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COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 19, 2017

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

**Re: Authorization to Allow Department of Mental Health to Contract with
BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.**

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find attached a resolution requesting legislative authorization to allow the Department of Mental Health to enter into a contract with a newly formed provider agency called BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc. The organization will commence operations on or around June 1, 2017 as the result of a merger between Child & Adolescent Treatment Services and Lake Shore Behavioral Health. The Department of Mental Health currently contracts with each provider agency separately, and has for many years. The Attorney General of New York State is expected to officially approve the merger on May 18, 2017.

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, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/ds
Enclosure

cc: Commissioner Michael Ranney

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Allow Department of Mental Health to Contract with BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.
Date: May 19, 2017

SUMMARY

Legislative authorization is requested to allow the Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) to enter into a contract with BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc., a newly created family-focused behavioral health agency that has resulted from the merger of Child & Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) and Lake Shore Behavioral Health (LSBH). ECDMH currently contracts with each provider separately. Effective June 1, 2017, the newly formed organization will employ more than 540 people and be one of the largest community-based behavioral health agencies in WNY, offering family-focused, quality mental health and substance abuse services for children and adults. Its mission is to serve the most vulnerable members of the community with the end goal in mind to help its consumers be the best parent, the best friend, the best worker, the best student – the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for this action was approved with the adoption of the 2017 County Budget, when separate contracts were authorized for both CATS and LSBH. No additional County tax levy is necessary to support this request. LSBH is undergoing a legal name change to BestSelf Behavioral Health, while also assuming the operations and obligations of the former standalone agency CATS. The new organization will maintain the same Federal Tax ID# as LSBH had, 16-1004090.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Erie County Department of Mental Health in 2017 entered into separate contracts with CATS and LSBH, knowing that the two service providers were working toward combining their successful operations with the purpose of delivering better and more comprehensive behavioral health services to Erie County residents. For the past three years, management of the two agencies has worked diligently to explore all of the possibilities and took the necessary steps to form a new organization whose mission would be to provide continuity of care to individuals across the age spectrum and their families, driving better outcomes in both the short and long term.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

Failure to approve this action would delay and possibly jeopardize the implementation of and access to the most innovative and evidence-based behavioral health services available to residents of Erie County, many of whose families currently receive high quality care from one or both of these individual agencies.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

ECDMH will establish an initial contract with BestSelf Behavioral Health as necessary and the Department will vigorously oversee the new provider's program operations, performance goals and contract compliance activities. Along with the Assistant County Attorney and Division of Budget & Management, ECDMH will work with the respective agency personnel to finalize their individual contracts and settle any outstanding balances, including the filing of any final reports due to New York State or the Federal government.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Allow Department of
Mental Health to Contract with BestSelf
Behavioral Health, Inc.

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 seeks legislative approval to enter into a contract with BestSelf Behavioral Health for the delivery of family-focused, quality mental health and substance abuse services to children and adults throughout Western New York; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Attorney General has (tentatively) approved of the formation of BestSelf Behavioral Health by the merger of operations of Child & Adolescent Treatment Services and Lake Shore Behavioral Health; and

WHEREAS, no additional County funds will be necessary for Erie County to enter into this contract with BestSelf Behavioral Health to serve many of the most vulnerable residents of Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby authorize the Department of Mental Health to immediately enter into a contract with the newly created BestSelf Behavioral Health for the provision of related services, and thus authorizes the Division of Budget and Management to process the following budgetary adjustments:

2017 Budget
Department of Mental Health - Fund Center 12410

Expense	Increase/(Decrease)
Account 517545 – Child & Adol Treat OMH	\$(307,000)
Account 517685 – Lakeshore Com MH Ctr OMH	(945,000)
Account 517686 – Lakeshore Com MH Ctr ASA	(920,000)
Account 517688 – Lakeshore Com MH Ctr HUD	(258,000)
Account 517534 – BestSelf Behav Health OMH	1,252,000
Account 517535 – BestSelf Behav Health ASA	920,000
Account 517536 – BestSelf Behav Health HUD	<u>258,000</u>
Total	\$0

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 contracts with Child & Adolescent Treatment Services and Lake Shore Behavioral Health on December 6, 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 respective contracts, 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.