

# **ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT SERVICES**

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, December 22, 2004**

## **MINUTES**

### **Members Present:**

**Chairman: Peter S. Corr**

**Public Member: George deTarnowsky**

**Agency Representative: Dianne Kayala, Chief Family Health Systems, Health Care Quality, Financing and Purchasing, Center for Adult Health**

**>Department of Human Services (DHS):**

**A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman. Minutes of the A/E/CS Selection Committee meeting of December 8, 2004 were approved by G. deTarnowsky and P. Corr. The following agenda item was addressed and voted upon by the Committee:**

**1. Department of Human Services (DHS): (9:10 a.m.)**

**RFP #B04472 – Program Development – Cash and Counseling**

**Voting Members: P. Corr, G. deTarnowsky, D. Kayala**

**Cost: \$425,000 (1/05 – 9/07)**

**D. Kayala noted that the Agency received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to establish a cash and counseling program in Rhode Island. This is a program under medical assistance to allow people who qualify for home and community based services to purchase those services themselves. The services included are for personal care assistance in the home and equipment; they are not medical services. A budget is allocated to the individual with a fiscal intermediary to process payments in accordance with federal and state guidelines. The state must develop the infrastructure to allocate budget amounts and to do oversight and monitoring. The purpose of the RFP is to hire a full time project coordinator and provide staffing infrastructure support.**

**Mr. Corr asked what is the benefit of such a program. Ms. Kayala answered that the state now pays about \$20.00 per hour for home health providers hired through agencies. Research done by other states has shown that, under the new program, individuals are more satisfied, there are better long-term health outcomes, the program is extremely cost effective and is preferred by the people who are**

involved in it. Ms. Kayala noted that presently the Agency operates a small program of this kind, but does not have the necessary infrastructure to assure that health and safety issues are being met. A part of this proposal will develop the system infrastructure to process claims and to improve the Medicaid management information system.

The New England States Consortium Systems Organization (NESCSO) was the only respondent. The Agency is currently working with this firm under a project management grant and is extremely happy with their performance. Pari Independent Living Center is responsible for the small program currently in place, but the requirements of this RFP are beyond their scope.

Mr. Corr asked if NESCSO has done this work in other states and Ms. Kayala answered they have not done cash and counseling; they are presently doing project management under the Agency's Real Choice grants. Mr. Corr asked what is meant by 'cash and counseling.' Ms. Kayala answered that, in some states, there is a different kind of waiver used in which clients do receive a check. The Agency will not use this system.

Mr. Corr noted that it is unknown who will run this program for NESCSO; NESCSO will choose the coordinator. Because NESCSO does not have experience in polling, the coordinator must have polling experience and the Agency's oversight committee must

**approve the selection. This will be stated in the contract.**

**Dr. deTarnowsky asked if any vendors who had downloaded the RFP had experience with the cash and counseling program. Ms. Kayala answered that she did not recognize many of the firms and she was not aware that any had experience with this program. It has been done in only three states and Rhode Island is now one of eleven new states to participate in the program.**

**Dr. deTarnowsky asked if the firms who had performed the work in the original three states had been contacted and Ms. Kayala answered that this work was done by state personnel.**

**Mr. Corr asked if the Agency considered the rates submitted by NESCSO to be acceptable. Ms. Kayala answered she felt the rates were competitive. Mr. Corr asked if the 7% markups quoted in the proposal seemed high. Ms. Kayala stated that, although it seems high, NESCSO's staff invests a great deal of time while implementing a program, as demonstrated in their participation in the Agency's Real Choices and Nursing Home Transition grant programs.**

**Recommendation: Upon a motion made by Dr. deTarnowsky, seconded by Ms. Kayala and unanimously approved by the Committee, the Architectural/ Engineering/ Consultant Services Selection Committee (A/E/CS/SC) accepts the recommendation of Department of Human Services' Technical Review Subcommittee, as**

**approved by the Managing Director, and sends forward to the Director of Administration for her consideration the single name of New England States Consortium Systems Organization, the only respondent to the RFP.**

**Upon a motion made by Dr. deTarnowsky, seconded by Ms. Kayala and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 9:24 a.m.**

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**Gail M. Walsh**

**Recording Secretary**

**Supporting documentation is on file at the Division of Purchases.**