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Unfortunately, Westchester County has many residents (taxpayers) who have, over the years, found the need to utilize a county mental health clinic. If 226 residents — the number of layoffs proposed in the new budget — are without a job and benefits in January, they may find they also need the services of a county mental health facility.

With all due respect to the existing "not for profit" facilities, to date they do not have the capacity or staff to handle their current caseloads, much less take on another 2,000 more clients a month. A few of the existing staff have been offered positions, but only part time. Why is that? Because the agencies do not have enough money to pay for a full-time doctor or clinician.

This is not only the neediest in Westchester, but also veterans, elderly, disabled residents (taxpayers) utilize all the mental health clinics in the county. And what about Section 8? The county will not administer the program, so it will be up to the state to find an administrator. Where will that administrator come from? Outside of Westchester, outside New York, outside of the country? How does that serve the neediest in Westchester? Both of these programs bring in more revenue to the county than it costs to run them. It does not cost the county to run these programs, but the county will lose money if they are eliminated. Those who will lose the most will be the residents (taxpayers) of Westchester, who will lose services.

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