

Requesting Transfer From Contingent Account Pursuant To Budget Amendment No. 15 of 2015 – Appropriating Funds To The AWARENESS Program – Amending The 2016 Ulster County Budget

Referred to: The Public Health and Social Services Committee (Chairman Lopez and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Heppner, and Roberts), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Allen, Bartels, Belfiglio, Briggs, Maio, and Maloney)

Legislators Carl Belfiglio and Mary Wawro offer the following:

WHEREAS, for almost a decade, AWARENESS, via adolescents speaking to and educating offenders between the ages of 16 and 21 years old, has provided a program in relationship with the legal system that insures accountability on many levels ~~for underage drinking offenders, marijuana, prescription drugs, and any other violations or low level criminal charges in Ulster County;~~ and

WHEREAS, the youth who have participated in the AWARENESS program identify that the use of peers their own age to deliver the program is one of the most effective tools of the program; and

WHEREAS, this teen run program supervised by ~~clinical staff~~ **a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)** has proven to be an effective way to help adolescents overcome addiction in a time when substance abuse has reached a crisis level in our Country, State and County; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature appropriated \$10,000.00 to the AWARENESS program in the 2015 Ulster County Budget to help offset program expenses; and

WHEREAS, a key component of the program is keeping recovered peers working with new participants; and

WHEREAS, these peers need compensation so they can afford time to help others cross the bridge to sobriety; and

WHEREAS, the appropriation request for the 2016 Ulster County Budget was \$20,000.00 to incorporate salaries in order to be eligible for other funding that requires a salary match; and

WHEREAS, the salaries would go to youth over the age of 18 to help organize and instruct weekly groups as well as an advisor to oversee them; and

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WHEREAS, on December 9, 2015 the Ulster County Legislature approved budget amendment No. 15 delegating \$10,000.00 in contingency funding in the 2016 Ulster County Budget to the AWARENESS Program to be disbursed pending resolve of an outstanding issue with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the letter dated March 11, 2016, AWARENESS is now an OASAS-approved Alcohol Awareness Program; and

~~WHEREAS, there is a 10% fee on funding received which is applied to OASAS administrative costs; and~~

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature desires to move forward with disbursement of the funds earmarked in contingency for the AWARENESS program, as well as an additional 10% ~~to cover associated fees~~ **\$10,000.00 to cover new administrative costs, increased expenses and incorporation of salaries;** and

WHEREAS, this funding will be applied to the AWARENESS Program for the 2016 fiscal year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2016 Ulster County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

TRANSFER

<u>FROM</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
AA.1990.1331-4600.4660 (App. #)	Contingent Account	\$11,111.00 \$20,000.00
<u>TO</u>		<u>AMOUNT</u>
AA. 8989.3700-4600.4660 (App. #)	Other Home and Community Services	\$11,111.00 \$20,000.00

and, be it further

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RESOLVED, the Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to make any and all budget adjustments necessary to transfer and appropriate the funds from contingency into the appropriate budget lines as indicated above; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature is hereby authorized to execute an agreement in the amount of ~~\$11,111.00~~ **\$20,000.00** with the AWARENESS Program, to provide, the form as filed with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature or as modified with the approval of the Legislative Counsel in consultation with the County Attorney,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Public Health and Social Services as amended on April 4, 2016

Postponed in Committee: Ways and Means on April 19, 2016

Defeated in Committee: Ways and Means on May 10, 2016

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

~~\$11,111.00~~ **\$20,000.00**– TRANSFER FROM CONTINGENT ACCOUNT- 2016
BUDGETED COUNTY DOLLARS