



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

November 17, 2014

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

Re: Group Respite Program Contracts

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services to launch a faith based group respite initiative to assist memory impaired seniors and their families. The Department of Senior Services is requesting authorization to hire a consultant to assist in establishing the group respite programs with area faith based organizations and initially contract with five churches to begin such programs.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Randy Hoak in the Department of Senior Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc
Enclosure

cc: Randy Hoak, Commissioner, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Group Respite Program Contracts
Date: November 17, 2014

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to launch a faith based group respite initiative to assist memory impaired seniors and their families as a continuation of 9/18/14 resolution 17E-23. The Department of Seniors Services, requests authorization to hire a consultant, Ms. Lisa Rood, at a cost not to exceed \$6,400 for the period December 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, to assist in establishing the group respite programs with area faith based organizations and initially contract with five churches and provide each of them with a one-time payment of \$1,000 to begin such programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Budgetary appropriations are available in the Community Service for the Elderly (163CSE1415) grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account to cover the cost of contracting with the consultant and churches.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

With a growing older adult population, the Department is working to maximize the impact of it's programing by providing new low cost services in partnership with community organizations, including local faith based institutions. To assist is creating the group respite programs our plan is to contract with Lisa Rood for consultant services. Prior to her retirement from the Department of Senior Services in October 2014, Ms. Rood was in the process of developing this new program. She has unique expertise and experiences, including establishing the group respite program at Hamburg Methodist Church, that will help ensure timely completion of this project.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In partnership with the faith-based community, the Department of Senior Services is working to increase the availability of older adult group respite programs. Such programs provide a safe, supervised, entertaining environment for memory impaired adults, thereby allowing their family caregivers temporary relief. While loved ones are participating in the group respite program, caregivers can pursue activities that aid the caregiver in maintaining their own health and wellbeing; attend to their own medical appointments, exerciseand/or have a break from their daily routine.

The Department has identified five area churches to begin this initiative. They include: Trinity Old Lutheran Church in Amherst, Springville United Methodist Church in Springville, St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Hamburg, Kenmore United

Methodist Church in Kenmore, and Eden United Methodist Church in Eden. The Department of Senior Services will be working to identify an additional five faith-based institutions to partner on this important initiative to expand services for the county's frail older adult population.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Senior Services would be unable launch the faith based group respite program.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Senior Services will contract with the consultant and churches.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES**

RE: Group Respite Program Contracts

WHEREAS, group respite programs provide a safe, supervised, entertaining environment for memory impaired adults, thereby allowing their family caregivers temporary relief; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services is working to cost efficiently expand services for frail older adults in Erie County by partnering with faith-based institutions to provide group respite programs; and

WHEREAS, partner institutions need assistance in setting up these programs; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services desires to contract with a consultant, Ms. Lisa Rood, for the period December 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015, at a cost not to exceed \$6,400 to assist with the creation of the group respite program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services has identified five area churches to begin this initiative, including Trinity Old Lutheran Church in Amherst, Springville United Methodist Church in Springville, St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Hamburg, Kenmore United Methodist Church in Kenmore, and Eden United Methodist Church in Eden; and

WHEREAS, the Department plans on providing each of the identified churches with a onetime payment of \$1,000 to cover program startup expenses; and

WHEREAS, budgetary appropriations are available in the 163CSE1415 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account to fund the contracts with the consultant and churches.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into a consultant contract, not to exceed \$6,400, with Lisa Rood, for the period December 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015, to assist with the creation of the group respite program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into contracts, not to exceed \$1,000 each, with Trinity Old Lutheran Church in Amherst, Springville United Methodist Church in Springville, St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Hamburg, Kenmore United Methodist Church in Kenmore, and Eden United Methodist Church in Eden, to begin group respite programs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that budgetary appropriations in the 163CSE1415 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account be utilized to fund the contracts with the consultant and churches; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller's Office, and the Department Senior Services.