

MEMORANDUM FROM THE

ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

March S. Gallagher, Esq.
Comptroller

Alicia DeMarco, CPA
Deputy Comptroller



Charles Dinstuhl, CPA
Director of Internal Audit & Control

MEMORANDUM

To: County Executive Jen Metzger
Deputy County Executive Johanna Contreras
Commissioner of Mental Health Tara McDonald
Health and Human Services Committee Chair Abe Uchitelle

From: County Comptroller March Gallagher

Date: January 25, 2024

Re: Samadhi Payment Approvals

In response to several concerns of which my Office has been made aware, the Ulster County Comptroller's Office will not approve any future payments to Samadhi Center, Inc., until these issues are rectified.

Specifically, the Organization's audited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2022, revealed that Samadhi has material unsubstantiated ATM cash withdrawals, and a qualified opinion was issued. This could be indicative of misappropriation of assets, or in layperson's terms, theft.

Based on the County's contract (Schedule A(10)(e)), the revelation of material audit exceptions gives the County the right to require a full financial audit of the program. We believe that the full financial audit should focus on who had access to the ATM card(s), and the nature of the unsubstantiated transactions. Without a thorough review and understanding of the transactions in question, it would be irresponsible to continue to expend taxpayer dollars with Samadhi.

Attached is a copy of the financial statements that were provided to my Office yesterday afternoon. Effective immediately the Comptroller will cease approvals to this organization until a comprehensive financial review has occurred.