

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 13

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT EXCEPT LEGISLATOR RANZENHOFER. CHAIRMAN MARINELLI  
PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
  - a. COMM. 4E-11 (2006)  
**MARINELLI:** Government Affairs Matrix Tracking  
(4-0)
  - b. INTRO 12-5 (2006)  
**MARINELLI, WHYTE, HOLT, KENNEDY, REYNOLDS & KOZUB:** Elected Officials in  
Erie County & Term Limits  
(4-0)
  - c. COMM. 12M-14 (2006)  
**ERIE COUNTY CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION:** Final Recommendations  
(4-0)
  - d. INTRO 13-2 (2006)  
**KOZUB & MAZUR:** Support for A.10236/S.6963: Restoring Erie County Veterans Services as  
a Stand Alone Agency  
(4-0)
  - e. COMM. 15E-6 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE:** Copy of Letter to ECFSA Chair Re: Request for ECFSA's Advice &  
Counsel Regarding Contract Negotiations w/AFSCME  
(4-0)
  - f. COMM. 15E-10 (2006)  
**COMPTROLLER:** Copy of Letter to ECFSA Chair Re: Review of 24-Hour Take-Home  
Vehicles in Erie County Government  
(4-0)
  - g. COMM. 15D-14 (2006)  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS:** Polling Site Changes  
(4-0)

2. COMM. 15E-33 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services is responsible for insuring that clients are engaged in work related activities as one condition of receipt of Temporary Assistance cash benefits, and

WHEREAS, recent Federal law places increased emphasis on work activities with the requirement that 50 percent of clients on average beginning in October 2006 maintain at least thirty hours in a work assignment or countable activity each week, and

WHEREAS, the County is under imminent risk of fiscal sanction if the required participation rate is not met and our current participation rate is below the standard and added resources are required if it is to be achieved, and

WHEREAS, meeting the participation rate is confounded by the need to engage clients who are otherwise already sanctioned for non compliance with requirements for receipt of family assistance as well as those who have short term exemption from work participation due to medical exemption, and

WHEREAS, there is no fiscal impact to this resolution as the positions can be fully funded in the 2006 Budget through additional reimbursement available and designated for this purpose within the Flexible Fund for Family Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2006 Adopted Budget:

Department of Social Services, Department 120, Fund 110

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$48,212
502000	Fringe Benefits	<u>19,767</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>\$67,979</u>
411490	Flexible Fund for Family Services	<u>\$67,979</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$67,979</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following five staff positions can be created in the Department of Social Services effective October 1, 2006:

Number	Title	Job Group	Data Control #
(1)	Sr Employment Counselor	JG 10	2376
(2)	Sr Caseworkers	JG 9	2377
(2)	Work for Relief Supervisors	JG 4	2378

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, the Commissioner of Personnel, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance.  
(4-0)

3. COMM. 15E-34 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services processes applications and determines eligibility for clients seeking food stamps benefits, and

WHEREAS, in addition to low income families served, as public assistance cases close, clients must have a separate determination done for food stamps eligibility and benefits frequently continue for low income working individuals and families, and

WHEREAS, failure to provide timely determination results in benefit delays to eligible families and individuals and also puts the Department at risk of State and/or Federal penalties and lawsuits for failure to comply with mandates, and

WHEREAS, burgeoning caseloads have made it impossible for the Department to make timely mandated determinations, and

WHEREAS, there is no fiscal impact to this resolution as the positions are to be fully funded through available additional State and Federal reimbursement in the 2006 Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2006 Adopted Budget effective October 1, 2006:

Department of Social Services, Department 120, Fund 110

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$176,665
502000	Fringe Benefits	<u>72,433</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>\$249,098</u>
407490	State Aid – Local Admin Fund	\$124,549
411570	Federal Aid – Food Stamp Program	<u>124,549</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$249,098</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following twenty-three staff positions are created in the 2006 Adopted Budget:

Number	Title	Job Group	Data Control #
(2)	Head Social Welfare Examiners	JG 10	2370
(16)	Social Welfare Examiners	JG 6	2373
(1)	Principal Clerk	JG 6	2381
(1)	Data Entry Operator	JG 4	2375
(3)	Senior Clerk Typist	JG 4	2374

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, the Commissioner of Personnel, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance.  
(4-0)

4. COMM. 15E-38 (2006) **AS AMENDED**  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has requested, in the session evaluation of Capital requests for 2006, that the Division of Information and Support Services identify positions currently funded out of the Capital account 410 that are utilized for ongoing maintenance of the County ERP system and transfer the same positions to the Operating Budget, and

WHEREAS, at the same meeting, the Erie County Legislature questioned the expense of the IBM Competency Center agreement and requested that alternatives to that contract be evaluated and potentially proposed, and

WHEREAS, the Division of Information and Support Services has evaluated both requests for potential action and has formulated a plan for continued maintenance at reduced expense for the year 2007 as well as identifying the positions listed below for transfer to the operating fund and offsetting the expense of the salaries by forgoing utilization of budget accounts described below, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Division of Information and Support Services is requesting authorization to transfer \$86,764 from the Professional Service Contract and Fees account 516020 to the Full time Salaries account 500000 to support the proposed transfer, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Division of Information and Support Services is requesting authorization to transfer \$39,911 from the Professional Service Contract and Fees account 516020 to the Fringe Benefits account 500200 to support the proposed transfer, and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Division of Information and Support Services is requesting authorization to transfer one (1) ERP Administrator position #3396, one (1) Information System Specialist position #4789, one (1) ERP Information Security Specialist position #3392, one (1) ERP Administrative Assistant position #3390, one (1) ERP Analyst (RPT) position #3391, one (1) ERP Support Analyst position #3395, one (1) ERP Training/Quality Assurance Analyst position #3397, and one (1) ERP Training Coordinator position #3398, from Capital Project fund 410 into the 2006 Operating Budget, and

WHEREAS, the IBM Competency Center Agreement funded from Capital Project Fund 410 costs the County of Erie \$1.7 million per year to supply subcontracted local support, project management and remote technical help, and

WHEREAS, the primary subcontractor, Globalquest Inc., a woman owned MBE/WBE vendor certified by the County of Erie, currently provides the resources, project management and conducts recruitment for IBM for the provision of service to Erie County, and

WHEREAS, Globalquest is a registered vendor of New York State Office of General Services with accessible New York State OGS agreements, and

WHEREAS, a direct contract with Globalquest and a cancellation of the IBM agreement will save Erie County approximately \$700,000 in year 1, \$800,000 in year 2, and \$1.5 million in year 3 for ongoing support as the County of Erie executes a plan to train staff and eliminate the need for support consulting contracts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED the Erie County Division of Information and Support Services is authorized to transfer one (1) ERP Administrator position #3396, one (1) Information System Specialist position #4789, one (1) ERP Information Security Specialist position #3392, one (1) ERP Administrative Assistant position #3390, one (1) ERP Analyst (RPT) position #3391, one (1) ERP Support Analyst position #3305, one (1) ERP Training/Quality Assurance Analyst position #3397, and one (1) ERP Training Coordinator position #3398, from the ERP Capital Project fund 410 into the 2006 DISS Operating Budget, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Erie County Division of Information and Support Services is authorized to transfer an available balance of \$126,675 from the Professional Service Contract and Fees account 516020 into the Full time Salaries account 500000, in the amount of \$86,764, and \$39,911 to the Fringe Benefits account 500200, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Division of Information and Support Services, the Department of Personnel, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance and the Office of the Comptroller.  
(4-0)

5. COMM. 15E-45 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Department of Social Services has the ongoing responsibility for determination of client eligibility for the Medicaid medical assistance program, and

WHEREAS, the process of eligibility determination is increasingly complex in the time consuming assessment of client asset and income information, and

WHEREAS, in order to comply with mandate timeliness determination requirements, the Department must add staff for the purpose of face to face interview, information gathering and assessment according to State mandated eligibility determination timeframe requirements, and

WHEREAS, staff who determine client eligibility now have caseloads nearly three times the level considered manageable and are not meeting mandated timeframes for certification and recertification of benefits and the County is subject to State and Federal penalties and lawsuits for failure to comply with mandated timeliness standards, and

WHEREAS, there is no fiscal impact to this resolution as the total combined local share Medicaid program and administration cost is fixed in law by New York State, and

WHEREAS, the cost for these positions in 2007 will be appropriated in the 2007 Adopted Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following budget amendments are hereby authorized in the 2006 Adopted Budget:

**Department of Social Services, Department 120, Fund 110**

<u>ACCOUNT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
500000	Full Time Salaries	\$167,940
502000	Fringe Benefits	68,855
520020	Regular Part Time Wages	<u>20,625</u>
	Total Expenditure	<u>\$257,420</u>
407540	State Aid – Soc Serv Admin	\$128,710
411540	Federal Aid – Soc Serv Admin	<u>128,710</u>
	Total Revenue	<u>\$257,420</u>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following staff positions are created in the 2006 Adopted Budget effective October 1, 2006:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Job Group</b>	<b>Data Control #</b>
(2)	Head Social Welfare Examiner	JG 10	2379
(12)	Sr. Social Welfare Examiner	JG 7	2380
(1)	Medicaid Reform Specialist	JG 6	2391
(1)	Data Entry Operator	JG 4	2392
(1)	CHAP Health Aide	JG 3	2393
(1)	Clerk Typist	JG1	2394
(2)	Head Social Welfare Examiner – Part Time	JG 10	2386

(1) Systems Support Specialist – Part Time JG 11 2387

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, the Commissioner of Personnel, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance.  
(4-0)

6. COMM. 15E-47 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, it was necessary to recruit in Job Group 13, Step 5, for the position of Epidemiologist, in order to secure and retain a qualified and experienced candidate to replace the retired incumbent, and

WHEREAS, this position is responsible for monitoring endemic prevalence and epidemic incidences of diseases and potential disease hazards for use in evaluation and planning of public health care services, enhance disease control/epidemiology activities to included institutional, facility and community surveillance activities and determine causal factors associated with reported disease occurrences, and

WHEREAS, this office monitors over 5000 cases of reportable diseases and conducts disease investigations, and

WHEREAS, the Department has recruited a highly qualified candidate who brings valuable expertise as an Epidemic Intelligence Services Officer with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and this candidate brings doctoral training to the position, and

WHEREAS, the candidate replaces an incumbent with over 35 years experience and therefore results in a salary saving of over \$7,000 per year even with this variable minimum, and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the personal services appropriations of the Health Department’s Adopted 2006 Budget to achieve the foregoing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature authorizes the establishment of a variable minimum in Job Group 13, Step 5, position number 3387, for the position of Epidemiologist, at an annual rate of \$64,882, effective retroactive to July 10, 2006, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive, the Department of Health, the Department of Personnel, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, and the Department of Law.  
(4-0)

7. COMM. 15E-70 (2006)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Four-Year Financial Plan approved by the Erie County Legislature and the Fiscal Stability Authority called for the creation of a professional risk management function within Erie County government to control costs associated with manageable risk, and

WHEREAS, as part of the 2006 Budget process, funds were approved within the Erie County Personnel Department's budget for the creation of a professional risk management function.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Personnel Department is hereby authorized to create one position of Risk Manager, Job Group 14, (B-100 #2262) and one position of Jr. Personnel Specialist, Job Group 10, (B-100 # 2271), and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to transfer \$29,923 from Personnel Department Account 516020 Professional Services Contracts and Fees to Personnel Department Account 500000 Full Time Salaries, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Office of the County Executive, the Personnel Department, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget, Management and Finance, and the Department of Law.  
(4-0)

**GEORGE A. HOLT, JR.**  
**CHAIRMAN**