



2025 SEP 23 19:36

COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 19, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

**Re: Authorization to Enter into Affiliation Agreement with SUNY Buffalo's
Residency Training Program in Psychiatry**

Dear Honorable Members:

The Erie County Department of Mental Health's Forensic Mental Health Division is seeking authorization to enter into an affiliation agreement with SUNY Buffalo's Residency Training Program in Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences to cooperatively provide instruction in forensic mental health treatment to residents enrolled in UB's Psychiatric Residency program.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, please contact Commissioner of Mental Health, Sarah Bonk. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/dvs
Enclosure

cc: Sarah Bonk, Commissioner of Mental Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Erie County Department of Mental Health
Re: Authorization to Enter into Affiliation Agreement with SUNY Buffalo's
Residency Training Program in Psychiatry
Date: September 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The Erie County Department of Mental Health's Forensic Mental Health Division is seeking authorization to enter into an affiliation agreement with SUNY Buffalo's Residency Training Program in Psychiatry. This would allow for proper clinical field instruction for residents of the program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No additional County share dollars are required for this request.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Area institutions of higher learning, which provide courses of study in various health services, have held a long-standing desire to collaborate with the Erie County Department of Mental Health (ECDMH) for the purpose of providing adequate and helpful public health clinical experience for their instructional programs. Moreover, the ECDMH believes the presence of such students will enhance its on-going operations as well as the overall well-being of the broader local community.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The ECDMH, in conjunction with UB, would not be able to implement this very important program to help provide adequate clinical field instruction for the SUNY Buffalo's Residency Training Program in Psychiatry students.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

The ECDMH will work with the County Attorney's Office and SUNY Buffalo on executing the new affiliation agreement.

RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Re: Authorization to Enter into Affiliation Agreement with SUNY Buffalo's
Residency Training Program in Psychiatry

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

WHEREAS, area institutions of higher learning, which provide courses of study in various health services, have a desire to collaborate with the ECDMH for the purpose of providing adequate public health clinical experience for their instructional programs; and

WHEREAS, the ECDMH, specifically its Forensic Mental Health division, in conjunction with SUNY Buffalo's Residency Training Program in Psychiatry, have identified an opportunity to cooperatively offer instruction in forensic mental health treatment to students enrolled in UB's Psychiatric residency program; and

WHEREAS, the ECDMH believes the presence of such students will enhance its on-going operations as well as its overall standing within the broader local community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive, Deputy County Executive or the Commissioner of Mental Health to enter into agreements with Western New York colleges and universities for educational programs in various public health services to be conducted jointly with the ECDMH and specifically its Forensic Mental Health division; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no additional County funds are required for this request; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to amend contracts as necessary to implement any no-cost extension that may be permitted; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be furnished to the Office of the County Executive, the Department of Mental Health, and the Division of Budget and Management.