



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

July 10, 2017

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
95 Franklin Street  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Authorization to Contract with United Healthcare**

Dear Honorable Members:

United Healthcare is a health care insurance provider which focuses on providing government-sponsored managed care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, to families, children, seniors and individual adults. By entering into this contract, the Erie County Department of Health ("ECDOH") will be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with United Health insurance coverage.

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize entering into a contract with United Healthcare retroactive to January 1, 2017.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Health Department. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP:bqs  
CC: Health Commissioner, Gale R. Burstein, MD

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Health Department  
**Re:** Authorization to Enter into Contract with United Healthcare  
**Date:** July 10, 2017

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### **SUMMARY**

The purpose of this resolution is to authorize the Erie County Department of Health to enter into a contract with United Healthcare retroactive to January 1, 2017.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Positive. Contracting with United Healthcare will allow the Erie County Department of Health clinics to bill and receive reimbursement from the insurance of covered individuals who have United Healthcare plans.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Erie County Department of Health will be able to recuperate funds by billing for services rendered. Affected services will include immunizations and sexually transmitted disease treatment.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2014 changes in New York State law require and encourage local health departments (“LHDs”) to attempt to bill insurance whenever possible for various Article VI services.

United Healthcare is an increasingly prominent insurer in Erie County, mostly providing government-sponsored managed care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, to families, children, seniors, and individual adults.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

ECDOH would not be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with United Healthcare insurance.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Health Department will follow the appropriate steps necessary to enter into the contract.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**RE:** Authorization to enter into contract with United Healthcare

WHEREAS New York State Public Health Law Article VI encourages local health departments to seek reimbursement for services rendered to individuals with health insurance; and

WHEREAS, United Healthcare is a health care insurance provider which offers government-sponsored manage care services, primarily through Medicaid, Medicare Advantage, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans to families, children, seniors, and individual adults; and

WHEREAS, by entering into a contract with United Healthcare the Erie County Department of Health will be able to bill for services rendered to individuals with United Healthcare health insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this resolution is to authorize the County Executive to enter into contract with United Healthcare beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to enter into contract and amendments to that contract with United Healthcare beginning January 1, 2017; and

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner in the Erie County Health Department, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rath Building.