

RESOLUTION NO. 2016236

RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET HIRST, LCSW-R,
AS ACTING COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF BEHAVIORAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH

Legislators BORCHERT, THOMES, MICCIO, BOLNER, JETER-JACKSON, LANDISI, STRAWINSKI, HORTON, HORTON, ROMAN, and PULVER offer the following and move its adoption:

WHEREAS, Dutchess County is required to have a Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and

WHEREAS, in order to conform with New York State law, the Dutchess County Charter requires that the Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health be a medical doctor licensed to practice in the State of New York, and

WHEREAS, the County must appoint an Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, Grade MJ, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health has given the County its consent to appoint Margaret Hirst, LCSW-R, Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health notwithstanding the fact Margaret Hirst is not a medical doctor, as long as the County has a "medical doctor who can be engaged to provide medical consultation as needed", and

WHEREAS, the County's Medical Examiner, Dennis Joseph Chute, M.D. shall be available to provide medical consultation to the Department of Community & Behavioral Health as required by the New York State Department of Health, and

WHEREAS, Margaret Hirst has served the County for the past thirty-five years in mental hygiene related administrative functions and is presently charged with the responsibility of administering mental hygiene services in Dutchess County, and

WHEREAS, Margaret Hirst has served the County with distinction and is well qualified to supervise the administrative requirements of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health on an interim basis, and

WHEREAS, in consideration of her qualifications and the allowance given by the New York State Department of Health for this appointment, the County Executive has requested that the appointment of Margaret Hirst, LCSW-R, as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health be effective as of September 24, 2016, and expire upon the permanent appointment of a commissioner, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3.04 of the Charter, this Legislature has the authority to accept and confirm the appointment of Margaret Hirst, LCSW-R, as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the appointment of Margaret Hirst as Acting Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health is effective as of September 24, 2016, and shall continue until a permanent appointment of a commissioner is made, and be it further

RESOLVED, that Dr. Dennis Joseph Chute shall be available to provide medical consultation as needed until a medical doctor has been permanently appointed to the position of Commissioner of the Department of Behavioral & Community Health.

CA-138-16
JMF/CRC/kvh
G-1652-B
09/19/16

STATE OF NEW YORK

ss:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

This is to certify that I, the undersigned Clerk of the Legislature of the County of Dutchess have compared the foregoing resolution with the original resolution now on file in the office of said clerk, and which was adopted by said Legislature on the 11th day of October 2016, and that the same is a true and correct transcript of said original resolution and of the whole thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Legislature this 11th day of October 2016.

CAROLYN MORRIS, CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE

MARGARET HIRST, LCSW - R

Deputy Commissioner
Dutchess County Department of Behavioral Health
230 North Road, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601
845-486-3791 (w)
845-485-2759 (fax)
mhirst@dutchessny.gov

EXPERIENCE

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- JAN 1, 2016 – SEPT 23, 2016 *Deputy Commissioner – Department of Behavioral & Community Health & Director of Community Services*
The Director of Community Services, under Article 41 of Mental Hygiene Law, provides oversight of the local healthcare system for persons affected by any combination of chemical dependence, mental illness, and developmental disabilities. Oversight involves planning, advocacy, budget and fiscal reporting, and operating a comprehensive and accessible system of services for these individuals.
- JUNE 2015- DEC31,2015 *Acting Commissioner – Department of Mental Hygiene & Director of Community Services*
- JAN 1, 2013- JUNE 2015: *Division Chief for Clinical Services*
This is a professional supervisory position involving responsibility for the clinical and administrative operation of three formerly separate clinical divisions (Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), which deliver clinical services to the community both directly and through county contractual providers. This position also includes serving as the Acting Director of Community Services/Commissioner as designated by the Commissioner/Director of Community Services.

Duties include:

- Assessing the need for and develop programs and services related to the needs of the patient population,
- Developing each annual Local Governmental Plan for Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities,
- Monitoring and evaluating existing programs and services for residents of the community,
- Overseeing the operation of licensed programs: Partial Hospital Program (MH), the Intensive Treatment Alternative Program (CD), as well as, Forensic Services, Jail-based Services, Mental Health Outreach Services and CD Assessment Services, Prevention Services, Children's Services, Housing/SPOA Coordination, Assisted Outpatient Services, and Family Court and Juvenile Delinquent Evaluation Services,
- Overseeing and monitoring contracted programs and services for all outpatient mental health clinic services, outpatient chemical dependency services, outpatient intellectual and developmental disability services, housing agencies, vocational agencies, care management agencies, and all other contracted clinical services,
- Monitoring Performance Outcomes of directly operated and contract programs and services on a quarterly basis,
- Act as primary contact for all DMH Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP) committees and activities with Westchester Medical Center PPS and Montefiore PPS,

- Preparing preliminary budgets, research funding sources, develop grants and monitor fiscal expenditures for the division,
- Supervising professional and support staff within the division,
- Attending the Department's weekly Executive Council meetings to exchange information and ideas with other division/office representatives,
- Acting as a resource to other Departments and the community regarding mental health, chemical dependency and intellectual developmental disabilities,
- Monitoring the performances of and advising the various agencies operating under contract with the division,
- Collecting data and prepare reports for the departments and various state agencies,
- Serving on a variety of committees in the health, mental hygiene and human services fields, providing information and seeking input into improving the delivery of divisional services including as the DMH representative on the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council and STOP DWI Board,
- Makes public appearances on issues related to divisional services and speak to community organizations and other human services providers.

MAY, 2001 -
DEC, 2012:

Clinical Division Chief, Chemical Dependency Services

This is a professional supervisory position involving responsibility for the clinical and administrative operation of chemical dependency services, both directly operated and contracted, which deliver clinical services to the community. This position also includes serving as the Acting Director of Community Services/Commissioner as designated by the Commissioner/Director of Community Services.

Duties include:

- Assessing the need for and developing programs and services related to the needs of the patient population,
- Developing the Local Governmental Plan for chemical dependency,
- Facilitating annual Public Forums for Chemical Dependency Services,
- Monitoring and evaluating existing programs and services for residents of the community,
- Overseeing the Intensive Treatment Alternative Program Outpatient Day Rehabilitation Program, Forensic Services, Jail-based Services, Mental Health Outreach Services and CD Assessment services,
- Overseeing and monitoring programs and contractual services for all outpatient chemical dependency services including methadone maintenance, housing and Crisis Services,
- Monitoring Performance Outcomes of directly operated and contract programs and services on quarterly basis,
- Preparing preliminary budgets, research funding sources, develop grants and monitor fiscal expenditures for the division,
- Supervising professional and support staff within the division,
- Attending the Department's weekly Executive Council meetings, exchanging information and ideas with other division/office representatives,
- Acting as a resource to other Departments and the community regarding chemical dependency,

- Monitoring the performances of and act as advisor for the various agencies operating under contract with the division,
- Collecting data and preparing reports for the department and various state agencies,
- Serving on a variety of committees in the health, mental hygiene and human services fields, providing information and seeking input into improving the delivery of divisional services, including serving as DMH representative to the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council and STOP DWI Board,
- Making public appearances on issues related to divisional services and speak to community organization and other human services providers.

JAN, 1992-
MAY 2001:

Clinical Division Chief, Developmental Disabilities

This is a professional supervisory position involving responsibility for the clinical and administrative operation of intellectual and developmental disability services, both directly operated and contracted, which deliver clinical services to the community. This position also acts as the Acting Director of Community Services at the direction of the Commissioner/Director of Community Services.

Duties include:

- Assessing the need for and developing programs and services related to the needs of the patient population,
- Developing the annual Local Governmental Plan for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities,
- Facilitating annual Public Forums for Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services,
- Monitoring and evaluating existing programs and services for residents of the community,
- Overseeing the Clinic for the Multi-Disabled (a dually licensed OMH and OASAS licensed outpatient clinic for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or mental health and chemical dependency issues),
- Overseeing and monitoring programs and contractual services for all outpatient IDD services including housing, respite, family support, day habilitation, vocational services and care management,
- Monitoring Performance Outcomes of directly operated and contract programs and services on quarterly basis,
- Preparing preliminary budgets, research funding sources, develop grants and monitor fiscal expenditures for the division,
- Supervising professional and support staff within the division,
- Attending the Department's weekly Executive Council meetings, exchanging information and ideas with other division/office representatives,
- Acting as a resource to other Departments and the community regarding intellectual and developmental disability,
- Monitoring the performances of and act as advisor for the various agencies operating under contract with the division,
- Collecting data and preparing reports for the department and various state agencies,
- Serving on a variety of committees in the health, mental hygiene and human services fields providing information and seeking input into improving the delivery of divisional services.

- 1983-1991: *Clinical Unit Administrator; Case Management Unit*
Provide clinical and administrative oversight to approximately 35 multi-disciplinary care managers including; Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Registered Professional Nurses, Community Mental Health Counselors, Community Mental Health Aides and shared staff from Hudson River Psychiatric Center. Care managers provided monitoring, linking, and advocacy of all community support services for individuals open in all publically funded outpatient programs in Dutchess County.
- 1978-1983: Held positions as Staff Social Worker in a Continuing Treatment Center and as Supervising Social Worker and Project Leader of the Coping Skills Teams in three community adult homes.
- 1977-1978 Staff Social Worker, Wassaic Developmental Center
- 1972-1975 Social Worker, Vassar Brothers Hospital
- EDUCATION: Marymont College, BA, 1972
Adelphi University School of Social Work, MSW, 1977

Morris, Carolyn

From: Baiano, Chris
Sent: Monday, October 03, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Morris, Carolyn
Cc: Rector, Steven; Stricker, Darcy
Subject: RE: Dutchess County Health Department Commissioner

From: Pirani, Sylvia J (HEALTH) [<mailto:sylvia.pirani@health.ny.gov>]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 8:46 AM
To: Rector, Steven
Cc: Hutton, Brad J (HEALTH); Anderson, Ellen J (HEALTH); Johnson, Celeste M (HEALTH); Cuomo-Whitney, Susan M (HEALTH); Chytilo, Jan C (HEALTH)
Subject: Dutchess County Health Department Commissioner

Dear Commissioner Rector,

Commissioner Zucker asked me to respond to your email requesting guidance on the position of Commissioner of Health in Dutchess. We are sorry to learn that Dr. Kurban is leaving the position.

No formal State DOH approval is necessary for the County's appointment of an interim Public Health Commissioner. Therefore you can name Margaret Hirst as interim or acting Commissioner, as long as you have a medical doctor who can be engaged to provide medical consultation as needed. If this is the plan that is implemented, please send us contact information including after-hours cell phone for Ms. Hirst so we can update our files.

With regards to identifying a fulltime qualified candidate for appointment, we would encourage you to recruit widely, including with NYSACHO, the schools of public health in NYS and with publichealthjobs.org. If after conducting that recruitment, you were to identify a candidate with the MD degree but without an MPH, we could consider approving that candidate conditionally for a two year period while s/he completes an MPH degree, or depending on his/her academic qualifications, the courses required as part of a six course public health certificate. I am attaching the packet of information we provide to counties to help you with this recruitment and with the approval process.

Please contact me if you want to discuss any of these issues or if we can assist Ms. Hirst in any way. We wish you the best of luck with this recruitment.

Sylvia Pirani
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Department
of Health

