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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 9, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to Contract with Supplemental Health Care

Dear Honorable Members:

The purpose of this resolution is to enter into a contract with Supplemental Health Care for correctional health services.

While Commissioner Burstein is moving aggressively to fill vacant RN and LPN positions at both the Holding Center and Correctional Facility, Erie County will still require contract nursing staff in the short-term. Supplemental Health Care has proven to be a reasonable, capable alternative to other, higher cost contract nursing agencies.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact the Department of Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

Enclosure
MCP/bs

cc: Gale R. Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP, Commissioner of Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: Authorization to Contract with Supplemental Health Care
Date: October 9, 2012

SUMMARY

The Department of Health is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Supplemental Health Care to provide contract nursing services for correctional health.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funds are available in the Division of the Health budget, funding source Account #516020. The cost per hour is $52.00 for RNs and $34.00 for LPNs. There remains $599,780 in this account for fiscal year 2012.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

While the Department of Health is actively recruiting nursing staff to run correctional health services without the use of fee-for-service contractors, in at least the short-term Erie County will require some contract nursing staff. Supplemental Health Care is presently authorized to provide nurses under a NYS contract that Erie County has piggy-backed onto. ECDOH anticipates the end of the contract shortly, and is seeking legislative approval to continue our relationship with Supplemental Health Care.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Director of Correctional Health David Marciniak and Director of Nursing Donna Poirier have had great success in recruiting RNs and LPNs to fill existing vacancies in correctional health, minimizing Erie County's utilization of fee-for-service nursing. In the short-term however, Erie County will require some contract nursing staff to fill gaps and ensure a smooth transition into a professional, all-employee staff. Supplemental nursing has already provided the Department of Health with three high-quality nurses authorized via NYS contract. In addition, Supplemental Nursing charges lower fees than Erie County's current contract nursing provider.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Erie County would be forced to exclusively utilize sub-standard contract nursing.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Health will follow the appropriate steps necessary to enter into the contract.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

RE: Authorization to Contract with Supplemental Health Care

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health's Division Health currently contracts for correctional nursing services; and

WHEREAS, Erie County requires the services of highly competent, certified LPNs and RNs to provide healthcare at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental nursing has a proven record of providing affordable high quality contract nursing; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental Nursing has been certified as a Delaware corporation; and

WHEREAS, the hourly cost for an RN is $52.00 and the hourly cost for an LPN is $34.00; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the Department of Health's Division of Health, Account 516020 Professional Service Contracts and Fees

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Supplemental Health Care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the term of this contract shall be October 15, 2012 through October 30, 2013 with funds coming from existing appropriations in account 516020 within the Health Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law, and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner of Health.