



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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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 amend our 2023 budget in order to upgrade five Staff Social Worker vacancies to Staff Social Worker II positions. It has become more challenging to recruit and retain individuals working in this capacity. In order to best serve individuals in Albany County who suffer from severe and persistent behavioral health challenges it is essential that we have qualified professionals. We are proposing to use vacant Staff Social Workers lines for the upgrade. This will allow for both improved recruitment and retention of experienced healthcare professionals by creating additional positions with an improved career trajectory for those employed in this department.

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