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State of Delaware Contracts with Assessments.com (ADC) for Juvenile Risk/Needs Assessment, the PACT – Positive Achievement Change Tool

BOUNTIFUL, UT – The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families (DSCYF), through the Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) has selected Assessments.com (ADC) through a competitive bid process to implement the (Positive Achievement Change Tool) PACT for use statewide with all youth remanded to DSCYF for pre- and post-adjudicatory supervision.

DSCYF is implementing this web-hosted risk/needs assessment for two main reasons: (1) to focus its rehabilitative efforts on those high-risk youth who, in the absence of effective interventions, are most likely to commit new offenses; and (2) to ensure that those interventions are successful.

“Our mission,” said DYRS Director Carlyse Giddins, “is to support public safety and positive change of children, families and communities. We believe that taking this evidence-based, scientific approach will help us achieve that mission and do so in the most cost-effective way possible.”

“What the PACT does,” said Sean Hosman, ADC Chief Executive Officer, “is simply and accurately assess youth across life domains to predict risk of re-offending and to identify the key risk and protective factors for each youth. The PACT then supports the efficacy of case managers as they strive with each child to increase his or her protective strengths while also reducing those risk factors which are most likely to cause that child to re-offend. Using reliable assessment results to associate targeted interventions with prioritized criminogenic needs – that is the scientific method which has been proven to work in helping turn lives around.”

Besides the validated assessment and automated case plan, the PACT also produces a repository of critical data from which DSCYF administrators, managers and supervisors can create useful population and system-wide reports to document on-going progress, enhance continuous quality improvement, efficiently allocate resources, and ensure accountability to stakeholders and funding sources.

In addition to the software, ADC is also providing staff training and technical assistance in the areas of assessment best practices, comprehensive effective case management, outcome reporting, quality assurance and long-term sustainability. Research has shown that a good evidence-based system, well and thoughtfully implemented, consciously and consistently evaluated and retooled to respond to lessons learned and evidence uncovered, will reduce recidivism, and will help improve the lives of youth and their families.

About Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families, Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services

The Children's Department provides services to thousands of children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. The mission of the Department is to assist children, youth and families in making positive changes through services that support child and public safety, behavioral health and individual, family and community well-being. DSCYF is made of four divisions: Youth Rehabilitative Services, Family Services, Prevention and Behavioral Health Services and Management Support Services.

The mission of DSCYF's Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) is to support public safety and positive change of children, families, and communities through guidance, education and empowerment. DYRS provides services to youth in the State of Delaware who have been adjudicated delinquent and ordered by the court system to receive rehabilitative services.

The Community Services unit of DYRS provides probation and aftercare services collaborating with numerous contracted community providers offering residential and nonresidential programs and services. Community Services operates to ensure that the risks to the public are minimized, youth

are served in the least restrictive environment appropriate for their needs, and the families of the youth are strengthened through Community Services intervention.

About Assessments.com

Established in 1998, Assessments.com has worked with more than 100 adult and juvenile criminal justice departments and private providers across the U.S., implementing a full continuum of Evidence-Based Practices (EBP). ADC solutions include validated assessments, assessment-driven case planning, staff skill development (such as Motivational Interviewing and cognitive-behavioral training), organizational development, and re-engineering of processes and policies for quality assurance and sustainability.

ADC's suite of juvenile assessments includes:

- PACT (Positive Achievement Change Tool)
- MHS Inc.'s YLS/CMI (Youth-Level of Service/Case Management Inventory)
- DRAI (Detention Risk Assessment Instrument)
- MAYSI-II (Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II)
- JSORRAT-II (Juvenile Sexual Offense Recidivism Risk Assessment Tool-II)

ADC's suite of adult assessments includes:

- STRONG (Static Risk and Offender Needs Guide)
- MHS Inc.'s LSI-R (Level of Service Inventory-Revised)
- ORAS (Ohio Risk Assessment System), including the
- PAT (Pre-Trial Assessment Tool)
- STATIC-99

In addition to the assessments and automated case plans, ADC's smart technology includes the ADAPT (Assessments Data Analytics Platform & Technology) DataMart and the PRIME (Provider Referral Information Management Environment) for state-of-the-art information-sharing and coordination of services, and improved measurement and reporting of performance and outcomes.

For more information about Assessments.com, please call 877-277-3778, visit the website at www.assessments.com, or, email us at sales@assessments.com.

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