



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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October 30, 2024

Honorable Joanne Cunningham, Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State St., Rm. 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Department of Mental Health requests permission for a Budget Amendment in order to ensure there will be sufficient funds for our Overtime and Psychologist Section 730 accounts. We propose transferring funds from two vacant Staff Social Worker II lines into our Overtime and Psychologist Section 730 accounts. Both accounts will be depleted of funds by December. We are requesting a transfer of \$35,000 in order to ensure adequate funds will be available for both accounts for the remainder of 2024.

The increase in utilization of overtime is a direct result of needed evening and weekend coverage due to ongoing vacancies at Albany County Department of Mental Health (ACDMH) in the ACCORD/Mobile Crisis Unit, as well as the large census of inmates requiring additional Mental Health Services at the Albany County Correctional Facility. Separately, the increased acuity of individuals touching the criminal justice system has led to additional 730 requests, resulting in a shortage in the amount budgeted for psychologists contracted to provide 730 competency evaluations.

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