

Daniel P. McCoy County Executive

Michael P. McLaughlin, Jr. Deputy County Executive COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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Stephen J. Giordano, Ph.D. Director of Mental Health

Cindy G. Hoffman, LCSW-R Deputy Director

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 \$174,208 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Lincoln Pharmacy for the purpose of providing Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) injections in the pharmacy. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next three years. A recent change to state law allows pharmacies to provide MAT injections, but for now only medical offices are allowed to bill for this service. This funding will allow pharmacists to spend time with individuals receiving MAT injections and will reduce stigma, as the medications will be provided the same way that vaccines and other injections are conducted.

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