



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 \$175,000 in Opioid Settlement Funding to Colonie EMS to support staff retention, increase the number of trained paramedics serving Albany County and increase awareness of substance use, mental health and harm reduction. This project was selected for funding through a competitive grant application process and will be implemented over the next three years. EMS workers are on the front line of the war against opioids, but, as with other first responders, there has been significant staff turnover in recent years. Colonie EMS will use these funds to maintain trained EMS workers on staff and to support at least one EMS worker in receiving training to become a paramedic. Training will be provided to all EMS workers and paramedics on co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders to reduce stigma and unconscious bias.

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