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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 22, 2016

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

IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION REQUESTED

Re: Overnight Respite Program

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services to begin an overnight respite program to assist caregivers of memory impaired and physically disabled seniors. The Department of Senior Services will utilize available grant funding to pay for eligible clients overnight stays at NY State Department of Health licensed Long-Term Care Facilities.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Anthony Gregorczyk in the Department of Senior Services. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/mc
Enclosure

cc: Anthony Gregorczyk, Supervisor of Grants Admin., Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Overnight Respite Program
Date: July 22, 2016

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to begin an overnight respite program to assist memory impaired and physically disabled seniors and their families. The Department of Senior Services will pay for eligible clients overnight stays at NY State Department of Health licensed Long-Term Care Facilities, thereby providing caregivers with needed respite and support.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds are required. Budgetary appropriations are available in the 2016 calendar year 163ADCSI2016 and 163III-E2016 grants' Professional Services Contracts and Fees accounts to cover the cost of the program.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Residents with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can cause high levels of stress to even the most well intentioned caregiver. Providing an opportunity for the caregiver to have immediate respite can reduce stress levels, abuse, unplanned hospital stays, and defer permanent admission to Long-Term Care Facilities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Senior Services is funded to provide new opportunities for respite care to the caregivers of Erie County. The provision of overnight respite has long been sought as a service that will have significant impact on the well-being of caregivers.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Senior Services would be unable to utilize available grant appropriations to meet the needs of seniors and their caregivers.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Department of Senior Services will begin the operation of the overnight respite program.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Overnight Respite Program

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services continually looks to enhance services to help seniors remain in their homes longer; and

WHEREAS, the Department wishes to reduce long-term care costs by providing services to reduce or delay long-term admissions to facilities; and

WHEREAS, caregiver burnout contributes to premature placement into long-term care settings; and

WHEREAS, overnight respite programs provide a safe, and supervised environment for memory impaired adults and other physically disabled seniors unable to take care of themselves, thereby allowing their family caregivers temporary relief; and

WHEREAS, the Department desires to offer immediate respite at NY State Department of Health (NYSDOH) licensed Long-Term Care Facilities in the Western New York region to eligible caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Department aims to provide respite flexibility to caregivers based on urgency, location and availability; and

WHEREAS, there are at least 36 Long-Term Care facilities in the WNY region; and

WHEREAS, contracting with individual facilities on a case by case basis is not an effective respite solution; and

WHEREAS, the Department wishes to have the ability to directly pay the Long-Term Care Facility of choice quickly and without an individual contract; and

WHEREAS, each Long-Term Care Facility has the ability to set its own rate for overnight respite care based on the market for such services; and

WHEREAS, the Department will pay no more than \$400 per day for overnight respite services; and

WHEREAS, budgetary appropriations are available in the 2016 calendar year 163ADCSI2016 and 163III-E2016 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees accounts to pay for overnight respite services for eligible seniors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby waives the procedures, as impractical, provided for in Section 19.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code for purposes of providing payment to NYSDOH licensed Long-Term Care Facilities in Western New York to be retained to provide short term and overnight respite services associated with caregivers in need; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Department is authorized to utilize the county's direct pay process to compensate the caregiver chosen NYSDOH licensed Long-Term Care facility at a rate not to exceed \$400 per day for overnight respite services and upon such terms and conditions provided by the Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, that budgetary appropriations in the 2016 calendar 163ADCSI2016 and 163III-E2016 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees accounts be utilized to pay for the overnight respite services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive's Office, the Division of Budget and Management, the Comptroller's Office, and the Department of Senior Services.