

October 29, 2020

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 10

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

CHAIR BASKIN PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:

- a. COMM. 18E-1 (2020)
BASKIN: “Letter to ECDOH Commissioner Regarding RFPs to Provide Plain Language Communications Outreach”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- b. COMM. 18D-1 (2020)
DEPT. OF LAW: “Local Emergency Order Extensions”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- c. COMM. 18D-3 (2020)
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES: “Child Protective Caseloads for 08/2020”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- d. COMM. 19E-2 (2020)
COMPTROLLER: “Letter to Health Commissioner Regarding Whistleblower Hotline Report”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- e. COMM. 19E-5 (2020)
COMPTROLLER: “Letter to Health Commissioner - Concerns/Questions Over Whistleblower Hotline Report”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- f. COMM. 19E-9 (2020)
COMPTROLLER: “Letter to Health Commissioner - Further Concerns/Questions Over Whistleblower Hotline Report”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- g. COMM. 19D-2 (2020)
DEPT. OF LAW: “Local Emergency Order Extensions”
(Chair’s Ruling)

- h. COMM. 19D-6 (2020)
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES: “Child Protective Caseloads for 09/2020”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- i. COMM. 19D-8 (2020)
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH: “Letter to Comptroller Regarding COVID-19 Information Request”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- j. COMM. 19D-9 (2020)
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH: “Letter to Comptroller Concerning County Employee COVID-19 Case”
(Chair’s Ruling)
- k. COMM. 19D-10 (2020)
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE: “Report on Fines Issued by DoH Under COVID-19 Policies”
(Chair’s Ruling)
1. COMM. 19M-3 (2020)
SENECA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: “Certified Resolutions Concerning NYS Legislation on Nursing Homes”
(Chair’s Ruling)
2. INTRO. 19-2 (2020)
CHIMERA
WHEREAS, research over the last two decades in the evolving fields of neuroscience, public health, and epigenetics reveals that trauma and adverse childhood experiences cause changes in the neurology and biology of the human body that, in turn, influence the person’s physical and mental health and overall wellbeing over their lifetime and can be passed down from parent to child, and that the burden of this growing public health crisis has implications for the County’s education, juvenile justice, criminal justice, public health, public safety, labor, and commerce systems; and

WHEREAS, adverse childhood experiences are those that occur during childhood, including physical, emotional or sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, household dysfunction, including substance abuse, untreated mental illness or incarceration of a household member, domestic violence, or separation or divorce involving household members, that can have a profound effect on a child’s developing brain, body, and spirit and can result in poor health during the person’s adulthood; and

WHEREAS, children and adults affected by adverse and traumatic events are more likely to:

- perform poorly in school and other academic pursuits;
- become chronically unemployed or underemployed as adults;
- become dependent on and addicted to tobacco, alcohol, prescription medications, illicit drugs, and other substances;
- become directly engaged with law enforcement and the criminal justice system;
- suffer from significant mental illness including depression, psychosis, and severe anxiety leading to suicides and attempted suicides that otherwise would not have occurred;
- suffer from serious physical health problems with poor long-term outcomes that otherwise would not have occurred;
- struggle despite their sincere efforts, to provide a stable and nurturing environment for their current and future children, resulting in increased likelihood of intergenerational trauma and intergenerational poverty;
- face a life expectancy shortened by as many as 20 years when compared to average life expectancy for adults who did not experience severe trauma as children

and

WHEREAS, the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and on-going civil/social unrest continue to exacerbate the negative impacts of trauma on mental and physical health and wellbeing of children, families, adults and the workforce, especially immigrants as well as Black, Indigenous, and people of color; and

WHEREAS, nearly 33% of residents across the Buffalo Niagara region live in or near poverty, 25 out of every 1,000 children/youth are believed to be suffering from abuse and maltreatment, and In Erie County there has been over 150 completed suicides and 94 confirmed opioid-related deaths in the last year; and

WHEREAS, trauma-informed care is a culture change process that when adopted into workplaces, communities, schools and government programs, can aid in preventing re-traumatization and promoting resilience in children, families and adults; and

WHEREAS, trauma-informed care recognizes the impact of working with individuals and families who have experienced trauma on the workforce, such as vicarious trauma, secondary traumatic stress and compassion fatigue; and

WHEREAS, every group, business, public or nonprofit agency, and tribe in Erie County has a role to play in raising awareness of the importance of supporting the health and well-being of children and families, and investing in trauma-informed services and systems for people throughout the course of life is a vital strategy to improve outcomes, prevent physical, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, spiritual, neurobiological and relational issues for people impacted by trauma, and to build a more prosperous and sustainable County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature recognizes the importance, effectiveness, and need for trauma-informed care among existing programs and agencies in the County, and encourages all officers, agencies, and employees of the County whose responsibilities include working with vulnerable children and adults to:

- become informed regarding the well-documented short-term and long-term impacts of adversity and trauma on individuals, families and the workforce;
- implement evidence-based interventions and practices that are proven to be successful in developing resiliency in children and adults suffering from trauma-related disorders to help them recover from their trauma and function at their full capacity and potential;
- provide services which are trauma-sensitive and trauma-informed, and when appropriate, in a trauma-specific manner

and be it further

RESOLVED, that County departments and offices are requested to include trauma-informed principles into plans, policies, procedures and procurement, including, but not limited to:

- include goals and objectives related to trauma and trauma-informed care when developing their annual Programmatic Budget;
- consider if and how agencies or vendors are implementing trauma-informed principles when reviewing vendor response to request-for-proposals for programs working with vulnerable children and adults;
- provide professional development opportunities for staff on how to respond to trauma in constituents/consumers/service users as well as recognize and manage secondary traumatic stress, vicarious trauma, and other occupational stress that may emerge during the course of performing their job duties;
- establish policies and procedures that create and sustain a trauma-informed culture

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, Sheriff, County Clerk, District Attorney, and to the Commissioners of Social Services, Health, Mental Health, Senior Services, Central Police Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Labor Relations, Public Advocacy, and Personnel, the Veterans Service Officer and the Directors of Equal Employment Opportunity, Purchase and the Office for the Disabled.

(5-0) Legislator Lorigo not present for vote.

3. COMM. 19E-8 (2020)

SHERIFF

WHEREAS, the Erie County Sheriff's Office – Division of Correctional Health (DoCH) is committed to providing the highest level of inmate care at the Erie County Holding Center and the Erie County Correctional Facility; and

WHEREAS, the DoCH is utilizing a vendor from New York State's bidder list; and

WHEREAS, the current vendor only provides laboratory services currently; and

WHEREAS, the 837 inmate laboratory orders cost the County on average \$5,240.00 per month; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Division of Correctional Health received two proposals for the RFP; and

WHEREAS, the company would provide 24/7, customer service for both Erie County Sheriff's Office Facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Sheriff's Office is hereby authorized to award RFP #2020-022VF to Quest Diagnostics for on-site laboratory services for inmate health care; and be it further

RESOLVED, the authorization is granted to the County Executive and the Erie County Sheriff's Office, by the Erie County Legislature, to enter into a three (3) agreement with Quest Diagnostic for on-site diagnostic services for inmate health care; and be it further

RESOLVED, the agreement states that after the second year of the three-year agreement, the Erie County Sheriff's Office – Division of Correctional Health and the County of Erie may opt out of the agreement with proper notification; and be it further

RESOLVED, certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, County Attorney, Division of Budget and Management, Erie County Comptroller, Division of Purchase and the Sheriff's Office for implementation.

(6-0)

4. COMM. 19E-24 (2020)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services relies primarily on grant funding to provide programs and services to older adults in Erie County in partnership with numerous community agencies; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic crisis disrupted usual provision of programs and services, and expenditures in their support; and

WHEREAS, the Department's grantors have therefore extended existing grant periods to permit continued utilization of funding to meet the needs of older adults during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services utilizes grant funding to contract with community agencies to provide programs and services and such contracts need to be extended to coincide with grant extension timeframes; and

WHEREAS, no additional County funds are required to extend the grants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to utilize grant funds through extension timeframes:

- Access to Home for Medicaid Grant 2017-19 (163ACCESS1719) extended until 12/31/20
- Community Services for the Elderly Grant (163CSE1920) extended until 9/30/20
- Expanded In Home Services for the Elderly Grant (163EISEP1920) extended until 9/30/20
- Unmet Need Grant (163Unmetneed1920) extended until 9/30/20
- Aging by Design Grant (163ABD1718) extended until 6/30/20

and be it further

RESOLVED, the Access to Home for Medicaid Grant 2019-20 funding period is established as 5/10/19 through 5/10/21; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to extend contracts with associated agencies that utilize extended grant funds; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in the event grant extensions authorized are further extended, the County Executive be and is hereby authorized to utilize those funds through extension periods and extend associated contracts with agencies funded by such grants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this Resolution to the: County Executive; Director of the Division of Budget and Management; Comptroller's Office; and the Department of Senior Services.

(6-0)

LISA M. CHIMERA
CHAIR