



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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December 27, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Joyce,

The Department of Mental Health requests permission to renew a contract with Better Health of Northeastern New York (BHNNY) for the provision of behavioral health crisis stabilization services in the community. BHNNY provides funding to the Albany County Department of Mental Health to provide crisis stabilization services to reduce unnecessary hospitalizations (Better Health Crisis Project). The goal of the Better Health Crisis Project is to provide needed, readily accessible behavioral health services to Medicaid and uninsured Medicaid eligible individuals in a community setting during a crisis and prevent unnecessary hospitalization. ACDMH (Albany County Department of Mental Health) will provide Crisis Stabilization services on a 24/7 basis. ACDMH Social Workers will provide crisis stabilization services to patients who are experiencing an acute psychotic episode or who are behaviorally unstable who may potentially be referred to a hospital emergency room. ACDMH Social Workers engaged 1836 patients in 2019 within the Better Health Crisis Project.

Feel free to contact me or Kelle Roberts 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
Kevin Cannizzaro, Majority Counsel
Minority Counsel