



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 23, 2015

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: ECDMH Contract Request  
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION**

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Mental Health to continue its working relationship with Deborah Goldman beyond her retirement date of 7-10-15. The Department is requesting authorization to enter into a contract with Ms. Goldman on a consultant basis to assist the Commissioner and Director of Planning and Evaluation with ongoing initiatives in the absence of a full time Assistant Commissioner.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Michael Ranney in the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc  
Enclosure

cc: Michael Ranney, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Mental Health  
**Re:** ECDMH Contract Request  
**Date:** July 23, 2015

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### **SUMMARY**

The Department of Mental Health requests authorization to enter into a short-term contract, on a consultant basis, with Ms. Deborah Goldman, the Department's recently retired Assistant Commissioner, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 and for no more than 6 hours per week for the remainder of 2015. The contract will commence sometime after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Budgetary appropriations are available in the Department's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account to cover the cost of contracting with the consultant.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

With a newly appointed Commissioner and now a vacated Assistant Commissioner position, both the Commissioner and the Director of Evaluation and Planning require assistance in the transition of the current Children's System of Care model to the new Health Home model. In addition, Ms. Goldman would provide consultation regarding the NYS Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program. Furthermore, she would offer technical assistance and consultation to the Department regarding ongoing development of the information system that is in progress for the Children's System of Care, as well as to aid with the development of interoperability needs related to Health Home's data system.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Prior to her recent retirement from Erie County government after serving almost 30 years, Ms. Goldman was in the process of helping to develop the above-mentioned initiatives. Her unique expertise combined with her years of experience in the mental health arena – cultivated over the nearly 25 years she has worked as a devoted member of ECDMH – make her a valuable resource to help the current leadership group continue to provide necessary services to the residents of Erie County.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Department of Mental Health would be unable to effectively continue the progress already made on the important initiatives mentioned above.

**STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Department of Mental Health will work with the County's legal department to create a contract with the consultant.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

RE: ECDMH Contract Request

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health is working to cost effectively provide behavioral and mental health services for Erie County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health wishes to continue its transition from the current Children's System of Care model to the new Health Home model; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health is working to further the NYS Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health seeks to continue the development of interoperability needs related to Health Home's data system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health desires to contract with a consultant, Ms. Deborah Goldman, for the period August 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, at a cost not to exceed \$10,000 to assist the department with these ongoing community initiatives; and

WHEREAS, budgetary appropriations are available in the department's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account to fund the contract with the consultant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to enter into a consultant contract, not to exceed \$10,000, with Deborah Goldman, for the period August 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, to assist with the Department of Mental Health's ongoing initiatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that budgetary appropriations in the department's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (GL 516020) be utilized to fund the contract with the consultant; 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 of Mental Health.