

**RESOLUTION NO. 666 -2016, ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC
INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON THE DANGERS OF
CONVERSION THERAPY**

WHEREAS, the County of Suffolk is responsible for protecting the health and safety of its 1.5 million residents; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy is a questionable practice engaged in by some mental health providers who claim that the technique can eliminate same-sex attractions; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy is frequently espoused by organizations that are homophobic and which stress the importance of heterosexuality; and

WHEREAS, scientific study shows that conversion therapy cannot and will not change an individual's sexual orientation, and that sexual orientation is not a mental disorder; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy is proven to have significant negative effects on the mental health of individuals subjected to this treatment; and

WHEREAS, the medical and social work communities have established policies of non-judgmental treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, many states, including California, New Jersey, and the District of Columbia, are enacting regulations on the practice of conversion therapy to protect vulnerable individuals from further psychiatric trauma; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health Services should develop and disseminate information to healthcare providers and the public on the dangers associated with conversion therapy and the available resources for objective, science-based mental health treatment; now, therefore be it

1st RESOLVED, that the Department of Health Services is hereby authorized, empowered and directed to develop educational materials on conversion therapy, its basis outside of scientific research, and its potential negative effects on patients; and be it further

2nd RESOLVED, that print copies of these materials shall be distributed by the Department of Health Services to medical professional and mental health practitioners in Suffolk County for display and dissemination to the public; and be it further

3rd RESOLVED, the Department of Health Services is also directed to develop and maintain a webpage with information on conversion therapy, copies of the written material developed pursuant to this resolution, and links to objectively based mental health resources; and be it further

4th RESOLVED, that the webpage shall be operational and the written materials developed pursuant to this resolution and shall be disseminated by the Department of Health Services within 120 days of the effective date of this resolution; and be it further

5th **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: July 26, 2016

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Steven Bellone
County Executive of Suffolk County

Date: August 1, 2016