

AMENDMENT TO COMM. 15E-10 (2011)
July 14, 2011

DELETE THE ENTIRE TEXT AND INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

July 5, 2011

The Honorable
Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, NY 14202

**RE: Addition of five (5) Adult Forensic Mental
Health Specialist I RPT positions to
Forensic Mental Health Services.**

Honorable Members:

The attached proposed resolution requests authorization to add five (5) Regular Part Time (RPT) Adult Forensic Mental Health Specialist I positions to the Department of Mental Health Forensic Mental Health Services. The funds to support this request are 50% New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) State Aid dollars and 50% local revenue sources.

The additional positions will be utilized to obtain maximum flexibility in staff deployment and ensure mental health services coverage at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility. The positions will provide staffing enhancements during evenings and weekends to existing clinical staff for clinical and supportive interventions for individuals with mental health conditions at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS COLLINS
Erie County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
FROM: Erie County Department of Mental Health
DATE: July 5, 2011
RE: Addition of five (5) Adult Forensic Mental Health Specialist I RPT positions to Forensic Mental Health Services.

SUMMARY

The attached proposed resolution requests authorization to add five Adult Forensic Mental Health Specialist I (FMHS), Regular Part Time positions (JG 10) to the Erie County Department of Mental Health Forensic Mental Health Service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for the additional Forensic Mental Health Service staff positions will be 50% New York State Office of Mental Health State Aid and 50% local revenue sources. The local share has been identified from unanticipated revenue received in the Department of Social Services Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) account.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The current number of clinical positions in the Erie County Department of Mental Health Forensic Mental Health Service will need to be enhanced to obtain maximum flexibility in staff deployment and provide additional coverage for mental health assessment capacity at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility to ensure the safety of incarcerated individuals. This is a step in the ongoing process to revamp policies and procedures to increase efficiency for delivery of health and mental health services. The recommendations are the result of Lean Six Sigma techniques that looked at intake for jail operations for health and mental health.

BACKGROUND

The Forensic Mental Health staffing pattern will need to be enhanced to address the increased mental health referrals and assessments at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility. To obtain maximum flexibility in staff deployment and coverage, five (5) Regular Part Time (RPT) Adult Forensic Mental Health Specialist I (FMHS) positions are requested. Supervision will be provided by current Forensic Mental Health supervisory staff.

The primary responsibilities of two (2) RPT FMHS will be to perform mental health assessments at the Erie County Holding Center. The FMHS will perform assessments on those identified individuals who may require suicide precautions, such as Constant Observation placement and other restrictions. The FMHS will also perform a mental health screen to identify appropriateness for referral for mental health services.

Three (3) RPT FMHS will provide staffing enhancements to existing clinical staff for clinical and supportive interventions for individuals with mental health conditions, as well as those

placed under suicide precautions. The additional staff will also assist in providing enhanced coverage to the Erie County Holding Center during evenings and weekends and to the Erie County Correctional Facility to respond to the increasing number of individual cases with mental health needs.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Five additional positions will not be added to the Forensic Mental Health Service to obtain maximum flexibility in staff deployment and provide mental health coverage at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Five (5) Forensic Mental Health Specialist I (RPT) (JG 10) will be added to the Erie County Department of Mental Health. Qualified applicants will be solicited, interviewed and hired for these positions. The Erie County Budget Division will transfer funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health State Aid GL Account and FMAP Account to the appropriate personnel line GL Accounts within the Erie County Department of Mental Health existing accounts to support the additional personnel positions.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

RE: Addition of five (5) Adult Forensic Mental Health Specialist I RPT positions to Forensic Mental Health Services.

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of mental health services for the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health Forensic Mental Health Service is responsible for the provision of behavioral health services to the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the County utilized Lean Six Sigma techniques to look at the intake process for Jail operations for Health and Mental Health; and

WHEREAS, as part of the ongoing process to revamp policies and procedures to increase efficiency for delivery of Health and Mental Health services in both the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility adjustments are appropriate; and

WHEREAS, additional mental health services staff are required to obtain maximum flexibility in staff deployment and provide enhanced mental health assessment coverage at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the current Forensic Mental Health staffing pattern will need to be enhanced to address the increased mental health referrals and assessments at the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Department of Mental Health are working together to complete more comprehensive and thorough mental health assessments; and

WHEREAS, the County intends to reduce the number of individuals housed in constant-observation housing to more efficiently provide appropriate care; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has identified sufficient New York State Office of Mental Health State Aid dollars to match local revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, the local share has been identified from unanticipated revenue received in the Department of Social Services Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) account,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to create five (5) Regular Part Time Adult Mental Health Forensic Specialist I positions, job group 10, in the Erie County Department of Mental Health Forensic Mental Health Service Division (B-100 #6388), in order to increase mental health assessments and treatment capacity to ensure services and the safety of

incarcerated individuals at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to make the following budgetary adjustments to establish funding for said position:

Fund 110 - 2011 Budget

Department of Social Services - Fund Center 120

Revenue	Increase
414030 FMAP Revenue	\$56,521

Forensic Mental Health - Fund Center 12420

406830 State Aid Revenue	<u>56,521</u>
Total Revenue	\$113,042

Forensic Mental Health - Fund Center 12420

Expense	Increase
500020 Regular Part-Time Wages	\$78,138
500300 Shift Differential	2,244
502000 Fringe Benefits	22,660
510200 Training & Education	3,000
561410 Lab & Technical Equip	4,000
561420 Office Equip, Furniture	<u>3,000</u>
Total Expense	\$113,042

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be furnished to the Office of the County Executive, the Department of Mental Health, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Director of Labor Relations and the Commissioner of Personnel.