



Monroe County Legislature

SEAN M. DELEHANTY
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 11

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LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 27

September 8, 2020

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No. <u>200284</u>	
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
URGENT	-L

Subject: Amending the 2020 Monroe County Budget and Resolution 399 of 2019 to Authorize Expansion of the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program by Increasing and Amending Contracts for the Provision of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services in 2020 for the Monroe County Office of Mental Health

Honorable Legislators:

According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, almost half of adults in the United States will experience a mental illness during their lifetime. Of the adults in the United States with any mental disorder in one year, 14.4-percent have one disorder, 5.8-percent have two disorders, and 6-percent have three or more. Yet, only 41-percent of the people who had a mental disorder in the past year received professional health care or other services.

Monroe County is not immune to the nation-wide mental health crisis. Data from the Monroe County Office of Mental Health show yearly increases in individuals receiving mental health services with a 9-percent increase in total individuals served in 2019 compared to 2015. Still, a significant portion of the population facing mental disorders does not receive treatment.

As demonstrated by recent events, law enforcement response to a mental health crisis without the help of mental health professionals can sometimes exacerbate the situation and increase the likelihood of a negative result. The entire community was shocked by the body-camera videos showing the events that lead to the death of Mr. Daniel Prude. The event has brought to the forefront the need for wraparound mental health services with law enforcement.

Mental Health America, the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness, advocates for alternative crisis response models such as the co-responder model, where trained police officers work together with behavioral health workers to respond to crisis calls and provide appropriate services and resources. The goals are to deescalate the crisis, prevent injuries, provide appropriate services, and reduce arrest. Alternative crisis response models offer law enforcement agencies, behavioral health providers, and community stakeholders an opportunity to work together to provide the most appropriate intervention to those in crisis.

Monroe County has been at the forefront of the co-responder model through the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program, which partners Office of Mental Health clinicians with our County's eleven law enforcement agencies to assist individuals with mental health needs and who have frequent

contact with law enforcement. The program's goal is to increase the individual's connectedness to outpatient services and decrease the utilization of emergency and crisis response services. The FIT Program is transitional, with FIT clinicians providing assessments, referrals, and linkage to services.

Within its first year, the Monroe County Office of Mental Health reported a positive impact for individuals by comparing their experiences before and after FIT implementation. For both individuals who visited emergency departments and those who had time in jail, they spent fewer days in both emergency departments and jail after receiving Monroe County FIT services.

While the FIT team grew last year, additional resources are required to expand the program's reach. Therefore, we recommend this Honorable Body undertake the following actions to strengthen the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.

The specific legislative actions required are:

1. Authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to transfer \$100,000 from the Contingency Fund to make available sufficient appropriations for the expansion of the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.
2. Amend the 2020 operating budget of the Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health, by appropriating the sum of \$100,000 from the Contingency Funds into fund 9001, funds center 5702010000, Mental Health Service Contracts for the express purpose of expanding the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.
3. Amend Resolution 399 of 2019 to authorize the County Executive, or his designee, to execute contracts, and any amendments thereto, with the agencies listed in Attachment A and any other agencies as necessary to provide mental health, developmental disability, and alcoholism and substance abuse services for Monroe County residents, in an amount not to exceed \$39,831,545 for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.
4. Recommend the County Executive conduct a review for any unanticipated revenues or unappropriated cash surpluses, and recommend to the County Legislature, additional appropriations to support the expansion of the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.

The provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act shall be complied with prior to the County Executive undertaking, funding, or approving the action in this referral.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean M. Delehanty
Monroe County Legislator
District 11



Sabrina LaMar
Monroe County Legislator
District 27

By Legislators Delehanty and LaMar

Intro. No. ____

RESOLUTION NO. __ OF 2020

AMENDING 2020 MONROE COUNTY BUDGET AND RESOLUTION 399 OF 2019 TO AUTHORIZE EXPANSION OF FORENSIC INTERVENTION TEAM (FIT) PROGRAM BY INCREASING AND AMENDING CONTRACTS FOR PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES IN 2020 FOR MONROE COUNTY OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Whereas, This Honorable Body expresses its sympathy to the family of Mr. Daniel Prude for their tragic loss; and

Whereas, This Honorable Body was shocked by the body-camera videos showing the events that lead to the death of Mr. Daniel Prude and recognizes the need for wraparound mental health services with law enforcement; and

Whereas, According to the National Council for Behavioral Health, almost half of all adults in the United States will experience a mental illness during their lifetime; and

Whereas, Monroe County is not immune to the nation-wide mental health crisis; data from the Monroe County Office of Mental Health show yearly increases in individuals receiving mental health services with a 9-percent increase in total individuals served in 2019 compared to 2015; and

Whereas, As demonstrated by recent events, law enforcement response to a mental health crisis without the help of mental health professionals can sometimes exacerbate the situation and increase the likelihood of a negative result; and

Whereas, Mental Health America, the nation's leading community-based nonprofit dedicated to addressing the needs of those living with mental illness, advocates for alternative crisis response models such as the co-responder model, where trained police officers work together with behavioral health workers to respond to crisis calls and provide appropriate services and resources; and

Whereas, Monroe County has been at the forefront of the co-responder model through the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT), which partners Office of Mental Health clinicians with our County's eleven law enforcement agencies to assist individuals with mental health needs and who have frequent contact with law enforcement with the goal of increasing the individual's connectedness to outpatient services and decreasing the utilization of emergency and crisis response services; and

Whereas, This Honorable Body believes that allocating additional resources to expand the FIT program's reach is a starting point for addressing the ongoing crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE COUNTY OF MONROE, as follows:

Section 1. The County Executive, or his designee, is hereby authorized to transfer \$100,000 from the Contingency Fund to make available sufficient appropriations for the expansion of the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.

Section 2. The 2020 operating budget of the Department of Human Services, Office of Mental

Health is hereby amended by appropriating the sum of \$100,000 into general fund 9001, funds center 5702010000, Mental Health Service Contract or the express purpose of expanding the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Programs.

Section 3. Section 1 of Resolution 399 of 2019 is amended as follows:

The County Executive, or ~~her~~ his designee, is hereby authorized to execute contracts, and any amendments thereto, with the subcontractors listed in Attachment A, and any other subcontractors as necessary, to provide mental health, developmental disability, and alcoholism and substance abuse services for Monroe County residents, in an amount not to exceed ~~\$38,731,545~~ \$38,831,545, for the period of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Section 4. It is hereby recommended that the County Executive conduct a review for any unanticipated revenues or unappropriated cash surpluses, and recommend to the County Legislature, additional appropriations to support the expansion of the Forensic Intervention Team (FIT) Program.

Section 5. This resolution shall take effect in accordance with Section C2-7 of the Monroe County Charter.

File No. 20-____

ADOPTION: Date: _____ Vote: _____

ACTION BY THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: _____ VETOED: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

EFFECTIVE DATE OF RESOLUTION: _____

Added language is underlined
Deleted language is ~~stricken~~