

# Warren County Board of Supervisors

## RESOLUTION NO. 119 OF 2018

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY SUPERVISORS FRASIER, MCDEVITT, BRAYMER, LEGGETT, LOEB, DIAMOND, HYDE, MAGOWAN AND SOKOL**

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE OFFICE OF ALCOHOLISM AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK TO PROVIDE STATE FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE TREATMENT AND TRANSITION SERVICES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS (SUD) WHO ARE INCARCERATED IN COUNTY JAILS**

WHEREAS, New York State is engaged in a significant effort to address the rising rate of substance use disorders, including the epidemic of opioid and heroin addiction and the increasing number of deaths due to overdose;

WHEREAS, the State is taking aggressive steps to address the heroin/opioid epidemic, including the rapid expansion of community-based treatment and support services to create a continuum of care to support the individual and family in their recovery, and

WHEREAS, there remains a significant gap in the treatment and support continuum care being developed by the state and that is the local jail, and

WHEREAS, individuals who suffer from SUD's frequently come into contact with the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, the link between offending and SUD's is well established, bringing significant numbers of individuals suffering from addiction into New York State jails, and alcohol and drugs are implicated in roughly 80% of offenses, including domestic violence, DWI offenses, property offenses, drug offenses, and public order offenses, and

WHEREAS, according to a report conducted by Policy Research Associates on behalf of the NYS Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors, County Sheriff's indicated that of the individuals detained in their jail on drug-related charges, 68% had been in their jail before, and

WHEREAS, jail incarceration provides a unique opportunity to offer treatment supports during

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periods when people are clean and sober, and

WHEREAS, in New York State, counties bear the sole burden for supporting SUD services in jails, and it is an ever-increasing burden with substantial unmet need, and

WHEREAS, fifty-one percent of jails have no funding for substance use disorder treatment services despite strong evidence that these services reduce crime, save money, and save lives and fifty-three percent of jails do not have the capacity to directly transition addicted inmates to community treatment programs upon re-entry, and

WHEREAS, a New England Journal of Medicine study found that in the first two weeks after release, former inmates with an opioid use disorder were 12.7 times more likely than other individuals to die of an overdose, and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive re-entry plan is critically important to minimizing the possibility of drug use, overdose and recidivism and for those jails that do have some treatment services, those services are far outpaced by the escalating need for them, and

WHEREAS, the benefits of providing effective SUD services in the jail setting have proven significant where they occur. A handful of localities in New York State have supported a level of service through local funding and are reaping significant benefits, and

WHEREAS, in Albany County the jail-based Sheriff's Heroin Addiction Recovery Program (SHARP) provides SUD treatment during incarceration and support services after release and the program has resulted in a 28% reduction in the recidivism rate, and

WHEREAS, New York State's own analysis of the costs and benefits of jail-based SUD treatment found that communities realize a savings of \$2,846 per person served and that there are thirteen (13) fewer victimizations per 100 people served, and

WHEREAS, a dedicated State funding stream to counties is desperately needed to provide SUD

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treatment services in the jails, including screening and assessment at entry, education and counseling services, peer support, medication assisted treatment and discharge planning to continue treatment post-incarceration, and

WHEREAS, Counties are requesting funding of \$12.8 million annually to the Local Government Unit (LGU) in order to address the existing gap in the SUD treatment continuum and support efforts to reduce the human cost of the heroin/opioid epidemic on New Yorkers, and reduce recidivism and victimization, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Warren County Board of Supervisors calls on the Governor and the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services to help combat the heroin and opioid epidemic, save lives and reduce the rate of recidivism, by providing state funding for the treatment and transition of incarcerated individuals with substance use disorders in our county jails, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors be, and hereby is, directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senator Elizabeth O'C Little, Assemblyman Dan Stec, the New York State Association of Counties, the Intercounty Legislative Committee of the Adirondacks, and the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services, and all others deemed necessary and proper.