

February 5, 2025

TO: Hon. Vedat Gashi, Chair  
Hon. Jose Alvarado, Vice Chair  
Hon. Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Majority Leader  
Hon. Margaret Cunzio, Minority Leader

FROM: Kenneth W. Jenkins  
County Executive 

RE: **Message Requesting Immediate Consideration: IMAs – Certain Westchester and Putnam County Municipal Corporations – Mental Health Services.**

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This will confirm my request that the Board of Legislators allow submission of the referenced communication to be submitted to the Board of Legislators February 10, 2025 Agenda.

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a proposed Act which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department") to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations.

Therefore, since this communication is of the utmost importance, it is respectfully submitted that the County Board of Legislators accepts this submission for February 10, 2025 "blue sheet" calendar.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



Kenneth W. Jenkins  
Westchester County Executive

February 5, 2025

Westchester County Board of Legislators  
Michaelian Office Building  
148 Martine Avenue, Room 800  
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Legislators:

Transmitted herewith for your review and approval is a proposed Act which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester (the "County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department") to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County (collectively, "Municipalities"), through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law ("Mental Hygiene Law"). These provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law provide a system whereby the County, the State of New York ("State") and other municipal governments cooperate with each other for the provision of preventative, rehabilitative and treatment services and the sharing of resources. Each IMA shall be for a term up to five (5) years, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

By way of background, on October 21, 2019, your Honorable Board approved Act No. 223- 2019, which authorized the County to enter into similar IMAs with one or more Municipalities, through which the County would provide aforesaid services, for terms of five (5) years, not to extend beyond December 31, 2024.

As the existing IMAs expired on December 31, 2024, the County desires to enter into new IMAs with one or more Municipalities which would continue the practice of having the County provide these preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services to one or more Municipalities under Article 25 and Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Under the provisions of Articles 25 and 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County receives funding from the State and local municipalities, among others, for the provision of preventive, rehabilitative and treatment service programs for mentally ill, developmentally disabled individuals and those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse. It is recognized that a portion of these services is best provided at the community level through contracts with the Municipalities.

In addition, pursuant to Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County also operates an Employee Assistance Program, which provides these services to the employees of the Municipalities. The Municipalities compensate the County for the provision of these services.

I urge your approval of the attached proposed legislation as the continuation of these programs are worthwhile and in the best interests of the County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KWJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kenneth W. Jenkins  
Westchester County Executive

KWJ/MO/mkc/cmc  
Attachments

**HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Your Committee is in receipt of proposed legislation which, if adopted by your Honorable Board, would authorize the County of Westchester ("County"), acting by and through its Department of Community Mental Health ("Department"), to enter into inter-municipal agreements ("IMAs") with certain Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County (collectively, "Municipalities"), through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law ("Mental Hygiene Law"). These provisions of the Mental Hygiene Law provide a system whereby the County, the State of New York ("State") and other municipal governments cooperate with each other for the provision of preventative, rehabilitative and treatment services and the sharing of resources. Each IMA shall be for a term up to five (5) years, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

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In addition, pursuant to Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law, the County also operates an Employee Assistance Program, which provides these services to the employees of the Municipalities. The Municipalities compensate the County for the provision of these services.

The Department of Planning has advised your Committee that based on its review, the authorization of the proposed IMAs do not meet the definition of an action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617(2)(b). Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators. Your Committee concurs with this recommendation.

Pursuant to the Laws of Westchester County, the proposed Act must be approved by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the voting strength of your Honorable Board.

Your Committee believes that the continued support of these worthwhile programs is in the best interests of the County. Accordingly, after due consideration, your Committee recommends adoption of the annexed proposed Act.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2025  
White Plains, New York



ACT NO. 2025 - \_\_\_\_\_

AN ACT authorizing the County of Westchester to enter into inter-municipal agreements with one or more Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County, through which the County would provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment services under Article 25 (Funding For Substances Abuse Services) and Article 41 (Local and Unified Services) of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the Board of Legislators of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** The County of Westchester ("County") be and hereby is authorized to enter into inter-municipal agreements with Westchester County and Putnam County municipal corporations, as defined in Article 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law, and with Putnam County, to carry out the purposes of Article 25 and Article 41 of the New York State Mental Hygiene Law and to provide preventive, rehabilitative and treatment service programs for mentally ill, developmentally disabled individuals and those suffering from alcohol and substance abuse. Each agreement shall be for terms up to five (5) years each, commencing upon execution and expiring on December 31, 2029.

**§2.** The County Executive or his authorized designee is hereby authorized and empowered to execute all instruments and to take all action necessary and appropriate to effectuate the purposes hereof.

**§3.** This Act shall take effect immediately.