

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 20, 2016

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

Re: Authorization to Amend Contract with WNY Independent Living

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution pertaining to an increase in the 2016 contract with WNY Independent Living (WNY IL), with which Erie County currently contracts for Office of Mental Health funding only.

On February 22, 2016 the County was notified that New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) funding in the amount of \$250,000 is available for the fiscal year 2016 to allow the County to establish contracts for the provision of a Family Navigator and a Peer Advocate in emergency rooms. Both programs are intended to assist the County in fighting the Heroin/Opioid epidemic that we are all facing. State aid is expected to annualize in 2017 at the same amount. Due to the severe nature of this epidemic, NYS is requesting that Erie County not go through a lengthy procurement process to implement these programs, but rather select an agency or agencies via a sole source effort. Therefore, the Department of Mental Health is requesting authorization to amend and increase its existing contract with the aforementioned provider.

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 yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc
Enclosure

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MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Amend Contract with WNY Independent Living
Date: May 20, 2016

SUMMARY

Erie County currently contracts with WNY Independent Living (WNY IL) for Office of Mental Health funding. However, on February 22, 2016 the County was notified that New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) funding in the amount of \$250,000 (annualized also to \$250,000 starting in 2017) is available for the fiscal year 2016 to allow the County to establish contracts for the provision of a Family Navigator and a Peer Advocate in emergency rooms. These programs are both intended to assist Erie County in fighting the Heroin/Opioid epidemic that the County is facing.

The Department of Mental Health is requesting authorization to expand its existing contract with the aforementioned provider.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this action is derived entirely from NYS OASAS. These funds are being appropriated to WNY IL in the amount of \$250,000 for the fiscal year 2016. No additional funding is necessary for this proposal.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Due to New York State's desire to implement these new services quickly, the Department of Mental Health is requesting the authorization to amend its existing contract with the respective provider to allow for a swift and effective implementation. The Department of Mental Health believes that WNY IL is the most viable option in regard to having both the expertise and desire to carry out this initiative. The proposed resolution assures that these services will be implemented in a manner to allow these vital programs to reach those in need quickly and thus comply with the time sensitive nature of this funding award.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This is an addition of NYS OASAS funding to the WNY IL contract in order to provide community based mental and behavioral health services associated with the County being granted this new OASAS funding.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this action would delay and possibly jeopardize the implementation of and access to the expanded resources being made available to Erie County to provide community based mental and behavioral health services as a result of this award. The extent of this crisis can be seen in the fact that just recently within an 11-day period, as many as 23 people died of overdoses from a high-powered batch of heroin.

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STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Erie County Department of Mental Health's contract with WNY IL will be amended to reflect this new OASAS funding and the Department will continue to oversee the provider's program operations, performance goals and contract compliance activities.

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A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY: ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Amend Contract with
WNY Independent Living

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of community based mental and behavioral health services for the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, a 2016 budget appropriation was allocated to WNY Independent Living (WNY IL) for provision of Office of Mental Health services; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) has informed the Erie County Department of Mental Health of a \$250,000 increase to its State Aid for fiscal year 2016 (annualized also to \$250,000 starting in 2017), with a quick time frame requirement for implementing the associated mental and behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, in order to quickly implement these mental and behavioral health services, the Erie County Department of Mental Health recommends that the County immediately amend its contract with WNY IL for the provision of the targeted mental and behavioral health services related to the new OASAS funding; and

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

WHEREAS, \$250,000 in NYS OASAS funding is being appropriated to WNY IL for fiscal year 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that in order to implement programs intended to assist Erie County in fighting the Heroin/Opioid epidemic that the County is facing, the Department of Mental Health is authorized to immediately amend the agency contract of WNY IL; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to accept the NYS OASAS funding and amend the 2016 contract with WNY IL for a period commencing on or around April 1, 2016 (and annually thereafter); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to process the following budgetary adjustment:

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2016 BUDGET – Mental Health, Business Area 124
Cost Center 1241020, Fund 110

<u>Revenue</u>		<u>Increase</u>
406860	State Aid - OASAS	\$250,000
<u>Expense</u>		<u>Increase</u>
517859	WNY Independent Living ASA	\$250,000

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.