



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
ADMINISTRATION
175 GREEN STREET
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12202
518-447-4537 FAX 518-447-4577
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive

Michael P. McLaughlin, Jr.
Deputy County Executive

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 \$166,080 in Opioid Settlement Funding to the Albany College of Pharmacy to expand their Collaboratory's harm reduction trainings and Naloxone distribution as well as to conduct a research project on the obstacles faced by individuals seeking addiction recovery services in Albany County. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next three years. Additional harm reduction trainings will help to reduce the number of opioid overdoses and will provide another option for individuals who use drugs to learn about the risks and receive a referral to treatment. The research project will receive Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval and will survey individuals on the barriers they have encountered. The Albany College of Pharmacy will produce a report that will be shared with the Department of Mental Health and the substance abuse treatment provider community and could inform efforts to improve engagement in treatment for those at risk of an opioid overdose.

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