

February 14, 2019

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 3

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR SAVAGE PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following item is hereby received and filed:

a. INTRO. 2-6 (2019)

MILLER-WILLIAMS: "Raising the Age for the Legal Purchase of Tobacco & E-Cigarettes to 21"
(Chair's ruling)

2. COMM. 3E-31 (2019)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is required to have a supervisory case review process in place for its Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) where a supervisor must review and sign-off on a percentage of SNAP cases; and

WHEREAS, Erie County was given a waiver where it does not have to check every case, but does have to select a random percentage of cases every month; and

WHEREAS, the current process is time consuming and paper-based, and does not provide the desired level of accountability; and

WHEREAS, the long-term risk of having an inadequate supervisor case review system is, if our staff were to demonstrate poor performance, New York State would remove the waiver and supervisors would be required to review each SNAP case; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Department of Social Services was awarded a \$899,254 SNAP Bonus Award funds that could be only used for technology improvements and efficiency efforts to the program; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has negotiated an agreement with VenTek, Inc., to provide and customize its Supervisor Case Review software (SCREAMS) for SNAP; and

WHEREAS, the SCREAMS software was developed for another New York State Social Services Department with a process and requirements similar to our current system, and has been deployed in several other counties; and

WHEREAS, the SCREAMS software randomly selects cases for the supervisor to review, where the supervisor has the ability to approve the case, or return it to the worker with feedback; and

WHEREAS, VenTek, Inc. has a significant amount of experience developing similar software and has worked with Jefferson County, Onondaga County, Niagara County, and Nassau County; and

WHEREAS, Ventek, Inc. are under New York State contract (NYS Contract Number PB154AA) and a request-for-proposal is not required.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive or the Deputy County Executive is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements to contract with VenTek, Inc. for \$52,900 customizing SCREAMS software for Erie County and annual support costs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Division of Budget and Management to transfer \$46,000 from Account 561410 Lab and Technical Equipment to Account 516020 Professional Services Contracts and Fees, and \$6,900 from Account 561410 Lab and Technical Equipment to 516030 Maintenance Contracts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Division of Budget and Management is authorized to make any necessary budgetary adjustments to facilitate this request; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive, Division of Budget and Management, Comptroller, Department of Social Services and Division of Information and Support Services.
(6-0)

3. COMM. 3E-32 (2019)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, a key provision of the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act is to move sexually exploited youth from the criminal and juvenile justice systems to the family court where children and their families can receive support and services from the child welfare system; and

WHEREAS, services are to be provided to victims of sex trafficking and core elements of the service include case management, emergency temporary housing, health care, mental health counseling, language interpretation and translation services, job training and placement and services to assist in establishing permanent residence; and

WHEREAS, International Institute of Buffalo has been the lead agency for this program for the previous five years and is the only local agency with the expertise and existing resources to carry out the program; and

WHEREAS, International Institute of Buffalo was re-awarded this contract in 2018 after a Request for Proposals (RFP) in 2017; and

WHEREAS, a gradual decrease in State funding over the past few years has required additional county funding to operate this valuable program; and

WHEREAS, total program funding for the 2019 Safe Harbor program in the amount of \$160,350 shall be obtained from \$43,350 of State funds, \$30,000 from Social Service preventive funds available in the 2019 Adopted Budget, and \$87,000 of County share which will be reappropriated from the 2018 Social Service Budget into their 2019 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with the State of New York to accept funding for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services and the County Executive are hereby authorized to enter into contract with the International Institute of Buffalo in the amount of \$160,350 for the provision of services for the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2018 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services - 2018 Budget		
Fund 110		
Account		Increase/(Decrease)
Expense		
525000 Medicaid		(\$87,000)
516400 Preventive Agencies - International Institute		<u>\$87,000</u>
	Total	0

and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to reappropriate \$87,000 of 2018 funds into 2019 in order to fully fund the Safe Harbor for Exploited Children program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2019 Adopted Budget in order to establish State funding for the Safe Harbor program:

Department of Social Services - 2019 Budget		
Fund 110		
Revenue		Increase
409000 State Aid		\$43,350
Expense		
516400 Preventive Agencies - International Institute		\$43,350
	Net County Cost	0

and be it further

RESOLVED, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a RFP is hereby waived; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to make any additional budget adjustment which may be required in order to match expense with State funding allocation adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller, and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management.
(6-0)

**JOHN BRUSO
CHAIR**