

**RESOLUTION NO. 113 -2013, STUDYING BEHAVIORAL
HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH AND
ADULTS**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk strives to protect the health and safety of its residents; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 1,780 inmates incarcerated at the County's correctional facilities with approximately 17% of those inmates under the age of 21; and

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that half of inmates have at least one mental health condition and that close to 70% of youth arrested in the United States have a diagnosable mental health disorder; and

WHEREAS, the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse reports that 65% of the nation's inmates meet certain medical criteria for substance abuse and addiction, but only 11% percent received treatment for their addictions; and

WHEREAS, the cost to incarcerate one inmate in the Suffolk County Correctional Facility is estimated at \$250 per day; and

WHEREAS, providing effective mental health and substance abuse diagnosis and treatment has proven to be effective in reducing recidivism and helping former inmates become productive and healthy citizens upon release; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services provides behavioral healthcare at all County correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office has established a Youth Re-entry Task Force, which helps transition youth from incarceration into the community; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council ("CJCC") is an established interdisciplinary planning group; its primary purpose is to reduce crime and recidivism and increase public safety by promoting communication, collaboration, education, system-wide planning, and decision-making among local juvenile and adult criminal justice agencies and government; and

WHEREAS, in coordination with the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, the CJCC should study the Behavioral Healthcare Services presently available to incarcerated youth and adults to determine how to improve the delivery of these services with continuity of care both before and after incarceration; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the CJCC in collaboration with the Sheriff's Youth Re-entry Task Force, and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to study the County's current system for delivering Behavioral Healthcare Services to incarcerated adults and youth, including diagnosis and treatment and the system for delivery of these services as incarcerated youth and adults re-enter their communities; and be it further

2nd **RESOLVED**, that the CJCC is further directed to prepare a report analyzing these issues and provide recommendations to improve service delivery and continuity of care during and after the incarceration of adults and youth; and be it further

3rd **RESOLVED**, that the CJCC shall submit a report with its findings and determinations, including recommendations, to the County Executive, each member of the County Legislature, and the Suffolk County Sheriff within one year of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

4th **RESOLVED**, that this Legislature, being the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) lead agency, hereby finds and determines that this resolution constitutes a Type II action pursuant to Section 617.5(c)(20), (21) and (27) of Title 6 of the NEW YORK CODE OF RULES AND REGULATIONS (6 NYCRR) and within the meaning of Section 8-0109(2) of the NEW YORK ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION LAW as a promulgation of regulations, rules, policies, procedures, and legislative decisions in connection with continuing agency administration, management and information collection, and the Suffolk County Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is hereby directed to circulate any appropriate SEQRA notices of determination of non-applicability or non-significance in accordance with this resolution.

DATED: March 5, 2013

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: March 12, 2013