

2011-J259

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Dr. Michael G. O'Leary upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Columbia County Community Services Board

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Dr. Michael G. O'Leary upon the occasion of his designation for special recognition by the Columbia County Community Services Board, to be celebrated on Wednesday, January 26, 2011, at Kozel's Restaurant in West Ghent, New York; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael O'Leary, retired as Director of Community Services for Columbia County on June 30, 2010; he had been affiliated with the Columbia County Department of Human Services since 1981, first as Clinical Director of the Mental Health Center and since 1997 as Director of Community Services; and

WHEREAS, As Director, Dr. Michael O'Leary appreciated the complexities of individuals in his care and accepted the obligation of providing the best services within the mental hygiene framework; he worked as an advocate and supported family and consumer involvement through NAMI, provider advisory groups and self help organizations; and

WHEREAS, Local initiatives under Dr. O'Leary's leadership included an integrated treatment model for individuals with mental health and addiction issues, services to the jail to engage inmates in treatment through jail based outreach, screenings and assessments to reduce reci-

divism; a Suicide Prevention Task Force to examine local suicides and implement prevention strategies and active participation in the Suicide Awareness Walks sponsored by the American Federation for Suicide Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Each year Dr. O'Leary, with the Columbia County Community Services Board, would sponsor Legislative Forums which highlighted the complex needs of individuals served through mental hygiene providers and annual dinners in order to recognize local community members who demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of individuals served through mental hygiene providers; and

WHEREAS, A resident of Nassau, New York, Dr. Michael O'Leary earned his Master's degree in Social Work from Syracuse University and his Doctorate from Adelphi University; he has conducted research and published articles on topics related to pretherapy training as well as the impact of managed care on services to the mentally ill; in addition, he has taught graduate level human behavior theory courses and social work practice courses for 30 years at the State University at Albany; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness has recognized Dr. O'Leary for his leadership in the fight against stigma within the community; he also serves as an officer and committee chair with the New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors; and

WHEREAS, Dr. O'Leary recently received an Outstanding Achievement Award for leadership in joint planning from the State Commissioners of Mental Health, Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services and Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, With him throughout have been his three children, all of whom feel privileged to be a part of his life and rejoice in his achievements; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Michael O'Leary's distinguished record merits the recog-

dition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; he is a true
asset to society; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to
honor Dr. Michael G. O'Leary upon the occasion of his designation for
special recognition by the Columbia County Community Services Board; and
be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be tran-
smitted to Dr. Michael G. O'Leary.