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April 30, 2025

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

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Albany County Department of Mental Health respectfully requests approval to accept funding from the Albany City Police Department to support a Street Psychiatry pilot program. Additionally, we seek permission to do a budget adjustment to reallocate existing staffing resources within the ACDMH budget into more appropriate personnel lines. This reallocation is essential for building a robust team that will enable this new initiative to move the dial on addressing homelessness among individuals with behavioral health challenges.

As previously noted, Street Psychiatry is an innovative and nationally recognized model for delivering community-based behavioral health services to vulnerable populations, many of whom are unhoused. This program engages individuals who have historically been unable or unwilling to participate in traditional, office-based services.

The pilot program will build upon existing community behavioral health infrastructure and will enhance the current range of services provided by the Department of Mental Health, including crisis response and outreach. It will involve additional staff dedicated to public outreach, support, and treatment for vulnerable and unhoused individuals in Albany County.

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

Sincerely,

Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.  
Director of Mental Health

C.C. Hon. Dennis Feeney, Majority Leader  
Hon. Frank Mauriello, Minority Leader  
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel  
James Curran, Minority Counsel