

January 11, 2018

Dear Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz and Members of the Erie County Legislature:

This letter is to inform you that Erie County Child Protective Services is concerned that our proposal submitted on August 30, 2017, is no longer at the forefront of the agenda. We would like to be ensured the matter remains as important to you as it is to us. On December 14, 2017, the matter was voted on and numerous Legislators agreed that something needs to be done. The matter was sent to the Health and Human Services Committee on December 21, 2017 where it was voted on and resolved.

It was your Honorable body who supported reorganization or reallocation of all employees in Child Protective Services, to properly fund their division to limit turnover. It also stated that this Honorable body hereby directed the Erie County Department of Budget and Management to work with ECDSS to draw up a budget neutral resolution implementing a two-job group increase for Erie County Child Protective Services employees, and funding those increases using monies already allocated to the Department. Also, certified copies of this resolution were sent to the Erie County Executive, the Past Commissioner of Department of Social Services and any other party deemed necessary.

Since filing our proposal on August 30, 2017, 10 seasoned workers and 11 trainees for a total of 167 Child Protective Workers within the past five years have the left ECDSS after being fully trained by New York State to perform the job.

Due to unforeseen circumstances with the previous ECDSS Commissioner, we do not want this matter to go unaddressed and are hoping to see progress made. Child Protective Series is wondering if it is all possible for those directed to address this issue, be given a timeline to begin the process? Additionally, when this does, if possible, can we be informed and/or involved?

Thank you in advance for you time and we look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Respectfully,

Child Protection Series

CC: Marie Cannon Acting Commissioner
Office of Budget & Management