



Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

SAMUEL D. ROBERTS
Commissioner

BARBARA C. GUINN
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July 21, 2017

By E-Mail

Brian Reilly
Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
110 State Street, 11th Floor
Albany, NY 12236

Re.: **Oversight of Homeless Shelters;
Report 2016-F-31**

Dear Mr. Reilly:

The Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (“OTDA”) is in receipt of the June 27, 2017 follow-up report regarding OTDA’s Oversight of Homeless Shelters (Report 2016-F-31) (the “Report”) and thanks the Office of the State Comptroller (“OSC”) for highlighting the successful efforts of the State of New York to improve conditions in homeless shelters.

Notably, OTDA already has addressed the only OSC recommendation deemed “partially implemented,” *i.e.* that OTDA “monitor Local Districts’ oversight activities and obtain additional documentation to ensure that the responsibilities delegated to them are adequately met.” OTDA’s amendments to 18 NYCRR § 352.3(m) (“§ 352.3(m)”), adopted on June 22, 2016, require the local districts to inspect “uncertified shelters” not falling within the scope of 18 NYCRR § 352.3(e)-(h) (commercial hotels/motels used as emergency placements), 18 NYCRR, Part 491 (shelters for twenty or more homeless adults) or 18 NYCRR, Part 900 (shelters for 10 or more homeless families) at least once every twelve months. In other words, local districts are now obligated to inspect shelters used to house fewer than twenty adults and shelters that house fewer than ten families. The local districts must submit their inspection reports to OTDA within thirty days of the inspections.

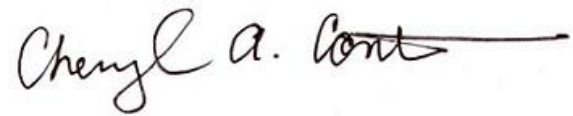
Implementation of § 352.3(m) is proceeding on schedule: OTDA now has received 1,140 inspection reports for uncertified shelters in New York City and 224 reports for uncertified shelters in the rest of the state (“ROS”). OTDA’s Division of Oversight and Compliance (“DSOC”) is using the reports to monitor those uncertified shelters and ensure that violations are appropriately addressed and remediated by the local districts. OTDA has contacted the ROS local districts that have not fully complied with § 352.3(m) and has followed up, and will continue to follow up, with those districts that request additional assistance.

Brian Reilly, Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller

July 21, 2017
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If you require further information, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Contento" followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Cheryl Contento
Deputy Commissioner
Division of Shelter Oversight and
Compliance