

**[89061]**

DATE: November 22, 2021

TO: Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Michael Orth, M.S.W.  
Commissioner, Department of Community Mental Health

SUBJECT: Resolution to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof, an agreement with each of forty (40) entities, pursuant to which each entity will provide community mental health services, for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026.

Authority is hereby requested from your Honorable Board to exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures (the "Procurement Policy") an agreement with each of the forty (40) entities listed below (collectively, the "Proposed Agreements"), pursuant to which each entity will provide community mental health services, for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026:

Apropos--Housing Opportunities and Management Enterprises, Inc.(A-HOME)
ArtsWestchester, Inc.
Association of Community Living Agencies In Mental Health, Inc.(ACLAIMH)
Careers Support Solutions, Inc.
The Center for Career Freedom, Inc.
The Children's Village
Choice of New Rochelle, Inc.
City of White Plains (Youth Bureau)
Congregations Linked in Urban Strategy To Effect Renewal, Inc.(CLUSTER)
Town of Cortlandt (Cortlandt Recreation)
Capabilities Partnership, Inc.
Family Services of Westchester, Inc.
Family Ties of Westchester, Inc.
Lifting Up Westchester, Inc.
The Guidance Center of Westchester, Inc.
The Halfway House of Westchester, Inc.

Harrison Youth Council, Inc.
Town of Hastings on Hudson (Hastings on Hudson Youth Advocate Program)
Human Development Services of Westchester, Inc.
JAWONIO Inc.
Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. (Andrus Children's Home)
Larchmont-Mamaroneck Narcotics Guidance Council
Lexington Center for Recovery, Inc.
The Mental Health Association of Westchester County, Inc.
Mental Health Empowerment Project, Inc.
Mental Health News Education Inc.
Montefiore Mount Vernon Hospital
National Alliance On Mental Illness of Westchester, Inc.
Phelps Memorial Hospital Association
Search for Change, Inc.
St. John's Riverside Hospital
St. Joseph's Hospital, Yonkers
Student Assistance Services Corp.
Volunteers of America - Greater New York, Inc.
Westchester Independent Living Center, Inc.
Westchester Jewish Community Services, Inc.
Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc.
Westhab, Inc.
Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc.
Young Mens Christian Association of Yonkers

Recently, the County inquired with the New York State Office of Mental Health (“OMH”) as to how it should proceed with the procurement of new agreements for community health services—to be paid for with money provided through OMH—to replace its current agreements for such services, which will expire on December 31, 2021 (the “Current Agreements”). Specifically, the County inquired as to the particular procurement rules with which OMH would ultimately direct and require the County to comply, given the details regarding the funding sources, types of services, and target populations that are involved in such agreements. In her subsequent response, the Director of OMH’s Hudson River Field Office wrote (in pertinent part) the following:

“Many counties, like Westchester, are looking at the current awards for services and determining whether to continue with existing providers or to "re-bid" these services. NYS OMH also faced the same situation. It was determined, following discussions with the Office of the State Comptroller, that due to the nature of the contract, services to individuals living with Mental Illness, that certain contracts should remain with the existing contractors. These legacy contracts remain with the existing providers to allow for continuity of care and maintain health and safety for

individuals receiving mental health services....”

The Director also wrote, near the end of her response, that “[u]ltimately, the County needs to follow their contracting guidelines.”

Just as is apparently the case for OMH’s own contracts for community mental health services, the County’s Current Agreements are with well-established and long-standing providers of such services. Accordingly, the County has reached the same conclusion as OMH: continuing to contract with existing providers of these community mental health services allows for continuity of care for a vulnerable population, which ultimately helps maintain the health and safety of such persons.

Therefore, it is proposed that the best interests of the County would be served by exempting the procurement of the Proposed Agreements from the Procurement Policy, pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) thereof. Accordingly, a resolution to exempt the procurement of the Proposed Agreements is hereby submitted for your consideration.

MO/TP/bdm-r

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## RESOLUTION

Upon a communication from the Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health, be it hereby:

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, the procurement of an agreement with each of the forty (40) entities listed in Attachment "1" (collectively, the "Agreements"), pursuant to which each entity will provide community mental health services, for the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026, is hereby exempted from compliance with said policy; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that it is hereby determined that, in accordance with Section 3(a)(xxi) of the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures, compliance with said policy in connection with the procurement of the Agreements would not be in the best interests of the County of Westchester.

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**ATTACHMENT "1"**

Apropos--Housing Opportunities and Management Enterprises, Inc.(A-HOME)
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