



ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

July 6, 2016

Gale Burstein, MD
Commissioner of Health
Erie County Health Department
95 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Commissioner Burstein,

We would like to thank you for your continued efforts to fight the opioid/heroin crisis in our community. As you are aware, the Legislature approved the administration's proposal to create a county hotline that provides a 24/7 Substance Abuse and Addiction Screening, Information and Referral Service on April 14, 2016. We also reconfirmed the funding source through approval of the 2015 Year-End Budget Balancing Amendments and Designations on May 12, 2016.

At this point, it is our understanding that the hotline is not operational and residents are unable to take advantage of this service. We would appreciate an update as to when residents can expect to utilize this new service to help them deal with an addiction that is impacting their lives. It would also be helpful if you could provide us an overview of the hiring process and timeline that was followed by Crisis Services to select and train the individuals who will be handling the calls that come in.

Thank you in advance for your timely response and we are hopeful the hotline will be up and running soon.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Longo
Majority Leader
Erie County Legislator – District 10

Lynne Dixon

Lynne Dixon
Chairwoman of Health and Human Services Committee
Erie County Legislator- District 9