

SUSPENSION

ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE



92 Franklin Street - 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

April 3, 2014

Carol Dankert-Maurer
Commissioner of Social Services
95 Franklin St.
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Commissioner Dankert-Maurer,


On March 13, 2014, the Erie County Legislature unanimously approved INTRO 3-5 (2014). The approval of this resolution followed its submission to the Legislature on February 6, 2014, and subsequent discussion by this Honorable Body's Health & Human Services Committee of the important issue of providing community-based inpatient substance-abuse treatment, counseling and mental health services to women seeking to turn their lives around, as well as the negative impact funding cuts by your department to providers of these vital services.

An important part of this resolution called on you, as the Commissioner of Social Services, to provide this Legislature with information concerning the very significant funding reductions for shelters providing the critical services referenced in INTRO 3-5 (2014). It also is very troubling that you have not found the time to submit this important information to the Legislature, especially in light of the fact that the onerous reductions by your department appear to be arbitrary, and the fact that funding cuts took effect April 1, 2014 – without your response.


Attached herewith is a certified copy of INTRO 3-5 (2014); with the second resolve clause including the following language, "RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services provide a detailed reasoning to this Legislature for the reduction in funding, together with the methodology used to reach a policy of reduced funding, and a plan that provides for a continuity of care for affected women." It is important to this Legislature – and to the community and women affected by your department's decision – to provide the information sought, and provide same in an expeditious manner.

Thank you for your hoped for immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Barbara Miller-Williams
1st District Legislator

Betty Jean Grant
2nd District Legislator


Patrick B. Burke
7th District Legislator
Comm. 7E-20
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