



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 8, 2014

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Authorization to Contract with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc.
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution pertaining to an increase in the 2014 contracts with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc.

On October 7, 2014 the County was notified that additional New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) funding in the amount of \$487,871, (annualized \$975,742) was available for the fiscal year 2014 to implement services associated with the Buffalo Psychiatric Center (BPC) System Transformation Plan. These services would allow for targeted reinvestment in Erie County's mental health system. NYS is requiring swift implementation of the initiative. As a result, the Department of Mental Health is requesting authorization to amend and increase its existing contracts with the aforementioned providers and will commit to initiating a Request for Proposal (RFP) process 18 months subsequent to implementation in order to choose a permanent provider for the continuation of the service.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, please contact Interim Commissioner Deborah Goldman at the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", is written over a circular embossed seal.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc
Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Contract with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and
Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc.
Date: October 14, 2014

SUMMARY

On October 7, 2014 the County was notified that additional New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) funding in the amount of \$487,871, (annualized \$975,742) was available for the fiscal year 2014 to implement services associated with the Buffalo Psychiatric Center (BPC) System Transformation Plan. These services would allow for targeted reinvestment in Erie County's mental health system. NYS is requiring swift implementation of the initiative.

The Department of Mental Health is requesting authorization to expand its existing contracts with the aforementioned providers and will commit to initiating a Request for Proposal (RFP) process 18 months subsequent to implementation in order to choose a permanent provider for the continuation of the service.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this action is derived entirely from NYS OMH. These funds are being appropriated to Housing Options Made Easy Inc. in the amount of \$176,712.50 and to Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. in the amount of \$311,158.50 for the fiscal year 2014. No additional funding is necessary for this proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Due to New York States' desire to implement these new services quickly, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is requesting the authorization to amend its existing contracts with the respective providers to allow for a swift and effective implementation. The Department has committed to initiating an RFP process 18 months after implementation. This time frame will allow for a reasonable period of review and assessment that will inform a meaningful RFP. The proposed resolution assures that services will be able to be implemented in a manner that will comply with the time sensitive nature of this funding award.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is an increase to the NYS OMH funding in the Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. contracts to provide community based behavioral health services associated with the Buffalo Psychiatric Center System Transformation Plan through the Erie County Department of Mental Health.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this action would delay and possibly jeopardize the implementation of and access to the expanded resources being made available to Erie County to provide behavioral health services.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Mental Health contracts with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. will be amended and the Department will oversee these providers' program operations, performance goals and contract compliance activities.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Contract with Housing
Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide
Prevention and Crisis Services Inc.

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, a 2014 budget appropriation was allocated to Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. for provision of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) has informed the Erie County Department of Mental Health of a \$487,871 increase to its State Aid for fiscal year 2014, with a quick time frame requirement for implementing the associated behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, in order to quickly implement these behavioral health services the Erie County Department of Mental Health recommends that the County immediately amend its contracts with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. for the provisions of the targeted behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health will then initiate a Request for Proposal (RFP) process 18 months subsequent to implementation in order to choose a permanent provider for the continuation of the service; and

WHEREAS, \$176,712.50 in NYS OMH funding is being appropriated to Housing Options Made Easy Inc., and \$311,158.50 is being appropriated to Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. for fiscal year 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that in order to implement behavioral health services to adults associated with the Buffalo Psychiatric Center (BPC) System Transformation Plan allowing for targeted reinvestment in Erie Counties mental health system the Department of Mental Health is authorized to initially suspend the County RFP process and immediately amend the agency contracts of Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. until a comprehensive RFP process, 18 months subsequent to program implementation, can identify an agency to provide the service on a permanent basis; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to accept the NYS OMH funding and amend the 2014 contracts with Housing Options Made Easy Inc. and Suicide Prevention and Crisis Services Inc. for a period commencing January 1, 2014; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to process the following budgetary adjustment:

2014 BUDGET – Mental Health, Business Area 124
Cost Center 1241020, Fund 110

<u>Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u>
406830	State Aid	\$487,871
<u>Expense</u>		<u>Increase</u>
517665	Housing Options OMH	\$176,712.50
517818	Suicide Prevention OMH	\$311,158.50

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, and the Division of Budget and Management.