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Robert P. Astorino
County Executive

Department of Social Services

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

December 17, 2012

Ms. Laura M. Velez
Deputy Commissioner
New York State Office of Children & Family Services
52 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144

Dear Ms. Velez:

The Westchester County Department of Social Services is pleased to partner with the Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) regarding the Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act. As you will see in our application narrative, Department is committed to working closely with OCFS and our community partners in developing programming and ensuring these youth are afforded all essential preventive and other necessary services. Our standing position on the Westchester County Human Trafficking Task Force (chaired by Allison Boak, President of the International Organization For Adolescents) puts us in a position to immediately involve and engage our community partners.

The project has my full support and we have selected appropriate management and staff-level participants for planning and moving ahead. We have a good mix of public and private agencies with which the Department has long standing partnerships and collaboration efforts. This project is a very important venture for us in public service to help all children who are victims of sexual exploitation. I am confident that we will all benefit from the exchange of ideas and development of tools and methods through this program.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. McGuire
Commissioner

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