

MARCH 19, 2009

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. CHAIR MARINELLI PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. COMM. 5E-10 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature has already appropriated funds for the Congregate Dining Program (III-C-1) grant for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008; and

WHEREAS, one of the nutrition sites, Town of Amherst, served more meals during 2008, and the related contract for food preparation and clean-up reimbursement needs to be amended to reflect actual costs; and

WHEREAS, the III-C-1 grant budget needs to be revised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to amend the nutrition contract with the Town of Amherst; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the budget for the III-C-1 grant, 163III-C-12008, be revised as follows:

	CURRENT BUDGET	CHANGES	AMENDED BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS			
516010 Town of Amherst Dining Site	\$93,989	\$5,935	\$99,924
516020 Clean-Up and Escort Services	88,387	-5,935	82,452
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		<u>\$0</u>	

and be it further

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

(5-0) Chair Marinelli not present for vote.

2. COMM. 5E-12 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby confirm the appointment of Dr. Nathaniel Webster, MD to the Board of Health for a term expiring on December 31, 2013.

(5-0) Chair Marinelli not present for vote.

3. COMM. 5E-13 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby confirm the appointment of Dr. Kevin E. Cichocki to the Board of Directors of the Erie County Medical Center Corporation for a three year term, ending on December 31, 2011.

(5-0) Chair Marinelli not present for vote.

4. COMM. 5E-28 (2009)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the New York State Executive Budget proposed includes recommendations in the Department of Social Services budget that would result in millions of dollars in cost shifts to counties including the transfer of the Local Administrative Fund (LAF) to the Flexible Fund for Family Services (FFFS), the elimination of NYS Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS) funding for Community Optional Preventive Services (COPS) retroactive to October 1, 2008 and the implementation of a Block Grant for Youth Detention and Youth Bureau programming; and

WHEREAS, the LAF is reimbursement to counties of the State's share of the costs of administering mandated programs including cash assistance programs – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Safety Net, Food Stamp program, and Emergency Assistance and Employment Services programs; and

WHEREAS, the State plans to convert this funding to 100% Federal TANF funds and then make these funds available to counties through a dollar for dollar swap in counties' FFFS fund, but Federal and State rules will prevent counties from using these Federal TANF dollars to pay for any of the mandated costs of the Safety Net program or the Food Stamp program; and

WHEREAS, Erie County's initial estimate of the price of this particular cost shift is \$11.1 million causing a budget gap for mandated programs; and

WHEREAS, as part of its 2008-2009 contingency budget recommendation, NYS Office of Children and Family Services(OCFS) is eliminating COPS funding retroactive to October 1, 2008, shifting the cost of this program from 36% county cost to 100% county cost in the fourth quarter of 2008 with an annual cost of \$5.2 Million; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Budget through OCFS also includes a 53% increase in the Child Welfare Threshold within FFFS without adding additional dollars to the FFFS fund which will require counties to spend more FFFS funding on child welfare programs without adding any additional funding to FFFS; and

WHEREAS, Governor Paterson has also submitted a proposal to create a “Youth Development Block Grant” which would consolidate Youth Development and Delinquency Prevention (YDDP), Special Delinquency Prevention Program (SSPP), Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA), Alternatives to Detention, Alternatives to Residential Placement and Secure and Non Secure Detention Service funds; and

WHEREAS, this proposal would result in decreased state funding to Erie County by an estimated \$1.1 Million; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cost saving measures and enhanced local control, combining mandated, non-secure and secure detention services with prevention funding would pit comprehensive community based programs against the more costly and mandated provision of detention programs; and

WHEREAS, this Erie County Legislature believes that providing services and programs for youth is an investment, not only in delinquency prevention but also in the development of our young people in all ways thus enriching our society and nation, and

WHEREAS, these cost shift and budget reduction proposals could result in a property tax increase in Erie County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this Erie County Legislature calls on the State legislature to vote against any cost shifts to counties for mandated DSS services that do not include any increase in funding to the overall FFFS fund and to assure that the rules associated with the LAF to FFFS swap for mandated DSS programs do not result in a cost shift to counties; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Erie County Legislature urges the State to retain the commitment to COPS funding; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this County Legislature urges the Legislature to maintain the current youth services funding stream and eliminate the concept of block grant funding and uphold Executive Law 420 Article 19a in order to maintain the Youth Bureau system which is in the best interest of youth served by youth development and prevention services in Erie County; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Erie County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to the Western New York State Legislative Delegation, the Majority and Minority leaders of the State Legislature, the County Executive, the Commissioner of Social Services, the Erie County Comptroller and the Director of the Division of Budget and Management, and all others deemed necessary and proper.  
(4-0) Chair Marinelli and Legislator Walter not present for vote.

**THOMAS J. MAZUR**  
**CHAIR**