



COUNTY OF ALBANY  
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH  
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January 11, 2022

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 apply for and accept grant funding from the NYS Office of Mental Health's COVID Relief Community Mental Health Jail Diversion grant program, and amend the Department's 2022 Budget to incorporate this funding. The grant provides funding to support initiatives and/or programs that divert adults diagnosed with a serious mental illness from jail. This is a one year grant and funds must be used by March 14, 2023. The Department will use funding to: 1) Develop a robust "jail re-entry" case management model for individuals with serious and persistent mental illness, to include hiring a case manager and peer, in order to reduce recidivism and meet criminogenic needs through relationship building and better connection to community services and supports 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) as many new initiatives are underway and the development of a "behavioral health forensic white paper" will guide continued development and reimagining of how the local criminal justice system interacts with the behavioral health system.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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

