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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 22, 2013

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

Re: Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling Program

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to accept grant funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health and to enter into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the creation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program. This program and the County's entering into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. were previously endorsed by your Honorable Body in Intro. 14-4 on July 18, 2013.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Ellery Reaves at the Department of Mental Health or Veterans Service Officer Francis McLaughlin. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

cc: Commissioner Ellery Reaves, Department of Mental Health
Veterans Service Officer Francis McLaughlin

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling Program
Date: October 22, 2013

SUMMARY

The New York State Senate has initiated the PFC Joseph Dwyer PTSD Peer-to-Peer Veteran's Counseling Program and appropriated \$2.285 million in the New York State 2013-2014 Budget to support this program in seven (7) additional counties statewide. Erie County is one of the counties receiving funding.

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$185,000 in grant funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health, to establish a grant budget, and to enter into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the creation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program for the period November 1, 2013-June 30, 2015.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The grant funding for this action is derived entirely from 100% New York State Aid dollars. No County tax dollars are necessary to support this request.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Mental Health, through the New York State Office of Mental Health, has been awarded an additional \$185,000 to be allocated under NYSOMH direction for a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program. The Department of Mental Health seeks to enter into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the provision of these services. The funds are targeted toward the development of peer-to-peer mentoring services that allow veteran's to share their experiences with others who have endured the same physical and mental traumas, including PTSD and TBI and who speak the same military language. The success of the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Counseling Program in the initial New York State counties bodes well for its success in the additional counties designated to receive this funding.

This grant funding is a continuation of the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veteran's Counseling Program Services previously awarded to Jefferson, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Suffolk; Erie County along with Nassau, Onondaga, Orange, Putnam, Westchester and Rockland are counties slated to receive this needed funding. The intention is to designate the Veteran's One Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. to coordinate services with local providers to develop peer-to-peer mentoring and family support services.

This program and the County's entering into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. were previously endorsed by your Honorable Body in Intro. 14-4 on July 18, 2013.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

We would be unable to provide peer-to-peer and family support services consistent with New York State efforts through the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veteran's Counseling Services to veterans in Erie County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Mental Health will work with the Division of Budget and Management to establish the grant, and will then enter into contract with the Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the creation of the peer-to-peer veterans counseling program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling Program

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

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has been awarded an additional \$185,000 by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) as part of a grant to offer peer-to-peer mentoring services to Veterans and their family members.; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health has identified Veteran's One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. as the recipient of this award to develop a peer-to-peer mentoring program for individuals Post-9/11 Veterans in Erie County experiencing post traumatic distress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health requires legislative approval to accept the State funds and to establish a grant budget in Fund 281; and

WHEREAS, no County funds are required for the acceptance of this grant.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to enter into contract and accept New York State grant funds for the creation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program and to also authorize the execution of a subcontract with the Veterans One Stop Center of Western New York, Inc., for the provision of said services: and be further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish a grant in Fund 281, Fund Center 12410 as follows:

Erie County Department of Mental Health
November 1, 2013-June 30, 2015
124PEERTOPEER1315

Revenue	Increase
Account 409000 - State Aid Revenue .	\$185,000
Appropriation	Increase
Account 516010 – Contract Payments – Nonprofit Purch Serv	<u>\$185,000</u>
Total Appropriation	\$185,000
and be it further	

RESOLVED that to the extent this subcontract may constitute a professional, technical or other consultant service, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposals (RFP) is hereby waived, as this Honorable Body has previously approved of the County's entering into contract with the Veterans One Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for this program in Intro. 14-4 on July 18, 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the grantor award, provided there are no changes to county share amounts; 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 County Attorney, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Division of Budget and Management.