

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

December 31, 2015

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

**Re: Accepting OMH Grant Funding**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution seeking authorization to accept funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) and to establish a grant-funded position within the Erie County Department of Mental Health's Single Point of Access (SPOA) division.

On August 25, 2015 the County was notified that additional New York State OMH funding in the amount of \$44,550 (annualized \$89,100 and retroactive to July 1, 2015) was available to support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and SPOA due to changes to the OMH Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. As a result, the Department of Mental Health is requesting authorization to hire one new SPOA staff member to help implement these changes.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP/nw  
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Michael Ranney

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Mental Health  
**Re:** Accepting OMH Grant Funding  
**Date:** December 31, 2015

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### **SUMMARY**

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$89,100 in funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), in order to establish a grant-funded position that will help support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and Single Point of Access (SPOA) due to changes to the OMH Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The grant funding for this action is derived entirely from 100% New York State Aid dollars for 2016. Starting in 2017, the funding will be comprised of a combination of state aid dollars as well as partial reimbursement through Medicaid Administrative Claiming by having the SPOA staff member participate in the Random Moment Time Study program (which currently exists and provides for federal salary sharing funds). In either case, no County tax dollars are necessary to support this request.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Erie County Department of Mental Health, through the New York State OMH, has been awarded an additional \$89,100 annually to help support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the LGU and SPOA. The Department of Mental Health seeks to create a new grant-funded position to help satisfy the increased duties of the SPOA staff. This position will be titled Forensic Mental Health (FMH) Specialist I – Children.

This funding will directly help support the anticipated increased volume of intakes and case oversight expected in the evolving SPOA roles and population served. Given the anticipated increase in volume and function, the Department of Mental Health believes that the requested additional staffing is critical to maintaining swift access to services for youth and families. This will allow SPOA to continue to provide timely review, completion and assignment of referrals in a manner that is both respectful of youth and families and clinically indicated.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

We would be unable to adequately support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the LGU and SPOA due to the proposed changes and therefore not contribute to the statewide effort of

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OMH to partner with LGU's in expanding their outreach in the local communities that benefit so greatly from having ready access to the services provided.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Department of Mental Health will work with the Division of Budget and Management to establish the grant, and will then diligently seek out qualified candidates to fill this position – while keeping with union requirements and guidelines.

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## A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Accepting OMH Grant Funding

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health's SPOA process is designed to identify, screen and assign Care Coordination and Wraparound Services to eligible high need/high risk children and youth with a serious emotional disturbance (SED) and/or behavioral disorder and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has been awarded an additional \$89,100 by the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) as part of an effort to help support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the Local Government Unit (LGU) and Single Point of Access (SPOA) due to changes to the OMH Home- and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver; and

WHEREAS, the New York State OMH has identified the Erie County Department of Mental Health as the recipient of this award to continue development of its Children's SPOA community outreach; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health 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 funds as part of an effort to help support the enhanced roles and responsibilities of the LGU and SPOA, and authorizes the Division of Budget and Management to establish a grant-funded position as follows:

Erie County Department of Mental Health  
Grant Fund 281, Fund Center 12420  
January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016  
124SPOAGRANT2016

Revenue	Increase
Account 406810 - State Aid – Forensic Mental Health	\$89,100
Appropriation	Increase
Account 500000 – Full Time Salaries	\$55,000
Account 502000 – Fringe Benefits	<u>\$34,100</u>
Total Appropriation	\$89,100

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and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following position be created through grant funding for The Department of Mental Health's SPOA division:

1 Forensic Mental Health (FMH) Specialist I – Children (JG 10)  
B-100 #8484  
Start Date: January 1, 2016

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.