



**COUNTY OF ALBANY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH**  
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January 3, 2023

Honorable Andrew Joyce, Chairman  
Albany County Legislature  
112 State Street, Room 710  
Albany, New York 12207

Dear Chairman Joyce:

The Department of Mental Health seeks permission to enter into a no-cost contract grant extension for the NYS Office of Mental Health's COVID Relief Community Mental Health Jail Diversion grant. The grant provides funding to support initiatives and/or programs that divert adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness from jail. The Department will use funding for: 1) the ongoing development of a robust "jail re-entry" case management model for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness. This newly developed program will include dedicated staff, comprised of a case manager and peer, to assist in the reduction of recidivism and meet criminogenic needs through relationship building and better connection to community services post-release; and 2) Undertake a "Sequential Intercept Model" (SIM) mapping effort with all local partners having a nexus to the justice system, including formerly incarcerated individuals, to update Albany County's SIM report (last reviewed in 2014). Additionally, this initiative will incorporate the development of a "behavioral health forensic white paper" which will guide continued development and reimagining of how the local criminal justice system interacts with the behavioral health system.

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

Sincerely,

**Stephen Giordano, PhD**  
*Director*

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