

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 9, 2015

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

**RE: Acceptance of Support for Regional
Youth Justice Priorities Grant Award**

Dear Honorable Members:

Attached, please find a proposed resolution and an accompanying memorandum from Erie County Probation Department requesting authorization to accept an award of \$33,102 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), to support the work of the Western New York Regional Youth Justice Team. Regional Youth Justice Teams are regional teams of juvenile justice stakeholders including representatives from local government agencies, service providers, the judiciary, community organizations, youth and families who are justice involved.

The Erie County Probation Department will be coordinating Aggression Replacement Training[®] (ART[®]) for Juvenile Justice Agencies in Erie, Niagara and Cattaraugus County.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Probation Commissioner, Brian McLaughlin. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "P".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/lb
Enclosure

cc: Brian McLaughlin, Probation Commissioner

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Probation Department
Re: Acceptance of Support for Regional Youth Justice Priorities Grant Award
Date: March 9, 2015

SUMMARY

The attached resolution and accompanying memorandum request authorization to accept an award of \$33,102 from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to coordinate Aggression Replacement Training[®] (ART[®]) for Juvenile Justice Agencies serving Erie, Niagara and Cattaraugus counties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the project will be provided by grant funds via the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). The required 10% match is being met with the in-kind contribution of a portion of the Deputy Commissioner of Probation's and the Grant Specialist's salaries. The Deputy Commissioner will be serving as project lead and coordinating the training sessions in Erie County. He will also be working with his counterparts in Cattaraugus and Niagara Counties to arrange for training those communities. The Grants Specialist will be responsible for all fiscal and programmatic reporting required by the DCJS.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Erie County Probation Department has applied and received an award letter dated 11/14/14 for funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services for this purpose.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Probation Department as lead agency for the Western New York Regional Youth Justice Team (WNYRYJT) submitted an application for funding in response to a New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) request for proposal for Support for Regional Youth Justice Team projects.

Regional Youth Justice Teams are regional teams of juvenile justice stakeholders including representatives from local government agencies, service providers, the judiciary, community organizations and youth and families who are justice involved. The teams were created to further implement New York State's strategic plan for juvenile justice, as outlined in "*Safe Communities, Successful Youth: A Shared Vision for the New York State Juvenile Justice System*". Each team meets on a quarterly basis to share best practices, identify areas for practice improvement and provide input to state policymakers. The WNY region encompasses Erie, Niagara, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegany counties.

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The Probation Department has been awarded \$33,102 to conduct three ART[®] training sessions. Erie, Cattaraugus, and Niagara Counties will each host one session for up to 25 participants each.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) recognizes Aggression Replacement Training[®] as a Model Program. Aggression Replacement Training[®] has been used since 1978. Research has shown it to be effective in skill learning, anger control, and in reducing recidivism. It is used in schools, delinquency centers and other agencies concerned with the reduction of school violence and aggression by youth in the community.

The ability of many of the agencies participating in the WNYRYJT to replicate evidence based practices and evidence based programs is often limited by budget restrictions and competing demands for resources. Members of the WNYRYJT have expressed interest in the implementation of Aggression Replacement Training[®] for use with challenging youth. Most have not done so due to the cost of the training. Generally ART classes have 25 students and smaller agencies in addition to having limited funding – do not have enough people to support a class independently. Bringing in the training and the follow up support would enable agencies in Western New York to enhance the breadth of their programs with an established evidence based model.

The Probation Department will serve as lead agency and be working collaboratively with the Western New York Regional Justice Team Members in Cattaraugus and Niagara Counties to coordinate the training sessions.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The county will forfeit the funding and the training will not be available.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Certified copies of this resolution will be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the County Comptroller, the County Attorney, and the Probation Department C/O Christina Schrader, room 112, 1 Niagara Plaza.

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A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: PROBATION DEPARTMENT

RE: Acceptance of Support for Regional
Youth Justice Priorities Grant Award

WHEREAS, the Erie County Probation Department serves as the lead for the Western New York Regional Youth Justice Team; and

WHEREAS, Western New York Regional Youth Justice Team is comprised of juvenile justice stakeholders supporting the implementation of New York State's strategic plan for juvenile justice; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) has awarded the Erie County Probation Department \$33,102; to conduct Aggression Replacement Training[®] for the purpose of supporting the Regional Youth Justice Team activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to accept an award from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services in the amount of \$33,102 and enter into contract and amendments to these contracts to pertaining to this award; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby makes a finding that it is impracticable to follow the RFP procedures for the professional service contracts with Educational & Treatment Alternatives, Inc. as they are one of two providers nationally of ART[®] facilitator training, (the other's fee structure significantly exceeds the funds available) and hereby waives the procedures outlined in Section 19.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contracts and amendments to these contracts, with Educational & Treatment Alternatives, Inc. 3951 Shamrock Road, Erie PA 16510 to conduct ART[®] facilitator per the grant work plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budgetary accounts be established by the Office of Budget, Management and Finance for the grant as follows:

Erie County Probation Department
Fund 281 – Business Area 126
Grant 126RYJT-ART
Regional Youth Justice Team-ART[®]
January 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

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Revenue	
Account 414000 Federal Aid	<u>\$33,102</u>
Total Revenue	\$33,102
Appropriations	
Account 516020 Pro Serv Contracts & Fees	<u>\$33,102</u>
Total Appropriations	\$33,102

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with State approved funding levels; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, the County Comptroller, the County Attorney, and the Probation Department c/o Christina Schrader Room 112, 1 Niagara Plaza.