

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

LYNN M. MARINELLI
LEGISLATOR - 11th DISTRICT



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1201 Colvin Blvd.
Tonawanda, New York 14223
(716) 873-1650
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TO: HONORABLE DENNIS T. GORSKI
County Executive

FROM: LYNN M. MARINELLI 
Erie County Legislator, 11th District

DATE: DECEMBER 30, 1998

RE: Master Planning for the Distribution of and Enhancement of Services
Through Receipt of New Streams of Revenue, 1999-2002

The infusion of federal new revenues over the next several years, I believe, necessitates a multi-year master plan by several county departments which will be distributing new dollars through services subcontracts with not-for-profit agencies and local institutions.

New streams of revenue and grant funded project opportunities in areas, such as the tobacco settlement, economic development, welfare to work, Westinghouse, HUD, Domestic Violence Intervention monies, Federal Job Training Partnership Act, and the Workforce Investment Act, requires some formatting to determine the most efficient and effective prioritized methods to allocate the use of the new revenues over the next three years.

If prioritized planning is not further systematized and prioritized through a performance based system, we will end up with a hodgepodge of service providers who will chase the new dollars. Rather than further enhancing seamless systems of accountable, results generated services, we will continue perpetuating a less cost contained cluster of service delivery operations. The lack of prioritized departmental requests for funding proposals will also encourage service providers to chase the new available dollars while not staying within their stated mission or core purpose for accountable service delivery and related measurable outcomes.

The new revenues provide us with leverage necessary to improve and encourage a systems approach to the allocation of revenues and to further enhance seamless systems service delivery. Therefore, I am proposing for your consideration that your departmental staff, who will be sending out request for proposals over the next fiscal years, announce through their service provider RFP's priorities criteria as part of a systematic approach to funding allocations decision making.

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Your initiation of a priorities, performance based approach to the distribution of new funding sources will greatly enhance cost effectiveness and cost benefit budgeting and ensure the most cost contained, value added distribution of additional county revenues. The proposed alternative revenues access process and procedures that I am proposing would help to ensure that service providers will identify project or program funding continuation through a dedicated yearly budget allocation once the grant funding cycle ends.

Your consideration to establish, for each department allocating new service enhancement dollars, a yearly set of funding project categories criteria accompanied with quantifiable annual objectives and performance indicators is most appreciated and, as I see it, necessary for improving overall service delivery.

Thank you for giving this item your attention.

Copy to:

Ken Kruly, Budget Director

Ellen Grant Bishop, Ph.D., Commissioner, Mental Health

Deborah Merrifield, Commissioner, Social Services

Arnold N. Lubin, M.D., Commissioner, Health

Richard M. Tobe, Commissioner, Environment & Planning

Charles M. Swanick, Chairman, Legislature

Crystal D. Peoples, Majority Leader, Legislature

Frederick Marshall, Minority Leader, Legislature

James Bratek, Interim Director, PIC

William Mariani, Interim President, ECC