



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 7, 2016

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

**Re: Authorization to Accept OMH Funding for Enhancement of Evidence-Based Systems of Care in Mental Health Forensic Clinics division**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to accept funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health to support the development/enhancement of evidence-based systems of care for individuals with mental illness involved in the local corrections system. Ultimately this program is designed to help achieve better treatment outcomes for those individuals with mental illness who are confined in and leaving local jails.

If your Honorable Body requires any further information, please contact Commissioner Michael Ranney at the Department of Mental Health. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

cc: Commissioner Michael Ranney

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Erie County Department of Mental Health  
**Re:** Authorization to Accept OMH Funding for Enhancement of Evidence-Based Systems of Care in Mental Health Forensic Clinics division  
**Date:** July 7, 2016

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### **SUMMARY**

Legislative authorization is requested to accept \$50,000 in funding from the New York State Office of Mental Health, to support the development/enhancement of evidence-based systems of care for individuals with mental illness involved in the local corrections system. ECDMH hopes to accomplish this through a combination of providing an additional \$35,410 of funding to The Research Foundation for SUNY (as an expansion of high risk critical time intervention services currently covered in their contract – i.e. enabled via 2016 Omnibus Resolutions 54 and 55), as well as adding the balance of \$14,590 to the Forensics Division budget for costs to cover training, computer hardware and work stations to support internal staff as they strive to implement the goals of this program.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding for this initiative is derived entirely from 100% New York State dollars. 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 Office of Mental Health Division of Forensics, has been awarded an additional \$50,000 to be allocated under NYSOMH direction for the purpose of developing/enhancing a system of evidence-based mental health practices for individuals in jail. The Department of Mental Health seeks to amend its contract with The Research Foundation for SUNY for the provision of additional/enhanced high risk critical time intervention services. The remaining funds are targeted toward the continued development by the Forensics Division of ECDMH for its system of evidence-based mental health practices for incarcerated individuals.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

We would be unable to implement this OMH-sponsored initiative to combat the upward trend in recent years of persons with mental illness cycling in and out of local jails. As a system, we know United States correctional facilities have consistently elevated rates of mental illness relative to our general population – but we also know not putting forth a concerted effort to address the situation now is not the answer.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Erie County Department of Mental Health's contract with The Research Foundation for SUNY will be amended to reflect the additional funding for the provision of the enhanced high risk critical time intervention services. In addition, ECDMH fiscal personnel will work with the Division of Budget and Management to increase the appropriate lines of the 2016 Forensic Clinics budget.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Accept OMH Funding for the Enhancement of Evidence-Based Systems of Care in Mental Health Forensic Clinics division

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

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health has been awarded additional funding by the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYSOMH) as part of an initiative to support the development/enhancement of evidence-based systems of care for individuals with mental illness involved in the local corrections system; and

WHEREAS, the ECDMH has identified both its internal Forensic Clinics division and The Research Foundation for SUNY as the recipients of additional funding to support efforts to coordinate and strengthen the response to individuals with mental illness involved in the local corrections system; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health requires legislative approval to accept the State funds and to both increase the Forensic Clinics division budget and amend the contract with The Research Foundation for SUNY; and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be necessary for Erie County to accept this state aid to serve members of this critical population 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 for the development/enhancement of evidence-based systems of care by amending the agency contract of The Research Foundation for SUNY, and by authorizing the Division of Budget and Management to process budgetary adjustments for the Mental Health Forensic Clinics division as follows:

2016 BUDGET – Forensic Mental Health, Business Area 124  
Cost Center 12420, Fund 110

Revenue	Increase
Account 406810 – Forensic State Aid	\$14,590
Appropriation	Increase
Account 510100 – Out of Area Travel	\$5,000
Account 561410 – Lab & Tech Equipment	3,500
Account 561420 – Office Eqpt, Furn & Fixtures	<u>6,090</u>
Total Appropriation	\$14,590

and be it further

RESOLVED that to the extent this subcontract may constitute a professional, technical or other consultant service, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposal (RFP) is hereby waived, as this Honorable Body has previously approved of the County's entering into contract with The Research Foundation for SUNY for this program; 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.