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October 20, 2025

Hon. Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham:

The Department of Social Services respectfully requests legislative approval to renew a Memorandum of Understanding between the Albany County Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Social Services (DSS) for the DMH Central Management Unit to continue providing assessment and referral services for DSS applicants and recipients with possible substance use disorders. These assessments are mandated under the Welfare Reform Act of 1997 for Safety Net and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) applicants and recipients who indicate/suggest they have a possible substance use disorder.

This agreement provides reimbursement for up to \$250,000 for two (2) full-time Mental Health Certified Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselors (CASAC) to conduct the mandated assessments and referrals. The requested \$250,000 includes salary, fringe, supervision and projected lab costs associated with these mandated services.

Sincerely,

Erin M. Stachewicz
Acting Commissioner

cc: Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Esq., Majority Counsel
James Curran, Esq., Minority Counsel