



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

June 26, 2024

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 (ACDMH) respectfully requests the authorization of a budget amendment in order to expand its clinical services by adding two Mental Health/Addiction Peer Specialists with lived military experience to the DMH team. By utilizing "March On" funds transferred from the County Veteran Services Bureau, these "credible messengers" will provide peer support, complementing existing clinical services. They will collaborate with all clinical units on a case-by-case basis, enhancing DMH's team of Peer Specialists and enabling DMH to confidently support the veterans/military community.

Peer support has proven therapeutic value across the behavioral health spectrum and will significantly benefit individuals with military backgrounds served by DMH. Additionally, DMH intends to use funding for short-term "wrap-around" supports as needed to enhance the quality of life.

Please 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