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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 20, 2018

Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: STD Disease Intervention Grant Job Creation and Personnel Transfers  
from the Department of Health**

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed find enclosed a resolution from the Erie County Department of Health. The purpose of this request is to authorize the retroactive transfer of personnel from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Sexually Transmitted Disease Investigation (STDDI) grant to the Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) grant and to create one Disease Investigator, grade 6 position in the STDDI grant. This resolution is follow-up to COMM. 23E-19 (2017), which included an initial set of adjustments to, effectively, combine the Partner Notification (PNAP) and STDDI grants.

The position of Project Coordinator – Health was previously paid for through a combination of funding from the PNAP, STDDI and PrEP grants. This resolution will allow for this position to be funded 100% from the PrEP grant. The STDDI grant funds from this position will now be used to create a job group 6 position in the STDDI grant.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner of Health, Gale Burstein. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

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

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Health  
**Re:** STD Disease Intervention Grant Job Creation and Personnel Transfers  
**Date:** April 20, 2018

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### **SUMMARY**

To authorize the transfer of personnel from the Sexually Transmitted Disease Investigation (STDDI) grant to the Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) grant and to create one Disease Investigator JG-6 position in the STDDI grant.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None. Fully funded by existing grants from the New York State Department of Health.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

These personnel changes align with the New York State Department of Health's vision for how Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) should be addressed in New York State. They will also allow Erie County to better implement proven strategies for decreasing the number of cases of STDs and HIV in our community. One position of Projects Coordinator-Health will be transferred from STDDI to the PrEP grant, as the majority of this individual's work is focused on expanding the use of PrEP.

This resolution is follow-up to COMM. 23E-19 (2017), which included an initial set of adjustments to, effectively, combine the Partner Notification (PNAP) and STDDI grants. If approved, the resolution completes a realignment of staff inside of the various NYSDOH grants relating specifically to HIV and generally to STDs.

Per NYSDOH, these changes are retroactive to January 1, 2018 to align with the grant year.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) is recommended by the NYSDOH AIDS Institute as a first line intervention for individuals at high risk of acquiring HIV. This biomedical prevention measure may prove to be the key to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In order to reduce the morbidity of HIV transmission in Erie County, PrEP requires full time program staff to carry out the requirement of the grant. The STDDI program requires dedicated staff to effectively conduct field epidemiology including case interviews, partner elicitation/notification, counseling and referral services to reduce the morbidity and mortality of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV.

## **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Erie County Department of Health would be out of compliance with direction from grant managers at the New York State Department of Health.

## **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management to take the appropriate steps necessary to transfer the positions and meet the requirements of the grant.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

RE: STD Disease Intervention Grant Job Creation and Personnel Transfer from the Department of Health

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health manages multiple New York State Department of Health programs designed to reduce the spread of communicable diseases; and

WHEREAS, treating and preventing the spread of sexual transmitted diseases is a core public health function under Article 6 of New York State Public Health Law; and

WHEREAS, these personnel changes align with the New York State Department of Health's vision for how STDs and HIV should be addressed in New York State and allow Erie County to better implement proven strategies for decreasing the number of cases of STDs and HIV in our community; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is follow-up to COMM. 23E-19 (2017), which included an initial set of adjustments to, effectively, combine the Partner Notification (PNAP) and STDDI grants; and

WHEREAS, the grant manager, the New York State Department of Health has recommended and authorized this staff transfer and new position to align with its goals in addressing STDs and HIV; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds available in the grants to accommodate this staff transfer and addition.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive hereby authorizes the transfer of the Projects Coordinator – Health, JG-11, (B100 #10231) from the STDDI grant to the PrEP grant, retroactive to January 1, 2018 to align with the current grant year; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive hereby authorizes the creation of new position of Disease Intervention Specialist, JG-6, (B100#10232) in the STDDI grant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funding is available through Fund 281 grants 127HIVPREP1718 & 127HIVPREP1819 and 127STDDI2018 grants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, 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.