

**HEALTH, SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN ROOM #318
PUTNAM COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Chairwoman Sayegh, Legislators Crowley & Nacerino

Tuesday

May 9, 2023

(The Personnel Meeting Immediately Followed)

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M. by Chairwoman Sayegh who requested that Legislator Crowley lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call Legislators Crowley, Nacerino and Chairwoman Sayegh were present.

Item #3 - FYI/ FY23 Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams – Community Policing Development Solicitation Grant/ Sheriff’s Department and Social Services Department

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Sheriff Kevin McConville and Deputy Commissioner Department of Social Services (DSS), Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio were present to speak to this agenda item.

Sheriff McConville stated this grant if awarded would be in the amount of \$400,000. He stated the purpose of the grant is to fund a co-responder crisis intervention team. He stated they would allocate some of the said funding to DSS to hire a Mental Health Clinician (MHC) to partner with the Sheriff’s Department. The MHC would respond with the Sheriff’s Department to incidents and intervene with mental health crisis situations. He stated he would be sharing some statistics from previous years: 2020 the Sheriff’s Department responded to 758 calls involving crisis intervention, 2021 there were 866, and in 2022 there were 953. He stated these situations can present a significant challenge to the community as well as law enforcement. He stated by creating this co-responder team, which they are modeling after a number of programs throughout the nation, they believe they will be able to provide better service, greater intervention and a treatment program for those undergoing a mental health crisis. He stated the money would allow them to train and provide resources to facilitate effective responses. He spoke to the population of Putnam County and the percentage of different groups of people in the County from veterans to people under the age of 25, 19 and over the age of 62. He reported based on their calculations 57.7% of the general population are between the ages of 20 and 61. He stated that is the target area for mental health intervention and the co-responder team. He stated they average three (3) calls a day involving mental health related situations. He stated the model they have studied improves the experience and outcomes for persons in crisis by providing effective crisis de-escalation, diversion from the criminal justice system and a connection to an appropriate behavioral health service.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated in 2022 they started doing this in an unofficial capacity. She stated she or the only mental health staff member from the County went out on calls with a Deputy Sheriff. She stated the cases that they worked on together they have been able to decrease the number of times the individual is being sent to the hospital. She stated there have been 900 plus presentations to the emergency room (ER) for psychiatric issues and only approximately 300 of them were admitted. She stated there are a very large number of people who do not need to be in the ER. She stated that they have seen excellent responses to the co-responder approach. She stated it is impossible for them to maintain. She stated

they try to do it twice a week if they can. She stated they also have a goal to have 100% of law enforcement trained in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) within five (5) years. She stated some of the funding from this grant, if awarded, would assist in accomplishing that.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if the \$400,000 is to be used to study this for a certain amount of time.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated it is a two (2) year grant. She stated the funding is to be used to hire a MHC and cover the costs of the MHC attendance at two (2) national annual conferences: national co-responder conference and the CIT conference.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated also the funding will be used to buy certain equipment and a “softer” uniform for the Deputy to wear who responds to the calls with the MHC. He stated also said funding would be used to train the other deputies and other agencies.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned logistically how would this work.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated the MHC would have a desk in the Sheriff's Department and be assigned a partner.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they would respond to calls related to mental health issues, handle the matter as much as they can and make referrals and conduct follow-ups.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if this would be 24/7.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated she did work on setting up teams like this in Westchester back in 2007. She stated it is her opinion that it works best to have the overnight tours respond to calls and as long as the person is safe, leave if for the MHC and the Deputy the next day.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated as long as there is no threat present to the person or others, then the follow up could be within a limited period of time.

Legislator Nacerino stated she believes this is great program. She stated it has been discussed in concept for a while. She questioned if the County is looking to build up the mental health staff in the future. She stated this seems to be a lot for one (1) person.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they have seen calls for service involving mental health skyrocket. He stated one (1) year of this program will give them enough statistical data that will assist in making a determination on what the County should do as well as how. He stated the second year of the grant will help secure the findings and guide them on how to proceed. He stated they have discussed this and currently it is estimated that in April of 2025 they will be prepared to come to the Legislature with their findings and present what the team would look like and what funding would be necessary. He stated they seek to utilize other funding sources from New York State and the Federal government. He stated the hope is that the County would not have the full financial responsibility for that type of program.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated if Putnam County builds its team, it will provide the County other options for sustaining the team. She stated in turn that could lead to partnering with other agencies and that generate reimbursements to New York State.

Legislator Crowley expressed her support for this program. She stated continuity is a huge factor when dealing with people who are in distress. She questioned if it is known out of the 900 plus calls received how many of them are the same people calling repeatedly.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated there is redundancy in the calls. He clarified those calls are considered an individual call. He explained their process, which involves other law enforcement agencies and working with them to identify individuals who are in crisis to see if a treatment plan can be rendered. He stated they have some components in place. He stated if awarded the funding from this grant it will provide the opportunity to take it to a different level, with no burden at present on any taxpayer.

Legislator Gouldman stated this sounds like a very positive, proactive and new way of policing. He questioned if it is not going to be 24/7, what happens if there is an incident in the middle of the night.

Sheriff Kevin McConville stated they would be prepared to call in the team if the need was present. He stated the funding from the grant can be used to cover overtime costs.

Legislator Montgomery questioned if the MHC will be hired by Social Services.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated that is correct.

Legislator Montgomery stated as she read through the backup there was a reference to regional CIT shared services. She questioned if that means Putnam will be able to share services with Dutchess and Westchester. She stated she too is very happy this is happening.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated this service will not be limited to just the eastern side of the County.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned what if a call comes in that is not in the Sheriff's Department jurisdiction how would that work.

Deputy Commissioner DSS, Mental Health & Youth Bureau Sara Servadio stated they have been doing some co-responding with the Carmel Police Department. She stated there have been discussions on how calls would be handled with both Carmel and Kent Police Departments and the Villages of Cold Spring and Brewster.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a great program and hopes the County is awarded the grant funding.

Item #4 - Presentation/ Health Department/ Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel: (copy of presentation with minutes)

- **Public Health Corps Fellowship**
- **Public Health Infrastructure Funding**

Chairwoman Sayegh stated Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel from the Health Department is going to give a presentation regarding this agenda item.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated the goal of the County Health Department is to protect the entire community. She stated since the beginning of the pandemic New York State has taken a few very large steps to address underfunding of public health. She first spoke to the topic of Public Health Infrastructure Funding. She stated the purpose is to address the long-standing weaknesses due to chronic underinvestment in New York's public health system. She continued to speak on this topic. She stated the amount of funding that was awarded to Putnam County is \$692,296. She stated the County has the option to accept the full amount or incrementally over a five (5) year period. She stated they are looking at those options. She stated there will be a review of the allowable expenses and they will determine how the funds will be used. She stated that is an overview of the new funding coming to the County.

Chairwoman Sayegh questioned if there is a deadline for when the County needs to make the decision on how the money will be received.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated on April 26th Commissioner of Health received an email stating they are awaiting documents from the County so they can move forward with the contract. She stated no deadline has been given yet, but it seems imminent that a determination needs to be made, and a budget needs to be created and then enter into the contract.

Legislator Gouldman questioned how the determination will be made on how to receive the funding.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated those conversations have just begun between the Health Department, the County Executive's Office, the Personnel Department, and the Finance Department. She stated the decision will take into consideration many different factors, and she briefly spoke to some of them.

Legislator Montgomery stated she recalled a needs assessment was done in the Health Department last year. She questioned if that data will be considered. She requested confirmation that the Health Assessment is published.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated the health concerns for the County will be something she believes will be considered. She stated the Full Community Health Assessment both the Mid-Hudson Region 1, that Putnam worked collaboratively on with their partners and the Local Putnam County Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan are both on the County's website.

Legislator Crowley questioned if data analysis of the usage of the funds is something that will be done so that the County would have it available for the future.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated that is part of the discussion.

Senior Fiscal Manager of the Health Department Bill Orr stated if the decision is to add a position for that purpose, then the grant funding would be taken over the five (5) years. He stated then the decision would need to be made at the end of the five (5) years if the County wants to keep and fund the position.

Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel stated the New York Stated Public Health Corps program has announced that the public health fellowship grant was extended for an additional year. She stated the contract end date now is June 2024. She stated that Putnam County was offered an additional \$300,000 bringing the grant funding total to \$1,411,174. She stated with the additional funding the hope is to bring on more public health fellows. She stated Putnam County was extremely fortunate with the public health fellows they have hired so far. She stated they have been very useful and well received by local health departments. She reminded them that the public health fellowship program began during the pandemic. She stated the County was fortunate to hire graduate fellows, and currently have four (4). She stated they are partnering with the Department of Social Services and Mental Health addressing the mental health needs of students and staff in our schools across the County. She continued to speak to the role of the public health fellows. She stated there is no cost to the County with this program. She spoke to the slide that addressed the use of the \$300,000. In summary the Health Department would like to hire two (2) full time Graduate Fellows and one (1) part-time Graduate Fellow. She stated the Graduate Fellows are an amazing asset to the County. She provided a brief overview of the current successes of their work and the programs they run. She stated in the Community Health Assessment there were 10 main health challenges listed. She stated this was a systematic analysis of primary and secondary data. She explained that the data came from surveys the County conducted and from data that is available at State and local levels. She stated given the landscape of Putnam County the topic of transportation is a big focus. She concluded by stating the initiatives to support public health infrastructure such as the funding to Strengthen Public Health Workforce and Foundational Capability along with the extension of Public Health Fellowship, will enable our staff to continue to support the County's Health Department mission to protect and improve the health of our residents.

Legislator Crowley read from some information that she researched, which spoke to the benefits of addressing health needs. She stated she is thrilled that New York State is working to strengthen the Public Health Workforce for the next five (5) years. She stated her concern is what happens at the end of the five (5) year period when the funding will end but the needs will continue. She stated she believes we need to look at future budgets with the intent to continuing to invest in public health.

Chairwoman Sayegh facilitated further discussion.

Item #5 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 23A026/ Health Department/ Revenue from NYS Public Health Corps – Fellowship Program

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is the funding from New York State to be appropriated into the proper budget lines. She thanked Supervising Public Health Educator Shanna Siegel again for the information she brought forward (*agenda item#4*).

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to Approve Budgetary Amendment 23A026/ Health Department/ Revenue from NYS Public Health Corps – Fellowship Program; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #6 - Approval/ Budgetary Amendment 23A028/ Office for Senior Resources/ Lobdell Donation Funds to Acquire a Vehicle to Transport Seniors to Medical Appointments

Chairwoman Sayegh welcomed Deputy Director for the Office for Senior Resources (OSR) Marlene Barrett and OSR Fiscal Manager Kristin Wunner.

Deputy Director for OSR Marlene Barrett stated they are requesting approval to purchase a 2020 Toyota Sienna LE to be used in the County's medical transportation program. She stated in 2022 there were 182 Seniors who were provided this service. She explained OSR currently has two (2) Mobility Ventures MV-1, which according to the County's Highways and Facilities Department to find replacement parts is challenging with long lead times and costly prices. She explained the requested vehicle will take the place of one (1) of the 2016 MV-1, which is out of commission in the warmer months due to persistent and irreparable air-conditioning problems. She stated all of the vehicles in the OSR's medical transport fleet have been generously funded by the estate of Jane Lobdell, who was also a beneficiary of the program for several years, before her passing in 2013. She provided the reasoning behind the selection to purchase the 2020 Toyota Sienna LE.

Chairwoman Sayegh stated this is a great program. She questioned how does someone qualify and go about getting this service.

Deputy Director for OSR Marlene Barrett stated any Putnam County Resident over the age of 60 should call the OSR office, 845-808-1700, and request to speak to someone in Medical Transportation Department, and they will be transferred to a person to assist in setting it up.

Chairwoman Sayegh facilitated further discussion and many legislators shared their support for this vital service.

Legislator Jonke expressed his full support of this service as well. He spoke to the generosity of Ms. Lobdell, whose generous gifts keep giving. He stated about a month ago he rode along with OSR on their food deliveries. He stated he noticed that some of the roads were a tough terrain. He stated he has been in contact with the Sheriff. He stated the Sheriff's Department has two (2) SUVs they need to retire, they are no longer eligible for law enforcement use. He stated the Sheriff thought they may be of use to OSR to deliver meals. He requested that the employees of the OSR staff follow-up with the Sheriff on this.

Deputy Director for OSR Marlene Barrett stated she will absolutely do that.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Budgetary Amendment 23A028/ Office for Senior Resources/ Lobdell Donation Funds to Acquire a Vehicle to Transport Seniors to Medical Appointments; Seconded by Legislator Crowley. All in favor.

Item #7 - Approval/ Fund Transfer 23T109/ Health Department/ Properly Allocate Funds to Preschool-Licensing Software

Senior Fiscal Manager of the Health Department Bill Orr stated this is a request to correct the budget and put the funding in the correct account.

Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to approve Fund Transfer 23T109/ Health Department/ Properly Allocate Funds to Preschool-Licensing Software; Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Item #8 - Other Business - None

Item #9 – Adjournment

There being no further business, at 7:28 P.M., Chairwoman Sayegh made a motion to adjourn;
Seconded by Legislator Nacerino. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.

Putnam County Department of Health

HEALTH COMMITTEE

May 9, 2023

Shanna Siegel, RN, BSN

Supervising Public Health Educator



Mission, Vision, Values

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Putnam County Department of Health is to improve and protect the health of our community.

Vision Statement:

We will be recognized as bold and innovative leaders, partnering with our community in advocating for public health.

Our Values:




Putnam County Department of Health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT

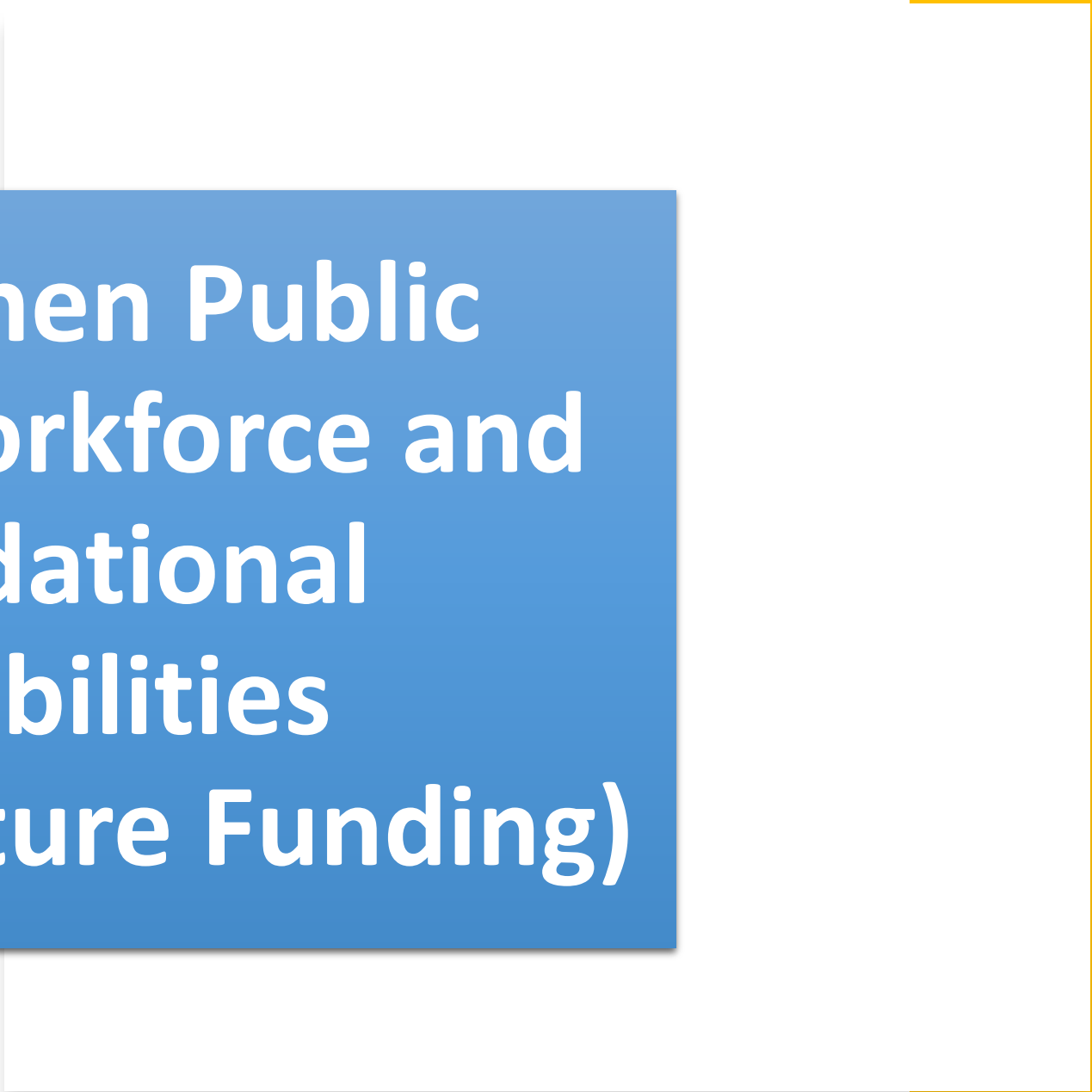


**Strengthen Public
Health Workforce
and Foundational
Capabilities**

**NYS Public Health
Corps Extension &
Additional Funding**



**Strengthen Public
Health Workforce and
Foundational
Capabilities
(Infrastructure Funding)**



PURPOSE & OUTCOMES

- Purpose: Address long-standing weaknesses due to chronic underinvestment in New York's public health system and strengthen preparedness to address new challenges and future public health emergencies.
- Short-term outcomes: improvements in the LHD workforce to include hiring new or vacant positions, retaining current staff through various investments or services, or improving foundational public health capabilities through training and other staffing enhancements.
- Longer-term outcomes: improvements in the public health of the jurisdiction, especially among socially and economically marginalized communities.

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

This grant may be used to strengthen the public health workforce including:

- Hire new staff or retain staff whose grant funding sources are expiring;
- Develop policies and best practices to guide use of funds for various recruitment and retention incentives; deploy the resources for these purposes;
- Contract with another agency to hire staff on the LHD's behalf;
- Invest in staff retention efforts to include retention bonuses, base pay increases, tuition assistance, staff training opportunities (including travel to conferences and events) or other retention efforts;
- Partner with neighboring county or counties to hire staff in a shared staffing mod
- Invest in 'special projects', novel public health efforts and partnerships with academic or community partners to address workforce solutions;
- Invest in office upgrades to increase employee satisfaction with the workplace environment; examples include minor alterations, repairs, purchasing updated furniture, equipment, wifi expansion and implementation of software/technology solutions;
- Invest in internal data modernization solutions that will increase efficiencies and improve employee satisfaction.

AWARDED AMOUNT

- Total Award for Putnam: \$692,296



NYS Public Health Corps Extension & Additional Funding

BACKGROUND

The Public Health Corps (PHC) fellowship was an initiative launched by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Putnam County entered into a contract (9/1/23) and subsequently hired one Local Coordinator and three public health corps Graduate level fellows -- together they have supported both the PCDOH, the PCDSS/MH and the County with their dedication and expertise.

UPDATE

In December 2022, the New York State Public Health Corps program announced that the public health fellowship grant was being extended for an additional year, bringing the contract end date to June 2024. Subsequently, Putnam was offered an additional \$300,000 bringing the grant total to \$1,411,174.

PURPOSE AND OUTCOMES

- Purpose: Build public health capacity to support current and future public health emergencies.
- Outcomes: The overall program goal is three-fold:
 - Bolster the state's public health infrastructure by mobilizing Fellows to provide critical support and services to LHDs;
 - Effectively communicate with and educate Putnam County residents about key strategies that address public health efforts; and
 - Facilitate connections among the community level public health stakeholders required to strengthen and sustain public health learning and partnership

ALLOWABLE EXPENSES

This grant may be used to strengthen the public health workforce by:

- Salary and fringe of new employees considered PHC Fellows
- Trainings necessary within scope of work
- Additional costs for community events such as rental space, printing needs, registration fee, etc.
- Supplies and equipment needed to complete work

AWARDED AMOUNT

- TOTAL AWARDED AMOUNT FOR PUTNAM: \$1,411,174
 - This year, \$300,000 was awarded to support the hiring of two additional full-time and one part-time Public Health Corps Graduate Fellows
 - Salaries + Fringe for two Full time Graduate Fellows
 - Salary: \$62,100 per fellow
 - Fringe: \$37,260 per fellow (overestimation)
 - Salary + Fringe for Part-time Graduate Fellow
 - Salary: \$22,179
 - Fringe: \$1,697

SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM LOCALLY

Throughout their time at PCDOH, fellows have played integral roles in different programs. From supporting existing work to establishing new community programs, fellows have used their broad knowledge and expertise to better the health of Putnam County residents.

- CHA/CHIP activities which enabled PCDOH to update and enhance process.
- Educational sessions for Spanish-speaking residents on various health topics that have been identified as consistent health challenges due to health disparities.
- Committee and cross-sector support: Live Healthy Putnam transportation work group; Substance-use prevention, education, response alliance; mental health support in schools for students and parents/guardians.
- Collaboration and continued mental health support to Putnam County school staff and students.
- Poster Presentation by three fellows at the NYS Public Health Corps Conference.



ADDRESSING PUTNAM'S TEN MAIN HEALTH CHALLENGES

BACKGROUND

As required by NYSDOH, PCDOH conducted a 2022 Community Health Assessment (CHA) that identified 10 main health challenges of Putnam County. The 10 main health challenges were used to inform the selection of priority areas for the 2022-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The two areas selected include preventing communicable diseases and promoting well-being and preventing mental and substance use disorders, however work continues in all ten areas.

| 10 MAIN HEALTH CHALLENGES | |
|---|---|
| Social Determinants of Health - Transportation | Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) |
| COVID-19 and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases | Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Birth-related Indicators ★ |
| Sexually Transmitted Diseases ★ | Early Childhood Vaccination ★ |
| Obesity ★ | Tickborne Diseases |
| Mental Health and Well-being ★ | Opioid Misuse ★ |
| ★ Indicates health challenge is included in the NYS Prevention Agenda | |

CONTINUITY

Initiatives to support public health infrastructure such as the funding to Strengthen Public Health Workforce and Foundational Capabilities along with the extension of the public health fellowship, enable our staff to continue to support our mission to protect and improve the health of our residents. A skilled workforce enables implementation and evaluation of data-driven interventions to address the main health challenges our County currently faces and assess local impact of emerging public health issues.

THANK YOU!



Putnam County Department of Health

A PHAB-ACCREDITED HEALTH DEPARTMENT