



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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April 4, 2024

Honorable Joanne Cunningham
Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street
Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health requests permission to award \$174,891 in Opioid Settlement Funding to the Community Pharmacy Enhanced Service Network for New York, LLC-IPA (CPESN) for the purpose of expanding and enhancing harm reduction efforts at five Albany County pharmacies. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next two years. The participating pharmacies will identify patients at risk of opioid dependence by adding screening questions about opioid prescriptions, enhancing signage within the pharmacies and on prescription bags and distributing Naloxone kits to patients. The pharmacies will also work with NY MATTERS to offer uninsured patients vouchers for a no-cost 14-day supply of buprenorphine/naloxone. We believe that the combined efforts of the CPESN member pharmacies will reduce the risk of opioid dependence and overdose in populations that can be overlooked.

Feel free to contact me or Adam Kirkman 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