

SUSPENSION



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

February 23, 2012

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: US Department of Justice/Personnel Adjustments
Erie County Correctional Health Services**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) provides medical oversight and staff who provide health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and Erie County Holding Center under an Interdepartmental Agreement with the Erie County Sheriff.

Authorization is requested to provide variable minimum starting salary levels for various medical service titles and create one additional position in the Department of Health - Correctional Health Services, in order to more effectively provide healthcare services to the inmate populations of the Erie County Holding Center and the Correctional Facility.

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

By 
Richard Tobe
Deputy County Executive

MCP/tc
Enclosure

4E-14

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Health
Re: US Department of Justice/Personnel Adjustments
Erie County Correctional Health Services
Date: February 23, 2012

SUMMARY

Authorization is requested to provide variable minimum starting salary levels for four medical service titles and create one additional position in the Department of Health - Correctional Health Services, in order to more effectively provide healthcare services to the inmate populations of the Erie County Holding Center and the Correctional Facility.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County dollars are required for this request. Funding will be obtained from available vacancy savings within the 2012 Health Division personnel related budget.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department of Health - Correctional Health Services continually operates twenty-four hours a day, seven (7) days a week, 365 days a year; this includes medical staff regularly providing direct patient care and regularly being on call for medical decisions. Recruiting and retaining professional staff requires a salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position. Availability of Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Medical Aides (Licensed Practical Nurses) locally, is very competitive, thus we must offer a competitive salary in line with community standards, to attract qualified candidates.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Health has been having difficulty recruiting a Physician Assistant, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Medical Aides (Licensed Practical Nurses) for Correctional Health Services with the current starting salaries. It is requested that authorization be provided to hire at a variable minimum in Job Group 16, Step 2 for the position of Physician Assistant, a variable minimum JG 12, Step 8 for 3 positions of Nurse Practitioner; and to create one full time position of Head Nurse – Holding Center, JG 10 Step 5.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Department of Health will be unable to recruit and retain highly qualified staff which will result in Correctional Health Services' inability to provide medical care to inmates in the Erie County Holding Center and Erie County Correctional Facility and could lead to negative consequences by the US Department of Justice.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The Health Department will work with the Budget Office and Department of Personnel to implement this request and take the appropriate steps necessary to recruit and hire qualified candidates.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: US Department of Justice/Personnel Adjustments
Erie County Correctional Health Services

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff is responsible for health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and the Erie County Holding Center; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health provides medical oversight and medical staffing to provide health care at the Erie County Correctional Facility and Erie County Holding Center under an Interdepartmental Agreement with the Erie County Sheriff; and

WHEREAS, the availability of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses and Medical Aides (Licensed Practical Nurses) locally, is very competitive, thus we must offer a competitive salary commensurate with the responsibilities of the position and in line with community standards, to attract a qualified candidate in Correctional Health Services; and

WHEREAS, in order to reduce contractual services and recruit and retain additional qualified professional staff for the Correctional Health Services, it is necessary to create one new position and establish variable minimums for four medical service positions; and

WHEREAS, funding for the implementation of this restructuring is built into the Health Department's 2012 Budget and is also available from vacancy savings and there is no negative 2012 budgetary impact.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the creation of one full time position of Head Nurse Holding Center, JG 10, Step 4 variable minimum (\$49,978 annual salary) in the Teamsters bargaining unit, as indicated on B100 #6800; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the establishment of variable minimum hiring levels in order to facilitate the recruitment of medical personnel for the Health Department's Correctional Health Services Division as follows:

Number of Positions	Bargaining Unit	Job Title	Job Group	Current Budgeted Step	New Step Variable Minimum	New Annual Salary	2012 Budgeted Annual Salary
1	CSEA	Physician Assistant	16	Step 3	Step 2	76,158	78,359
3	NYSNA	Nurse Practitioner	12	Step 0	Step 8	78,393	59,072

and be it further

RESOLVED, that while there is additional expense due to the new position and four variable minimums (approximately \$130,000), due to vacancy savings from other correctional health positions being vacant throughout the first two months of 2012 (total vacancy savings of over \$579,000), there is no additional 2012 budgetary impact above the adopted budget for the Department of Health from any of these adjustments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Sheriff, the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Personnel, the Director of Labor Relations, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.