



COUNTY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
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March 18, 2025

Honorable Joanne Cunningham
Chairwoman
Albany County Legislature
112 State Street
Room 710
Albany, NY 12207

Dear Chairwoman Cunningham,

The Albany County Department of Mental Health requests permission to amend the Albany County Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF) account by \$966,388, which will support three staff positions for three years to expand Albany County's highly successful Mobile Outreach, Treatment and Overdose Response (MOTOR) program. These new positions will include a Community Team Leader, Peer Advocate (CRPA) II and a Certified Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) II; each position will be full-time, working 35 hours per week. These new staff members will join the existing CASAC and CRPA to expand the MOTOR Program to two teams while also creating a career pathway for substance use counselors and peer support advocates. The Community Team Leader, open to either a CASAC or a CRPA, will coordinate the MOTOR Program, help staff the vans, and lead community education and outreach initiatives.

Feel free to contact me or Adam Kirkman if you have any questions concerning this request.

Sincerely,


Stephen Giordano, Ph.D.
Mental Health Commissioner

cc: Hon. Dennis A. Feeney, Majority Leader
Hon. Frank A. Mauriello, Minority Leader
Rebekah Kennedy, Majority Counsel
James Curran, Minority Counsel