

December 14, 2017

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 18

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATORS DIXON & GRANT.  
CHAIR MILLS PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. INTRO. 23-4 (2017)

**MORTON**

WHEREAS, this honorable body hereby finds and determines that a serious situation has arisen among Erie County's employees within the Child Protection Services division of the Department of Social Services where low morale has led to excessive turnover and increased caseloads; and

WHEREAS, it is the finding of this body that the work asked of county employees in Child Protection Services is mentally, emotionally, and physically taxing with results that are typically out of the employee's direct control and are often unsatisfactory. It is also the finding that the nature of this work has fed into the low morale in the department as has the administration's failure to engage with unhappy workers; and

WHEREAS, the low morale has led to a high degree of turnover costing the county tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours in training costs for new CPS employees; and

WHEREAS, the turnover that has been plaguing the department not only wastes funding and time it also has led to a decline in experienced workers in the department. Due to the lack of experience many of the employees are unable to resolve issues and close cases or are in training and unable to carry a heavy load of cases. These problems have caused other CPS caseworkers to pick up extra cases increasing the average number of case to over 20 per worker; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body further finds, based on extensive research by employees in the field, that Erie County's CPS workers and supervisors are significantly underpaid compared to the rest of their industry; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body after receiving signed documentation explaining the issues in the CPS unit held a public committee hearing wherein leaders within the County's CPS office made their case and asked for a reallocation of the positions within the CPS unit; and

WHEREAS, the estimated costs for the raise associated with a reallocation was estimated to be between \$600,000 and \$700,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Social Services indicated during a committee meeting that the Department of Social Services has budgeted for at least 140 positions within

the Child Protective Services unit of the Department of Social Services. The high estimate for filled positions was only 110 CPS employees at any given time during the year. Deletion of half of the excess positions, and their associated fringe benefits amount would more than pay for the requested raise; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of this body and the leadership within the CPS unit of the Department of Social Services that high turnover is a detriment to the efficiency of Child Protective Services and steps need to be taken to address the issue, including a possible raise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body supports reorganization or reallocation of all county employees in Child Protection Services to properly fund their division to limit turnover; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby directs the Erie County Department of Budget and Management to work with the Department of Social Services to draw up a budget neutral resolution implementing two job group increases for Erie County's Child Protective Services employees and funding those increases using monies already allocated to the Department; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution are sent to the Erie County Executive, the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, and any other party deemed necessary and proper. (4-0)

2. COMM. 23E-19 (2017)

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has notified Erie County that the HIV Partner Notification Program (PNAP) grant is being combined with the Sexually Transmitted Disease Investigation grant; and

WHEREAS, these grants were officially combined on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2017; and

WHEREAS, the increased grant award from New York State authorizes budgetary and staffing transfers; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds available within 127STDDI2017 from the New York State Department of Health to accommodate this staff transfer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that three full-time positions, Projects Coordinator, JG-11, Disease Intervention Specialist JG-6 and Receptionist, JG-3 are hereby transferred (B100 #9765) from 127PNAP1617 into 127STDDI2017 in Grant Fund 281 with changes retroactive to October 1, 2017, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, Department of Personnel, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner in the Erie County Health Department, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rath Building.  
(4-0)

3. COMM. 23E-20 (2017)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Health has declared opioid addiction a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, for every fatal opioid overdose there are dozens of overdoses where the victim is revived with naloxone; and

WHEREAS, the hours and days after a non-fatal overdose are often when the individual with opioid use disorder is most open to beginning a path to recovery; and

WHEREAS, Erie County has begun a pilot program to follow up after non-fatal overdoses; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has decided to fund an expanded version of this program in Erie County and in several other municipalities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, this program will allow the Erie County Department of Health to support local law enforcement outreach to individuals with opioid use disorder to address the challenge of repeat overdoses; and

WHEREAS, GROUP Ministries Inc. has been approved by HHS to provide peer navigators to assist in this project; and

WHEREAS, this grant in the amount of \$100,000.00 requires no local funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Department of Health is authorized to receive a grant award from the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the amount of \$100,000 to be budgeted as follows:

“Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)”  
127CARA1718  
10/1/17 -9/30/18

SAP	REVENUE	BUDGET
414000	Federal Aid	<u>\$100,000</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>

SAP	EXPENSES	BUDGET
500000	Full Time – Salaries	\$ 37,976
502000	Fringe Benefits	18,096
505000	Office Supplies	4,000
510000	Local Mileage Reimbursement	6,000
510100	Out of Area Travel	8,000
516020	Professional Svcs Contracts & Fees	42,000
912790	ID Health Grant Service	<u>\$ (16,072)</u>
	TOTAL	<u>\$100,000</u>

, and be it further

RESOLVED, that one full-time position, Environmental Compliance Specialist, JG-09 is hereby transferred (B100 #9871) from the ending grant 127WPDP1617, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into contract with GROUP Ministries Inc., and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to adjust items of appropriations and revenues, including contractual agency amounts, based on grantor requirement or county share adjustments, provided there are no changes to authorized personnel levels, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Personnel, the Department of Law and to Dr. Gale R. Burstein, Commissioner, in the Erie County Department of Health, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rath Building.  
(4-0)

4. COMM. 23E-22 (2017)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, there was \$500,000 designated in the 2017 Erie County Budget for Poverty Initiatives; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of the Poverty Committee, an initiative was developed to enhance the system in which children are screened for developmental delays; and

WHEREAS, the initiative will be focused on, but not exclusive to, families receiving assistance as part of Erie County’s child care subsidy program; and

WHEREAS, Olmsted Center for Sight, the operators of 2-1-1 WNY, currently are the centralized referral agency for Help Me Grow WNY; and

WHEREAS, a request-for-proposal was issued and Olmsted Center for Sight was the only respondent.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to the Director of Budget and Management to transfer \$200,000 of available funds from Fund Center 1332010 Account 516300 Poverty Initiatives, to Fund Center 120 Social Services, Account 516300 Poverty Initiatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Olmsted Center for Sight for child care provider training and referral services to families for \$200,000; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby provided to reappropriate 2017 remaining balances of the Poverty Initiative contract funding into 2018 in order to provide uninterrupted family services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, the Office of the Comptroller, the Department of Social Services, and the Department of Environment and Planning.

(4-0)

5. COMM. 23E-24 (2017)  
**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health is responsible for the delivery of a comprehensive range of mental and behavioral health services for the residents of Erie County; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Department of Mental Health had been awarded \$500,000 annually for four years that began 10/1/16 with SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) funding as part of a grant to help implement the NYS Youth and Families ACHIEVE (Advancing Care through Health Integration and Evidence-based Effort) project; and

WHEREAS, Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. has selected the Erie County Department of Mental Health to oversee the provision of the related services; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Mental Health previously requested and was granted legislative approval via Comm. 7E-14 on April 27, 2017, to accept the Federal funds and to establish a grant budget in Fund 281; and

WHEREAS, no County funds will be necessary for Erie County to accept this federal aid to serve high-risk individuals and their families residing in Erie County and to amend the current appropriations in the previously approved grant 124ACHIEVESAMHSA1620 to include current Department of Mental Health provider agencies Mental Health Association and Families CAN, along with the option of amending additional provider contracts going forward.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to revise the appropriations in the previously approved SAMHSA grant and to have the Department of Mental Health oversee the provision of related services by amending its contracts with New Directions Youth and Family Services, Community Connections of NY, Mental Health Association and Families CAN, along with the option, going forward, of amending additional provider agencies that the Department of Mental Health currently contracts with – prior to 2020 when this grant ends, as follows:

Erie County Department of Mental Health  
 Grant Fund 281, Fund Center 12410  
 October 1, 2016 - September 30, 2020  
 124ACHIEVESAMHSA1620

Revenue	Initial Budget	Change	Amended Budget
Account 414000 – Federal Aid	<u>\$2,000,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$2,000,000</u>
Total Revenue	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000

	Initial Budget	Change	Amended Budget
Appropriation			
Account 517560 – Comm Connections OMH	\$1,165,000	(\$637,230)	\$527,770
Account 517730 – New Directions OMH	835,000	(53,985)	781,015
Account 517701 – Mental Health Assoc OMH	0	352,503	352,503
Account 517607 – Families CAN OMH	<u>0</u>	<u>338,712</u>	<u>338,712</u>
Total Appropriation	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that to the extent this subcontract may constitute a professional, technical or other consultant service, the County Administrative Code requirement in Section 19.08 for a Request for Proposal (RFP) is hereby waived, as this Honorable Body has previously approved of the County's acceptance of this SAMHSA Sub award by way of Comm. 7E-14 on April 27, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Budget and Management is hereby authorized to establish and adjust budgets as required to comply with State and Federal approved funding levels and adjust items of appropriations and revenues which may be impacted by changes to the grantor award, provided there are no changes to county share amounts; and be it further

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

6. COMM. 23E-25 (2017)

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby confirms the appointment, upon the recommendation of the County Executive, of the following individuals to serve on the Erie County Mental Hygiene Community Services Board for terms expiring December 31, 2019:

Reappointments:

Maya Hu Morabito 25 Whitney Pl Cheektowaga, NY 14227	Helen Trowbridge Hanes Aspire of WNY 2495 Main St, Ste 203 Buffalo, NY 14214
Dawn Skowronski 4306 Victorian Dr	Erica Westphal 572 Auburn Ave

Hamburg, NY 14075

Buffalo, NY 14222

New Appointment:

Michele Queffelec Brooks, MPH  
151 Colony Ct  
Amherst, NY 14226

(4-0)

**LYNNE M. DIXON  
CHAIR**