



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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March 2, 2022

Hon. Andrew Joyce, Chairman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Mental Health Department requests permission to enter into a contract and amend our 2022 budget in order to accept and allocate \$ 16,000 of funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health for the expansion of Certified and Credentialed Peer Capacity within Albany County Department of Mental Health. The involvement of individuals with lived experience in the recovery of individuals with Behavioral Health Challenges can be a significant factor in assuring the success overcoming challenges for those we serve. However, due to significant workforce challenges it can be very difficult to recruit and retain individuals for these much needed positions. We believe this one time incentive will help in overcoming this barrier in 2022 and is aligned with Albany County's Workforce Development Plan.

Feel free to contact Michael Fitzgerald or me if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,

Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Director

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
Arnis Zilgme, Minority Counsel