COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

March 29, 2019

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

RE: Overnight Respite Services Contract

Dear Honorable Members:

The attached resolution requests authorization for the Department of Senior Services to contract with Niagara Lutheran Health System Inc., (Niagara Lutheran), to assist caregivers of memory impaired and physically disabled seniors by providing overnight respite services. Niagara Lutheran was selected through an RFP process. The Department of Senior Services will utilize available grant funding to pay for eligible client overnight stays.

Should your Honorable Body require any further information, I encourage you to contact Commissioner Timothy Hogues 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: Timothy Hogues, Commissioner, Department of Senior Services

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Senior Services
Re: Overnight Respite Services Contract
Date: March 21, 2019

SUMMARY

Approve the attached resolution to allow the Department of Senior Services to contract, for the period April 1, 2019 through December 31, 2020, with Niagara Lutheran Health System Inc. (Niagara Lutheran), to assist caregivers of memory impaired and physically disabled seniors by providing overnight respite services. Niagara Lutheran was selected through an RFP process and will be paid with existing Department grant funds at a rate of $275.00 per day in 2019 and $286.00 per day in 2020.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County funds are required. Budgetary appropriations of $52,000 are available in the 163III-E2019 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020), to cover 2019 overnight respite services. The amounts for subsequent contract years would be determined by appropriations available in each of those contract year's County budgets.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Residents with dementias and other Long- Term care needs can cause high levels of stress to even the most capable and 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 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 contract with Niagara Lutheran will be executed and the Department of Senior Services will utilize this agency in assisting caregivers in need with overnight respite services.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

RE: Overnight Respite Services Contract

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services 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 older adults unable to take care of themselves, thereby allowing their family caregivers temporary relief; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services desires to offer respite services in Erie County to eligible caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services through an RFP process selected Niagara Lutheran Health System Inc. (Niagara Lutheran), a NY State Department of Health licensed Long-Term Care Facility, to provide overnight respite services in 2019 at $275.00 per day and in 2020 at $286.00 per day; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services now desires to contract with the Niagara Lutheran, to provide overnight respite services during the initial period of April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020; contract may be extended beyond the initial term for up to two one-year periods at prices and conditions agreed upon by County and Agency; and

WHEREAS, $52,000 of budgetary appropriations are available in the 163III-E2019 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020) to pay for the 2019 overnight respite services for eligible seniors; and

WHEREAS, amounts for subsequent contract years are to be determined by appropriations available in each of those year's County budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to contract with the Niagara Lutheran to provide overnight respite services for the Department during the April 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020 this contract may be extended beyond the initial term for up to two one-year periods, at prices and conditions agreed upon by County and Agency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that $52,000 of existing appropriations in the 163III-E2019 grant's Professional Services Contracts and Fees account (#516020) be utilized to pay for the contract's 2019 overnight respite services, with amounts for subsequent contract years to be determined by appropriations available in each of those year's County budgets; and be it further

RESOLVED, and if necessary the County Executive is hereby authorized to execute amendments to the contract to effectuate adjusted funding levels; and be it further

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