

March 6, 2014

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 4

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT LEGISLATOR MILLER-WILLIAMS.
CHAIR MILLS PRESENT AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.

1. RESOLVED, the following items are hereby received and filed:
 - a. COMM. 3D-5 (2014)
COMMISSIONER OF SENIOR SERVICES: “2013 Year in Review”
(5-0)
 - b. COMM. 3D-6 (2014)
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SERVICES: “Quarterly Report of Social Services Contract Changes”
(5-0)
2. INTRO. 3-5 (2014)
MILLER-WILLIAMS, BURKE & GRANT
WHEREAS, the availability of specialized, skilled and sheltered settings that provide substance-abuse treatment beds, detoxification facilities, and mental health services are essential and proven public policy; and

WHEREAS, three residential treatment programs that help women overcome addiction and mental health difficulties, Canaan House (Walden Ave., Cheektowaga), New Life Residential Center (Memorial Dr., Buffalo), and Paradise House (Mills St., Buffalo) have announced that they will be forced to close on April 1, 2014 due to a significant reduction in funding from the Erie County Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, such an announcement is troubling in that with Canaan House, New Life and Paradise House closing their doors, the community will be without a significant amount of inpatient beds at a time when any reduction in inpatient beds is too much to bear; and

WHEREAS, New Life Residential Center announced that their closing is due to a slashing of the “shelter rate,” currently \$667.00, and being reduced to \$169.00, representing a 74.66% decrease in funding by the Department of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, in order to transition more women into treatment, ensure a higher quality of life for these women, and at the same time reduce the expenditure of public tax dollars being spent in myriad ways when fewer treatment beds are available, Erie County must make certain that these community

resources remain open, viable and strong so that more women can begin recovery, turn their lives around, secure meaningful employment and become productive members of our community; and

WHEREAS, in light of an ever-increasing toll of hospitalizations and deaths attributed to drug overdoses throughout Erie County, particularly deaths caused by opioid overdoses in the form of prescription pills, heroin and increasingly, fentanyl; that this serious matter of the loss of life-saving inpatient treatment beds warrants a full public discussion in this Honorable Body’s Health & Human Services Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature declares that public policy that ensures the continued viability of community-based inpatient substance-abuse treatment, counseling and mental health services are appropriate and essential, and must be strongly supported by Erie County government and the County’s Social Services administration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services provide a detailed reasoning to this Legislature for the reduction in funding, together with the methodology used to reach a policy of reduced funding, and a plan that provides for a continuity of care for affected women; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Social Services, and representatives from Canaan House, New Life Residential Center, and Paradise House be invited to attend – as soon as possible – a meeting of this Legislature’s Health & Human Services Committee to discuss the funding reductions and announced closings of these community services; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature forward certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive, Mayor of the City of Buffalo, Supervisor of the Town of Cheektowaga, Commissioner of Social Services, and to the appropriate staff at Canaan House (1140 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, NY 14211), New Life Residential Center (24 Memorial Dr., Buffalo, NY 14206), and Paradise House (144 Mills St., Buffalo, NY 14212).
(5-0)

3. COMM. 4E-10 (2014)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) grants, 163EISEP1314 and 163EISEP1415, have available home care services appropriations for the period March 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services has historically provided EISEP funded home care services to eligible seniors through contracts with home care agencies, a practice which will continue; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services has experienced difficulties and delays in obtaining home care services for seniors living in the outer suburbs and rural areas of the County; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate providing home care services, especially to seniors residing in the outer suburbs and rural areas of the County, the Department of Senior Services through a competitive RFP process selected Western New York Independent Living, Inc. (WNYIL) to provide, at a cost not to exceed the Medicaid approved hourly rate, consumer directed home care services to EISEP eligible seniors; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Senior Services desires to contract with WNYIL to provide services, at a cost not to exceed the Medicaid approved hourly rate, under the Department's consumer directed In-Home services program for the period March 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive be and hereby is authorized to enter into a contract with WNYIL to provide EISEP funded consumer directed In-Home services to individuals referred by the Department of Senior Services case management staff for the period March 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015; 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 Comptroller's Office, and the Departments of Law and Senior Services.
(5-0)

4. COMM. 4E-11 (2014)
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the existing roof system of the Department of Health Building 17 at the Erie County Medical Center Corporation campus is beyond its useful life and is leaking causing damage to the building interior space and systems; and

WHEREAS, this Honorable Body has previously authorized the County Executive to enter into an General A/E Agreement with the architectural firm of Clark Patterson Lee for providing Architectural/Engineering Services on Erie County projects; and

WHEREAS, the County Executive is requesting authorization to enter into an Agreement Amendment with the architectural and engineering firm of Clark Patterson Lee for providing

Architectural/Engineering Services for the Erie County Health Department – Building 17 – Roof Repairs and Building Improvements project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is authorized to enter into an Agreement Amendment to Clark Patterson Lee for providing Architectural/Engineering Services for the Erie County Health Department – Building 17 – Roof Repairs and Building Improvements project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Comptroller's Office be authorized to make payment for this project and vendor from SAP Project: A.13015 – 2013 – ECMCC Buildings 17AA-DD Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$61,000.00, including a design contingency; and be it further

RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Department of Public Works, Commissioner's Office, and one copy each to the Office of the County Executive, the Division of Budget and Management, and the Office of the Comptroller.
(5-0)

LYNNE M. DIXON
CHAIR