



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES
Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



Susan I. Hamilton, J.D., M.S.W.
Commissioner

M. Jodi Rell
Governor

April 16, 2008

The Honorable Thomas Gaffey
The Honorable Christopher Donovan
The Honorable Emil Altobello
The Honorable Mary Mushinsky

The Honorable Leonard Fasano
The Honorable Catherine Abercrombie
The Honorable Mary Fritz

Dear Senators Gaffey and Fasano and Representatives Donovan, Altobello, Mushinsky, Fritz and Abercrombie:

Thank you for your interest in the Department's procurement of Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services (EMPS). This is a cornerstone service for all communities of the state, and we carefully considered the catchment areas, hours of operation and target performance outcomes in consultation with the Connecticut Center for Effective Practice as we developed the new re-procurement. Since the inception of EMPS there have been recurrent complaints from all communities in the State about the limited hours and the lack of deployment of staff by providers for a truly mobile response. Equally, in reviewing the causes of the cyclical over-capacity demands on emergency departments of hospitals, few had formal agreements with EMPS that assist with the appropriate diversion of children from that setting.

As you are likely aware, the bulk of the funding for the expansion of EMPS comes from the settlement of the W.R. lawsuit, and there are benchmarks in the settlement as to the timing for the implementation of an enhancement to EMPS that preclude the unilateral decision by DCF to rescind the RFP at this time.

I appreciate that the communities that you represent want to be assured that they will have the most responsive service possible to meet their needs. I believe that regardless of where the main office of the selected provider is located, the criteria for which any provider will be measured is the timeliness of the response and a quality standard for the determination of when a mobile response is warranted. Concurrently, the re-procurement requires formal working relationships with emergency departments, schools, police and providers of placement services for children.

It may have been wiser to have avoided terms in the RFP that suggested primacy for any particular geographic location and instead have utilized a numeric designation. For example, instead of "Greater Hartford" we might have used "Area IV" as a more neutral term. However, there is nothing in the RFP or in the selection process that will preclude

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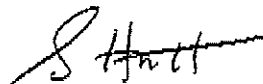
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the provider for the "Greater Hartford" catchment area being the provider that currently Legislators serves your community. Neither are there any stipulations that preclude any prospective provider from entering into sub-contract arrangements to provide EMPS service in a more localized area.

I believe the RFP for EMPS re-procurement has been carefully considered and assure you that we will take equal care in evaluating the bids and the subsequent contract negotiations to assure that the children and families in your communities receive the most responsive and professional service possible and one that is an improvement over the current delivery model.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have further questions or require any additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Susan I. Hamilton, MSW, JD
Commissioner

SIH/kk