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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 12, 2014

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

**Re: Authorization to Accept Grant Funding and Enter into Contract
Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling Program
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED**

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 Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the continuation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program. This program was previously endorsed by your Honorable Body in Intro. 14-4 on July 18, 2013.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Interim Commissioner Deborah Goldman at the Department of Mental Health or Veterans Service Officer Francis McLaughlin. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/cs
Enclosure

cc: Interim Commissioner Deborah Goldman
Veterans Service Officer Francis McLaughlin

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Accept Grant Funding and Enter into Contract
Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling Program
Date: December 12, 2014

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$185,000 in grant funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH), to establish a grant budget, and to enter into contract with the Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the continuation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program for the period January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016.

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 (ECDMH), through the NYSOMH, has been awarded an additional \$185,000 to be allocated under NYSOMH direction for a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program. The ECDMH seeks authorization for the County Executive to enter into contract with the Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the provision of these services. The funds are targeted toward the continued development of peer-to-peer mentoring services that allow veterans to share their experiences with others who have endured the same physical and mental traumas, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and who speak the same military language.

This grant funding is a continuation of the PFC Joseph Dwyer Peer-to-Peer Veterans Counseling Program Services previously awarded to Erie County. The intention is to designate the Veterans 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 was 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 Veterans Counseling Services to veterans in Erie County.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The ECDMH will work with the Division of Budget and Management to establish the grant, and will then enter into contract with the Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. for the continued development of the peer-to-peer veterans counseling program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Accept Grant
Funding and Enter into Contract
Peer to Peer Veterans Counseling
Program

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) 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 ECDMH 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 NYSOMH has identified Veterans One-Stop Center of Western New York, Inc. as the recipient of this award to the continuing development of a peer-to-peer mentoring program for post 9/11 veterans in Erie County experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); and

WHEREAS, the ECDMH requires legislative approval to accept the State funds and to establish a grant budget in Fund 281; and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be necessary for Erie County to accept this state aid to serve individuals residing in Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the County Executive to accept New York State grant funds for the continuation of a peer-to-peer veterans counseling program, and enter into contract with the Veterans One Stop Center of Western New York, Inc., and

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to establish funding in the grant fund 281, funds center 12410 as follows:

Erie County Department of Mental Health
January 1, 2015-June 30, 2016
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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 Proposal (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 Comptroller, and the Division of Budget and Management.