

109996

DATE: November 22, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the Board of Acquisition and Contract

FROM: Leonard G. Townes, Commissioner
Department of Social Services

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into an agreement with Greater Mental Health of New York, Inc., to provide a Partners-In-Parenting (“PIP”) program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$458,640.

Authorization is requested for the County of Westchester (the “County”), acting by and through its Department of Social Services (the “Department”), to enter into an agreement (DSS6007-25) with Greater Mental Health of New York, Inc. (“Greater Mental Health”) pursuant to which Greater Mental Health will provide a Partners-in-Parenting (“PIP”) program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$458,640, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget and subject to appropriation (the “Agreement”).

The services to be provided pursuant to this Agreement will serve a public purpose because they will preserve the family, reduce the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement as caregivers with mental health issues become better equipped to understand and handle child behaviors.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in compliance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services regulation NYCRR 18, Part 423 (9) (10), which mandates that the Department provide preventive services to families at risk of foster care placement including immigrant families. Furthermore, through the provision of this service, the Department seeks to avoid foster care placements. The Greater Mental Health PIP program can achieve its goal by providing intensive home-based psychotherapy and parenting support. Licensed clinicians for adults and children will provide services to families at high risk due to mental health issues. The parents who are referred for services through the PIP program are those who are traditionally resistant to parenting skills and psychotherapy and may have impaired emotional and/or mental functioning.

Listed below are the goals and objectives of this program:

- Improving overall functioning and ability of parents to care for their children
- Providing direct in-home clinical treatment and services to parents with mental health issues
- Providing 24/7 access to mental health clinicians
- Enhancing direct service to the families
- Developing and maintaining parent/child and other family attachments
- Engaging families and their children so that they fully participate in intensive therapeutic, case management and supportive services

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of public health and safety because the services provided through this Agreement will enhance parental child-rearing abilities by empowering parents, strengthening families, improving emotional and/or mental functioning and increasing the stability of families, thereby reducing the risk of abuse, neglect and/or need for foster care placement.

The goals and objectives of this Agreement are in the best interest of the County in terms of fiscal responsibility in that the Department is able to avert the need for foster care placement and the cost associated with such placements. Preventing children from entering the foster care system can result in substantial savings for the County and the taxpayers.

The goals and objectives will be tracked and monitored using performance measurement indicators developed by the Department. The Department will evaluate success through the monitoring of established performance measures as stipulated in the Agreement. They include, but are not limited to, reviewing of periodic reports submitted by Greater Mental Health, and making onsite visits.

Based on the Performance Measurement Indicators, the Department can report that from January 1, 2024 through September 30, 2024, Greater Mental Health is meeting targets and outcomes as stipulated by the agreement and has served above contract capacity. Greater Mental Health PIP has served 69 individuals, 36 children and 33 Adults. The program yearly capacity is 65 individuals. On average, 80% of the individuals seen, demonstrated a reduction in symptoms within a month, shown through the Patient Health Questionnaire. This average demonstrates above the programs target goal of 80%. Preventive Services cases are going up, thereby creating a waitlist for therapy and mental health services, thus needing a bilingual therapist. This program serves immigrants, which the Department is mandated to serve according to 23-OCFS - ADM-06.

The procurement of this Agreement is exempt from the Westchester County Procurement Policy and Procedures pursuant to Section 3(a) viii and 3(a) xvii thereof. 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 Greater Mental Health of New York, Inc. for the aforesaid purpose.

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

LGT/MBG/tml

Attachment

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & CONTRACT - 12/12/2024 - RAYMOND SCULKY, SECRETARY

RESOLUTION

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

RESOLVED, that the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Social Services, is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement (DSS6007-25) with Greater Mental Health of New York, Inc. to provide a Partners-In-Parenting ("PIP") program, an intensive home-based psychotherapy and parent skills training for families with children at risk of foster care placement, for the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, for an amount not to exceed \$458,640, to be paid on a monthly basis pursuant to an approved budget (the "Agreement"); 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 the Contractor, then the Contractor 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 take such action and execute such documents as may be necessary and proper to effectuate the purposes hereof.

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION CONTRACT #14122024 - RAYMOND S. DUKAKIS SECRETARY

1. Account to be Charged/Credited:

Fund	Dept.	Major Program, Program & Phase Or Unit	Object/ Sub- Object	Trust Account	Dollars
101	22	8900	5960		\$458,640

2. Budget Funding Year(s): 2025

Start Date: January 1, 2025 End Date: December 31, 2025
(Must match resolution)

3. Funding Source:

Federal	35%	CFDA#(s)	93.667		
State	30%	State ID#(s)	N/A		
Operating/ Tax Levy	35%				
Capital	N/A				

4. Total NTE: \$458,640
(Must match resolution)

APPROVED BOARD OF ACQUISITION & COMMERCE
12/12/24 - RAYMOND J. CULKY, SECRETARY