coalition partner in a COVID-19 - related health promotion program, specifically to provide COVID-19 health literacy for incarcerated residents, for the period commencing upon execution and continuing through June 30, 2022, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$12,000 payable at the rate of \$575 per hour (the “Agreement”). The County, at its sole option and subject to the further approval of your Honorable Board, may renew the Agreement for an additional one (1) year period on the same terms and conditions as the initial term.

The County, through the Department of Health, has received a grant (the “Grant”) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to be used to provide community-based participatory approaches to reducing COVID-19 disparities and increasing patient health literacy in Westchester County. As a condition of receiving the Grant, WCDH must, *inter alia*, enter into an agreement with a correctional psychiatrist to jointly work with the Westchester County Department of Corrections (“DOC”) to address COVID health literacy among DOC staff and incarcerated residents.

Among other things, HPS will provide COVID-19 educational training to 12 Corrections Staff members to reach 400 Corrections residents and 800 Corrections Staff during the 2-year grant period. Curriculum will be designed to fill 1-hour educational sessions and will be tailored to meet particular corrections community needs, including language translation/interpretation, addressing concerns specific to the Department of Corrections and community-based organizations, and addressing the needs of corrections residents with behavioral health concerns. All correctional materials associated with the program will require Correctional Psychiatrist review. While primary material content will be shaped by input from community partners and the Department of

Corrections, the Correctional Psychiatrist will provide expert content knowledge on best practices of teaching to those with behavioral health concerns. Additionally, the Correctional Psychiatrist will record a video on the importance of behavioral health inclusion to be added to the training provided to Corrections Staff and Program Staff responsible for providing trainings and health education sessions.

The MOA will serve a public purpose by reducing racial and ethnic health disparities related to COVID-19 in Westchester County, with emphasis on DOC staff and incarcerated residents.

The goals and objectives of the MOA are to design and implement a health promotion program for DOC staff and incarcerated residents who are a defined population subset of vulnerable, isolated and disenfranchised persons.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored by the Department by meeting with HPS after collection of completed surveys and consents from the Department of Corrections, review surveys of participants in the health literacy programs to determine the COVID-19 vaccine uptake, and conducting evaluations throughout the program to make quality improvements in the health literacy program.

Although the MOA is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy (the "Policy") pursuant to Section 3(a) ix thereof, which exempts contracts with teachers, lecturers and other educational professionals, in accordance with Section 13 of the Policy, it is also subject to Federal procurement requirements since it is being funded by a Federal grant. The Federal procurement regulations, 45 CFR 75.329(b), require that the County obtain price or rate quotations from an adequate number of qualified sources. In furtherance of this requirement, on October 29, 2021, the Department issued an RFQ seeking the services of a correctional psychiatrist to provide COVID-19 health education services to DOC staff. The RFQ was posted on the County website. Only one correctional psychiatrist, Dr. Adelaja, submitted a proposal in response to the RFP. After a careful review of Dr. Adelaja's credentials it was determined that he meets the minimum qualifications and many preferred qualifications. He has an hourly rate of \$575 and we anticipate a total of 20 hours of work per year. Dr. Adelaja's operates through his company, HPC.

Accordingly, authority is respectfully requested from your Honorable Board for the County to enter into this Agreement.

SA/DC/jpg
Attachment

RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of Health, it is hereby

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Health (the “Department”), is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”) with HopeRising Psychiatric Consulting PLLC (“HPC”), pursuant to which HPC, through its principal Dr. Abiola Adelaja, will participate as a coalition partner in a COVID-19 - related health promotion program, specifically to provide COVID-19 health literacy for incarcerated residents, for the period commencing upon execution and continuing through June 30, 2022, for a total amount not-to-exceed \$12,000 payable at the rate of \$575 per hour (the “Agreement”); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County, at its sole option and subject to the further approval of the Board of Acquisition & Contracts, may renew the Agreement for an additional one (1) year period on the same terms and conditions as the initial term.

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or his duly authorized designee is authorized and empowered to execute and deliver all instruments and take all actions necessary or appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

Original Agreement: \$
 First Amendment: \$
 Second Amendment: \$
 This Amendment: \$ _____
 Total: \$ _____

Agreement #

Account to be Charged/Credited	Fund	Dept	Major Program, Program & Phase or Unit	Object/ Sub-Object	Trust Account	Dollars
	263	27	W039	4380	G039	\$12,000

Budget Funding Year(s) (must match resolution)	2021-2022	Start Date	Upon execution	End Date	06/30/22
Funding Source	Tax Dollars	_____			
	State Aid	_____			
\$12,000	Federal Aid	Federal Direct – US Dept of Health & Human Services			
(must match resolution)	Other	_____			