

2011 Departmental Annual Summary

The following are highlights, by executive department, of the dedication and hard work of Dutchess County Government's employees:

CENTRAL SERVICES

- The vehicle fleet was downsized by 39 vehicles.
- Upgrades to the side gate access system and new video cameras were installed at the Auto Shop.
- Moved Print Shop supplies to the Storeroom to allow the Mailroom to move into the Print Shop area.
- Hand soap and dispenser contract has been issued. This continues the effort to standardize all county bathrooms and makes 99% of all hand soap in the county a green certified product.
- Placed County Asset Policy in the Central Services online Policy and Procedure Manual.
- Asset Management, Print Shop, Asset Receiving, and Transfer and Disposition Request forms have been updated and located on the Central Services Forms web page.
- Verified assets for all departments.
- Developed a tracking system for surplus equipment and furniture.
- Initiated deployment of the IP Telephone system.
- Completed reconfiguration of telecomm services at Rhinebeck CDC.

COUNTY ATTORNEY

In 2011, the County Attorney's Office efficiently:

- Processed all County contracts and leases;
- Submitted Resolutions to the Legislature as requested and approved by the County Executive;
- Handled administrative hearings, enforcement proceedings and litigation both for and against the County;
- Prosecuted Juvenile Delinquent and Persons in Need of Supervision proceedings in Family Court;
- Participated in Medicaid Fair Hearings;
- Presented community informative presentations;
- Provided legal services to all County units in matters of counsel and litigation

DSS Legal Unit:

- Participated in the DC Child Abuse Center
- Continued team membership in the Family Treatment Court
- Continued participation in the NYS OCFS Termination of Parental Rights Workgroup
- Participated in Family Court Advisory Meetings
- Attended Sharing Success program
- Participated in weekly CPS case reviews
- Participated in biweekly sex abuse case reviews and foster care permanency reviews
- DSS Legal contributed to the Heifer Project through the "bad word" box
- DSS Legal contributed to Smile Train as our holiday charity
- Participated in "Adoption Now" case review
- Assisted in formulation of joint protocol for Domestic Violence and CPS service providers

State/Professional Association Memberships:

- Dutchess County Bar Association
- New York State Bar Association House of Delegates
- New York State Bar Association
- Surrogate Decision Making Committee of the State of New York, Commission on Quality Care for the Mentally Disabled (SDMC)

FINANCE

The financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2010 were completed and reflected an unreserved undesignated general fund's fund balance of \$29,894,504, a slight increase over the adjusted unreserved undesignated fund balance in 2009.

Taxes

Continued efforts are being made to enforce the 2-year foreclosure period. In 2011, the County auctioned approximately 100 parcels.

Bond Rating

Moody's again rated Dutchess County Aa1 in December, 2011, "with negative outlook" added.

County's Debt Service

In December 2011, the County issued Public Improvement bonds of \$13.4 million and refunded approximately \$5.4 million of 2003 Public Improvement Bonds saving a total of \$527,800 interest for the next 11 years.

Department Structure

In 2011, Real Property Tax Department became a Division of Finance. Real Property Tax and Finance work closely for the County's In Rem foreclosure procedure. The merging of the two departments has fit well into the whole process. Currently the Title Searches are under the direction of the Real Property Division, however the information is used in conjunction with our tax enforcement. For 2012, all title searches will be done in house by County Title Searchers within Real Property Tax Division. Within this 2011 consolidation, Emergency Response's E-911 Addressing was incorporated into the Real Property Tax Division. The GIS Technician position in RPT was transferred to Emergency Response as part of a comprehensive data layer maintenance plan the Office of Computer Information Services (OCIS) is undertaking in 2012.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Labor Relations

Currently in negotiations with the three established labor unions in the County for successor labor contracts (DCDSPBA expired 12/31/08, CSEA expired 12/31/09, and DCSEA expired 12/31/10).

Conducted first Interest Arbitration Hearing for DCDSPBA in June 2011 involving preparation of County position on County and Union demands for submission to interest arbitration, preparation for submission to and testimony at interest arbitration panel and hearing. Currently awaiting decision of panel. Upon conclusion of interest arbitration process, will implement binding decision of panel and will recommence contract negotiations for later years.

Conducted negotiations related to the impact of the abolition of positions in the adopted 2011 County Budget, successfully negotiating a settlement for two employees impacted by layoff and resulting in their placement in alternative County employment.

Initiated the process of negotiations related to the impact of the abolition of positions and changes made in the adopted 2012 County Budget. Efforts to date have resulted in the placement of four employees impacted by layoff in alternative County employment.

Negotiated with DCSEA to successful conclusion the matter of out-of county inmate transportation and the use of part-time Correction Officers, thereby avoiding full pursue of potential and/or pending arbitrations and improper practice charges against the County.

Civil Service Administration

In addition to ongoing civil service administration (including, but not limited to, civil service roster record maintenance, position and jurisdictional classification, and payroll certification), performed civil service oversight and review to numerous lay off situations occurring in the local public agencies in the county. This included the cities, towns, villages, school districts and special districts within the County of Dutchess. This included providing guidance and direction to agencies in decision making activities, and confirming civil service seniority and retention dates for permanent employees, and establishing seniority lists and layoff status records for all possible layoff situations and identifying available bumping and retreat rights for affected employees, and reviewing all layoffs situations to ensure implementation in compliance with Civil Service Law and Rules. Provided guidance and direction to agencies in efforts to avoid or minimize the need for layoffs and to achieve or enhance efficiencies and economy through operational reorganizations, multi jurisdictional cooperation agreements, and the sharing of services.

Civil Service Examinations Administration

The department continued to conduct regularly scheduled civil service examinations as prepared and rated by the NYS Department of Civil Service. Interest in locally administered civil service examinations remains very high. This is likely a direct result of the current economic circumstances, but also in the proactive and intensive recruitment efforts by this department in the publicizing of employment and examination opportunities and this department's continuing efforts to provide for a broad and diverse applicant pool for examination purposes and the resulting selection and appointment processes.

County Budget Development and County Government Reorganization and Consolidation

The Department was intricately involved in the administrative review of and classification and allocation of County positions during the development of the 2011 and 2012 County Budgets. The department continued during the course of 2011 to finalize the implementation of the reorganization and consolidation of County departments and positions as were adopted in the 2011 County Budget. The department was involved in reviewing the impact of the reorganizations and consolidations of the nine County departments into four and addressing any operational, programmatic and personnel and civil service matters. This involved but, was not limited to, the restructuring of existing positions most

appropriate for the reorganization and reviewing and addressing the individual impacts and civil service and labor relations considerations of personnel changes. This review included a consideration of each affected employee's civil service rights and protections and the resulting changes in benefits and compensation structures necessitated by the County's reorganization and consolidation.

The department also continues to review and evaluate impact and effect of the change to the Department of Human Resources, and a consolidation with the Office of Risk Management as a division of the broader Department of Human Resources.

Labor and Related Law Compliance

The Department of Human Resources, in concert with the County Executive's Office, County Attorneys' Office and other County departments and/or offices as appropriate, is committed to ensure that all departments and employees are aware of and that the County will be in compliance with any employment-related laws. The department has ensured that the County's Work Place Violence Policy has been appropriately updated and posted, and the department is available to receive any comments, questions, concerns or complaints. The County Equal Employment Officer is assigned to receive complaints and conduct investigations and has actively responded to this commitment. The Work Place Violence Prevention Committee has reviewed complaints, issues and concerns as presented to it and has acted accordingly.

Computer and Technological Enhancements

The department has continued to review for opportunities to more fully utilize and enhance our capabilities through computer and electronic based functionalities.

The department continues to encourage and promote the utilization of the on-line application for examinations and recruitments, with the accompanying on-line electronic payment for examination fees. While this application does not reduce the administrative requirements for reviewing applications or holding the examination, it has significantly reduced the amount of paper generated for and must be maintained and filed for such an examination.

The department continues to also almost exclusively utilize the on-line announcement of civil service examinations and posting of recruitments, and a distribution of announcements for posting purposes via electronic mail. The distribution list includes all County departments, the local agencies within the County of Dutchess, other public agencies expressing interest in postings, and not-for profit, faith-based and local community organizations expressing interest in postings.

The department has worked with OCIS, the Budget Office and other departments on the development of the on-line Personnel Memo and Vacancy Control submission and maintenance system and this is on track for finalization and implementation in 2012.

Professional and Interagency Cooperation

Expanded information sharing and utilization of technical resources among professional associations and affiliations, and between interagency cooperation and coordination. The Department has drawn upon the knowledge and resources of professional peers and personal contacts, and has offered its resources to others, so each may gain from the others knowledge and experiences.

Risk Management Division

- Negotiated New Vision/Optical Plan with CSEA EBF resulting in expanded benefits and savings of more than 20% on the vision benefit, representing approximately \$100,000 per year and guaranteed for five years.
- Savings of approximately 30% on the CSEA disability benefit, representing an annual savings of \$28,000 annual for the County and an additional \$12,000 for the CSEA employees for their contribution.
- NYSHIP finalized rates for 2012 were significantly lower than the originally projected and budgeted increase of 18%
- MVP finalized rates for 2012 were significantly lower than the originally projected and budgeted increase of 12%
- Improved accuracy for Fostercare insurance reporting, resulting in a rebate of \$875
- Continued post-policy period negotiations with the property insurer is resulting in a \$12,000 rebate
- Implemented transition to a Division of the Department of Human Resources and successfully integrated many functions within the department.

State/Professional Association Memberships:

Earl Bruno, Commissioner: New York State Public Employers Labor Relations Association, NYSAC Personnel and Civil Service Officers Association.

Christopher Colsey, Director of Risk Management: Member of Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA), Member of New York Self-Insurers Association (NYSIA), Member of New York State Self-Insured Counties (NYSIAC)

Curtis Forbes, EEO Officer: Current President of the New York State Affirmative Action Officers Association – via NYSAC, Current Executive Board Member and Vice Chair of Programming Committee of the Cuneen-Hackett Arts Center

OFFICE of COMPUTER INFORMATION SYSTEMS (OCIS)

For the eighth year in a row, the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) recognized Dutchess County Government as one of the most digitally-advanced county governments in the United States. Dutchess County captured the #5 national ranking in the 250,000-499,000 population category in the 2011 Digital Counties Survey. Dutchess is only one of two counties that have been in the top ten each of the past eight years.

eGovernment Services

The County continues to focus on expanding and enhancing on-line web services, recognizing the cost savings/efficiencies gained by the public, businesses, local municipalities and the county. Some 2011 statistics highlighting the major impact of the County's web-based services include:

- Estimated value of GIS services provided at no charge to Municipalities: **\$2.3 million/year**
(Based on a conservative cost estimate of \$75,000/municipality if they provided their own service)
- Number of individual people that used the County's GIS web services in 2011: **91,500**

- Estimated annual GIS cost savings to Businesses: **Over \$12 million/year**
(Based on 34% of the 91,500 users reported as business people being able to eliminate at least seven annual trips to County Offices.)
- County Clerk Document Searches: **1.59 million**
(Represents public searches on county website only, does not include direct visits to the County Clerk's office.)
- New Mapped Based Loop Bus Routes/Schedules: **Over 21,000 pages in 3 months**
- Flu Clinic Immunization – On-line scheduling for the public: **3,700 residents**

New Cost Effective Telephone System and Network Upgrade

OCIS is in the later stages of an 18-month project to implement a new network infrastructure and phone system that integrate voice and data services. These leverage the existing county fiber optic backbone. As part of this, an IP-based Unified Communications System (UCS) will replace the County's outdated/expensive PBX-based phone system. This collaboration between OCIS and Central Services will result in improvements in staff efficiencies as well as a true 10-year "net" savings of \$2,380,000. The new 20 GB network infrastructure is now 100% complete. Work is underway on the telephone component that is expected to be fully implemented by summer 2012. Operational savings are reflected in the 2012 budget including a 30% reduction (\$200,000) in County telephone costs for the partial year savings. Full-year savings in 2013 are expected to exceed \$350,000.

Loop Bus Map-based Routes and Schedules

The County's Loop Bus mass transportation operation is critical to thousands of daily riders. Finding and understanding route information is key, as evidenced by statistics that show that there are more than 2000 weekly look-ups of Loop Bus information on the County Website (dutchessny.gov). To make it easier for the public, in October 2011 a Map-based Loop Bus Schedules website facility was launched. This new application maps all routes and stops employing Google mapping which the public is familiar with. The status of each route is now provided. In the first three months, the public referenced this application 21,000 times.

GIS Assessment and Consolidation

A major outcome of the 2011 GIS review was a plan for 2012 to reorganize and consolidate GIS data maintenance as well as realign staff for key county GIS stakeholders (Emergency Response, Health, Planning, RPT and OCIS). At the center of this plan is the consolidation of the maintenance/support of 47 "core" and "critical" data layers at OCIS. This will improve efficiencies, data integrity and accuracy by having a small centralized team that can focus on the interrelationships of data layers. Shared staffing and realignment of County GIS staff is important to this plan. One positive result of the realignment is providing our Emergency Response department with a GIS employee; at the same time not increasing the number of County staff.

Professional Association Memberships:

- NYS Local Government Information Technology Directors Association (LGITDA).

PLANNING and DEVELOPMENT

County Planning and Community Assistance

With the release of the 2010 Census data, **demographic information** was updated for the County. In addition to the decennial census, data will now be updated on a yearly basis, as the release of the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimate data continues.

As a Census Bureau affiliate, the department handles **data requests** from the public. 632 requests for data were fulfilled in 2011. The data is used for research, grant requests, comprehensive plan updates and economic and demographic projections. Many 2011 inquiries focused on results of the 2010 Census and the 2005-2009 American Community Survey.

The Department worked with the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, Real Property Tax, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County to complete an **Agricultural District Resource Project** derived from the Agricultural District Recertification Review and to make information about the status of farming and farmland available to each municipality.

The **Dutchess County Planning Board** continued its oversight of pending Partnership for Manageable Growth acquisitions and monitored Department planning initiatives including Centers and Greenspaces, Transit-Oriented Development, the County's Agriculture Industry, and Regional Housing Needs Assessment, as well as major development proposals.

Completed the **Dutchess Rail Trail educational signage** project. Fifteen signs highlighting historical, cultural, and environmental information related to the Trail were installed, with an additional two signs ready for installation when Phase IV is completed.

Collaborated with Economic Development Council External Marketing Committee to establish a **database of commercial properties** to assist in recruiting businesses.

The **Town of Red Hook adopted Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law amendments** that implement the Centers and Greenspaces recommendations of the Red Hook Intermunicipal Task Force, including establishment of an Agricultural Business District. This Greenway-sponsored project provides an intermunicipal model for other Dutchess County communities wanting to identify priority growth centers and priority greenspaces for protection measures. The adopted plan and zoning received an annual award from the NYS Planning Federation.

Prepared **illustrative plan for the Red Hook Village Center**, showing infill building sites and parking locations.

Staff conducted 447 reviews of proposals referred to the Department under NYS General Municipal Law Sections 239 l & m and the State Environmental Quality Review Act, responded to **632 information requests**, and **provided 3,185 hours of lead planner and community assistance**.

Partnership for Manageable Growth/Open Space & Farmland Protection Matching Grant Program (PMG)
NYS forwarded \$350,000 in EPF funding to the **Locust Grove/Samuel B. Morse Historic Site** in December 2011, enabling the Town and County to provide the \$150,000 grants approved in 2010, with closing anticipated in the first quarter of 2012. Completion of the five pending PMG projects is dependant on the availability of New York State funds.

The **anticipated 2011 closings** on conservation easements at Sunset Ridge Farm in the Town of North East, and Bos Haven Farm in the Town of Union Vale have been delayed due to the limited availability of state funds for EPF-funded projects currently under contract.

Dutchess County Planning Federation (DCPF)

The Department published nine (9) issues of the **eNewsletter *Plan On It*** on behalf of the DCPF. The newsletter is sent to approximately 1,150 subscribers. Topics included: Transit-Oriented Development in Eastern Dutchess; What Planning Boards Need to Know About Stormwater; Rhinebeck Village: Worth Walking; Historic Resource Survey; Agricultural Districts vs. Agricultural Assessment; Dutchess Rail Trail; 2010 Census; Outdoor Wood Boiler Regulations; and Who's Living in Affordable Housing?.

Department staff assisted the DCPF in planning and programming **seven Short Course sessions** providing up to 14.0 hours of training for **500 local board members and elected officials**. Short Course topics included Stormwater Regulation, Planning Board Basics, Zoning Boards of Appeal Basics, Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA), Implementing NYS Agricultural Districts Law, SEQRA Basics, and Public Meetings, Hearings, and Record Keeping.

Community Development and Housing

Dutchess County and the City of Poughkeepsie **completed the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI)** related to their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) programs. The AI outlines impediments to fair housing choice and actions that will be taken to ameliorate the impediments.

Completed the **consolidation of the City of Poughkeepsie and County HOME Program administration**. Also, completed with Hudson River Housing the consolidation of City and County First Time Homebuyer Program and transfer to the NeighborWorks Homeownership Center. In 2011 this program provided downpayment assistance to 8 first time homebuyer through the County's First Time Homebuyer Program for an expenditure of \$77,243. This is a significant decrease from last year's record 16 closings and reflects the indecision of purchasers who are waiting for the housing market to "hit bottom" as well as the inability of willing purchasers to secure mortgages.

Completed implementation of Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP). HPRP was designed to prevent at-risk households from becoming homeless and to enable households that are already homeless to transition to stable housing. Services included: case management, housing location, and limited financial assistance for security deposits, rent subsidies, utility payments, and moving costs. In total, the program assisted 562 persons in 219 households maintain or secure appropriate housing.

Completed a range of CDBG funded projects including:

- Village of Tivoli Montgomery & Spring Street Improvements for \$150,000;
- Town of Pawling Lakeside Park Handicapped Accessible Trail and Playground for \$100,000;
- Village of Millerton Sidewalk Repair and Replacement for \$125,000;
- Town and Village of Red Hook Sidewalk Extension project for \$260,000;
- Village of Pawling Handicapped Accessible Sidewalks for \$127,000;
- Town of Wappinger Baseball Field Handicapped Accessibility Improvements for \$100,000.

Community Development funds were used in 2011 for human service program services at a number of non-profit agencies serving clients including homeless, substance abuse, seniors and youth. In 2011, the following agencies received CDBG funds:

- Hudson River Housing
- Child Abuse Prevention Center
- Friends of Seniors
- Mid-Hudson Addiction Recovery
- North East Community Center

Received \$1,206,044 in funding through the 2011 SuperNOFA application process. Funds will be used in 2012 to support 129 apartments and 4 programs for the homeless.

The Community Development Block Grant Program-Recovery stimulus funds were used to:

- complete North Main Street Water improvements in the Town of Pine Plains and
- the Ralph Street and Mackin Avenue Drainage project in the City of Beacon.

Completed 10 rehabilitations through the Senior Citizen Owner-Occupied Property Rehabilitation Program.

Completed construction on several significant affordable housing developments.

- *Pendell Common* – Construction of 72 units of senior and family rentals in the T/Poughkeepsie
- *Livingston Arms* – Rehabilitation of 34 units of occupied rental housing in the C/Poughkeepsie

Construction began on **Poughkeepsie Commons** a 71 unit development for frail elderly and veterans in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Enhanced outreach for the Dutchess County Senior Citizen Housing Property Rehabilitation Program through attendance at the Dutchess County Department of Social Services, Office for Aging, the LaGrange Rotary Club and the Dutchess County Supervisor's and Mayor's Association and Dutchess County senior socials.

Completed **tenant characteristic study** for Pendell Commons, a moderately-priced housing development. The study was then presented as a newsletter *Who's Living in Affordable Housing?* to factually address comments made during the project's development phase regarding tenancy issues.

Submitted the required HUD reports, including the Consolidated Plan/Action Plan, the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, and contract and financial activity documents and completed all required monitoring of funded municipalities and agencies.

Transportation - Poughkeepsie-Dutchess County Transportation Council (PDCTC)

Completed a new long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), titled *Moving Dutchess*. The 30-year plan recommends projects and plans to preserve the transportation system, while also improving and maintaining mobility throughout Dutchess County. The plan supports the Council's mission to provide the resources necessary to maintain a transportation system that promotes the safe and efficient movement of people and goods in a sustainable manner.

Completed the CR 93 (Myers Corners/Middlebush Road) Corridor Management Plan, which recommends strategies to improve vehicular and non-vehicular safety and operations along the heavily-travelled corridor between Route 9D and 376 in the Town of Wappinger.

Completed the Village of Wappingers Falls Route 9 Planning Study, identifying ways to integrate the highway corridor with the Village center through land use and transportation improvements.

Completed the Village of Rhinebeck Sidewalk Study, developing a sidewalk improvement strategy to prioritize repairs, improve pedestrian safety, and create new connections in the Village. The study report was adopted as a supplement to the Village Master Plan and the sidewalk law was also revised.

Completed the 2011-2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), identifying the federally-funded planning activities to be carried out by the Council for Dutchess County. The UPWP programmed over \$740,000 in federal funding to support transportation planning in the County.

Completed a Travel Time Survey for Dutchess, Orange, and Ulster Counties, in coordination with the Orange County Transportation Council (OCTC) and Ulster County Transportation Council (UCTC). The survey data will be used by the three counties in the joint Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Worked with Poughkeepsie and Metro-North to **complete a market study for transit-oriented development around the Railroad Station** and a study on improvements to Kaal Rock Park and linking the river to Main Street.

Participated in the **NYS DOT Smart Growth Working Group**, submitting recommendations on implementation methods for the Smart Growth Public Infrastructure Policy Act.

Collected vehicle volume, classification, and speed data at **246 locations** on County and local roads.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

In collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Vassar College, and the Environmental Management Council, completed the final revision of the **Natural Resource Inventory**, first published in 1985. In contrast to the previous version, this edition is designed for the Internet, with live links to many information sources.

Supported the Department of Health with geographic and architectural analysis, in their effort to establish **Community-Based Care Facilities**, or field hospitals, should a natural or man-made disaster overwhelm the local medical care system.

Supplied information and project design concepts to NYS Department of Health for a **Tick-borne Disease study** the Centers for Disease Control was conducting in Dutchess County.

Provided **GIS Support** to significant Department projects including the *Analysis of Impediments to Housing*, the PDCTC's *Moving Dutchess 2040*, and the Agricultural District Recertification. A total of over 100 maps were published for these projects.

Continued documentation of all **trails and pedestrian walkways** in the County.

Mass Transportation (DC LOOP)

The Federal Transit Administration gave Dutchess County Mass Transit a perfect "24 for 24" in the **2011 triennial review**. The review determines whether a grantee is administering its FTA –funded programs with federal provisions.

Dutchess County Mass Transit successfully processed all but \$445,818 in **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act** funds and will complete the projects by mid-2012. Projects included the purchase of four heavy duty diesel transit buses, two heavy duty hybrid buses, six medium duty diesel buses, and two medium duty low floor hybrid buses (first of their kind in service in New York State). All new buses have seatbelts and bike racks.

Dutchess County received a grant through the Federal Transit Administration for **State of Good Repair** for the replacement of the roof and relocation of the fueling station. This grant included \$3,600,000 of federal and \$450,000 New York State dollars. The County share of these projects will be \$450,000, a savings of \$4,050,000. The Department is working with the Department of Public Works to complete the project.

Dutchess County received a **second State of Good Repair grant** for \$2,556,000 to replace eighteen (18) buses due for replacement in 2012.

New Dial-A-Ride service began on January 1, 2011. The new service is open to the general public and the Towns and Cities who sponsor the service now pay the local share of direct costs of the program.

An **advertising policy** was developed and a request for proposals was issued in late 2011. Advertising inside the buses was planned as a first step in generating advertising revenues to offset the cost of providing public transit.

In 2011, the **preventive maintenance program** at LOOP continued to be successful, resulting in an average DOT pass rate of 90% for 2011.

STOP DWI

The program remains strong and viable component of Dutchess County Government. With continued commitment from our law enforcement partners impaired driving arrests figures as well as related fine revenues that drive the program remain strong.

In 2011 there were 1,451 impaired driving arrests, of which 297 were on STOP funded patrols. STOP funded patrols in 2011 resulted in 3,071 combined hours of dedicated enforcement resulting in 4,067 traffic stops, and **262 impaired driving arrests**. An additional 574 hours were dedicated to sobriety checkpoints netting an additional 35 arrests.

Current **fine revenues total \$442,746**.

Traffic Safety

Administered a comprehensive Traffic Safety enforcement grant program with an emphasis on unsafe driving behaviors.

The **Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)** program provided \$119,250 in funding for 15 Law Enforcement Agencies/municipalities, for 2,100 combined hours of enforcement efforts that resulted in the following violations:

- 1,646 speed,
- 685 aggressive driving,
- 214 cell phone,
- 106 driver inattention,

- 664 other vehicle and traffic violations.

The **Buckle Up New York (BUNY)** occupant restraint program provided \$90,965 in funding for 15 Law Enforcement Agencies, providing a combined 1,748 hours of enforcement, resulting in

- 1,888 seatbelt tickets
- 636 other vehicle and traffic violations.

The **Child Passenger Safety (CPS)** \$19,000 grant provided child safety seats and fitting materials to nine (9) fitting stations. The Dutchess County CPS Coalition collectively inspected /installed 1,188 child safety seats and replaced 323 in the 2011 grant cycle. The Dutchess County Traffic Safety Board also supported numerous seat check events throughout the year to educate the public on the proper installation of child passenger car seats.

State/Professional Association Memberships:

John Clarke, Development and Design Coordinator: New York Chapter of the Congress for the New Urbanism Board of Directors

William Johnson, STOP-DWI and Traffic Safety Administrator: Member of the NYS STOP-DWI Association Board of Directors and the Chairman of the Mid-Hudson Region. Serves on the New York State Traffic Records Coordinating Council (TRCC).

Cynthia Ruiz, County Transit Administrator: New York Public Transit Association Board of Directors.

PUBLIC WORKS

Airport Division

- Secured FAA grant to rehabilitate and light 2200 linear feet of taxiway “Delta” with LED fixtures.
- Replaced airfield emergency generator (FAA grant)
- Secured FAA grant (design phase) to realign stub taxiway “Delta”; re-bid the installation of LED lighting on taxiway “Bravo” and stub taxiways “Charlie and Delta”
- Completed Airport Business Plan by NYSDOT funded by a FAA grant.
- Took delivery of replacement aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicle obtained through a FAA grant.
- Replacement of several concrete portions of taxiway “Alpha” was completed in house.
- Continued monitoring/removing undesirable emergent growth in the recently cleared approach end runway 24, as per NYSDEC permit. 2011 was the second year of the required five year monitoring.
- Repaired 78 blocks in the engineered material arresting system. Repainted entire system.
- Continued interaction with the Airport Advisory Committee.

Buildings Division

Dutchess County continued its “green” efforts in 2011 with numerous energy improvements and cost savings measures including:

Central Hudson with its partner, Alliance Energy (a Grainger company), invested approximately \$812,602.17 in a lighting retrofit project to reduce energy consumption throughout County facilities at **NO COST** to the County. **Projected recurring annual electrical cost savings are estimated by Alliance Energy to be about \$272,719.92**

Dutchess County and Dutchess Community College will save on electric costs in 2012 as a result of a recent bid and agreement with Hess Corporation. The County and the College locked in to a fixed kilowatt hour (KWh) price over a three-year term for the supply of electricity throughout its facilities and campus respectively. **First year savings for 2011/2012 will total more than \$178,000 for the County and nearly \$100,000 for the College when compared to last year's (2010/2011) electric costs.**

Energy Efficiency Improvement projects at various county facilities have been selected from recently completed Building Energy Audits. NYSERDA pre-qualified incentives are available for small, building-related improvements that increase energy efficiency with simple payback periods of 1 to 18 years (**approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000 in NYSERDA incentives for this scope**). These upgrade measures include lighting, chillers, HVAC, motors, and variable frequency drives (VFD's) with simple payback estimated at approximately 7 years.

As part of the \$2.3 million awarded to Dutchess County through the Federal Government's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) in 2009, HVAC upgrades and energy improvements were undertaken in the County Office Building to increase energy efficiency, reduce energy consumption and lower operating costs with the replacement of the building's Air Handling Units. The project is complete except for punch list items and annual energy savings are projected to approximately \$100,000. Additionally, the Energy Efficiency and Implementation Strategy coordination is now underway for the efficient tracking of energy savings.

E-911 Back-Up Facility in Poughkeepsie City Hall

DPW worked with Emergency Response, OCIS and the City of Poughkeepsie Police to design and construct the County E-911 Back-Up Center in the Poughkeepsie City Hall. The City procured all equipment and materials (except computers and cabling) and DPW provided design, scheduling, estimating and labor for the call center. The project was completed in September 2011.

Jail Electronic Security & Communication Systems and Rolling Gates (\$3,423,000)

The Design Development & Budget Report was submitted on 01 July 2010. The scope and cost figure of \$3,423,000 was submitted on behalf of the Sheriff as a bond resolution to the Legislature and approved. Project is currently underway with completion anticipated by 3rd quarter of 2012.

Engineering Division

The Engineering Division constructed or let 15 construction projects in 2011 totaling approximately \$5M construction cost. Fourteen of these fifteen projects are completed. The Division continues to successfully acquire federal and state reimbursements for work completed on eligible projects.

Projects completed or let in 2011 included the following:

- Bridge H-20 Replacement, CR 41 in Hyde Park, PIN 8755.81
- Bridge N-36 Replacement in Northeast, PIN 8754.02
- Bridge H-28 Replacement, Green Tree Drive over Crum Elbow Creek, Hyde Park
- Bridge H-9 Superstructure Replacement, CR 37 (North Cross Rd) over Crum Elbow Creek, Hyde Park
- Dutchess Rail Trail Stage 3 in East Fishkill, Wappinger, and LaGrange, PIN 8760.25
- Dutchess Rail Trail - Van Wyck Lane Parking Lot design (Construction completed by Highway Division)
- Hurricane Irene Emergency Roadway and Culvert Reconstruction including County Route 15 @ CR 52, CR 16, CR 19, CR 68, CR 82 and CR 56.
- DC Balefill Landfill Closure in Wappinger

- Quiet Cove Park Water System Component Installation
- ARRA-Funded Pavement/Shoulder Rehabilitation on 9.8 miles of highway, PIN 8759.79. Paving, drainage, and safety improvements were performed on CR 27, Lime Kiln Road in East Fishkill; CR 93, Myers Corners Road in Wappinger; CR 77, Vassar Road and CR 114, Main Street, in Poughkeepsie; and CR 35, Osborne Hill Road in Fishkill and Wappinger.
- Pavement/Shoulder Rehabilitation of 11.6 miles of highway
- Federally Funded Pavement Markings, PIN 8759.12
- Annual County Funded Pavement Marking Contract
- Annual Guide Rail replacement project (Design)
- Annual and on-call maintenance of County-owned Traffic signals

The Engineering Division also accomplished the following:

- Performed approximately 26 topographic surveys for current or future projects
- Performed 154 culvert inspections on county roads and town roads
- Processed over 150 highway work permits
- Continued to work successfully with overhead utility owners to relocate utility poles for improvements to roadside safety
- Reviewed approximately 37 subdivision and site plans under SEQRA
- Completed a federally reimbursable inventory of federal aid eligible local roads for the Planning Department
- Partially completed a federally mandated program of traffic signs improvements

The Division continued advancement of design of the County's large federally-aided highway and bridge program. Advancement of several projects was delayed due to reallocation of available future federal funding. The scarcity of Federal Transportation Funding, relative to the large number of projects programmed on our MPO's Transportation Improvement Program has caused delays in funding for ROW acquisition and construction phases on several of our programmed projects

Highway Construction & Maintenance Division

In 2011, the Division accomplished:

- Built a new parking lot for the Dutchess Rail Trail at Diddel Road in the Town of Wappinger
- Built a new parking lot for the Dutchess Rail Trail at Railroad Avenue in the Town of East Fishkill
- Built a new parking lot for the Dutchess Rail Trail at Van Wyck Lane in the Town of East Fishkill
- Built a new parking lot for the Dutchess Rail Trail at Titusville Road in the Town of LaGrange
- Installed 10 benches along the Dutchess Rail Trail in East Fishkill, Wappinger, and Poughkeepsie.
- Resurfaced approximately 25 lane miles of county highway with in-house forces
- Repaired extensive damage to roads and bridges from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee
- Cleared debris resulting from October 2011 snow storm, when 12"-16" of heavy wet snow fell across the county.
- Performed routine maintenance to dozens of pipes, catch basins and drainage ditches
- Cleared snow and ice along 300 centerline miles of county highway, and coordinated with 9 towns to clear snow and ice along 95 centerline miles of county highways.

Parks Division

Bowdoin Park was voted “Best Park” for the fifth straight year by the readers of *Hudson Valley* magazine and welcomed more than 90,000 visitors in 2011. Events hosted at Bowdoin Park included:

- April 30-May 1- Knights of Columbus Charity Softball Tournament Charity Event- over 1,000 attendees
- May 28,29,30- Native American Pow-Wow draws over 1,500 people
- June 5- Cystic Fibrosis Walk-a-thon draws over 1,000 people
- July - Town of Poughkeepsie Senior Picnic
- July/August- County run summer programs at Bowdoin and Wilcox at capacity
- July 20 - Dutchess County Senior Picnic
- August 30- Town Of Poughkeepsie Senior Picnic
- September 4- Marist Invitational track Meet
- September 10- Suny New Paltz Regional Track Meet- over 500 attendees
- September 17- CSEA picnic
- September 24- Dutchess County Officials Track Meet
- Oct 1- DCSPCA “Paws in the Park” Pet day- 1,000 people and their pets
- October 4- Coaches Invitational Track Meet – 1,000 spectators
- October 15-“Hearing Loss of America” - fundraising walk
- October 23- Dutchess County Sports Hall of Fame Track Meet
- October 28- Section 1 High School Championship Track Meet
- October 29- SUNY New Paltz Invitational - 10 SUNY schools- 2,000 attendees
- November 6- 2 Million Dogs- Cancer walkathon
- November 19- Federation Cup Track Meet- 2,500 spectators
- November 26- Nike Regional Track Meet- 2,000 spectators

Wilcox Park hosted the following events/activities in 2011:

- June 25- Health Quest Triathlon
- May 26 Swimming lake opens to public
- August 3- Senior Picnic
- June 24-25- Annual BMW Motorcycle Club Weekend- 150 attendees

Quiet Cove Park re-opened for the 2011 season on April 16 for the park’s first full spring/summer season. The park saw a huge increase in visitors during the season.

Dutchess Rail Trail was voted “Best Bike Trail” by the readers of *Hudson Valley* magazine in 2011 and experienced an incredible increase in usage with the opening of Phase 3 in May. The opening of Phase 3 created an 8 mile uninterrupted stretch from Hopewell Junction to Old Manchester road. Additional milestones for the Dutchess Rail Trail included:

- May- 14 Informational signs erected along trail
- June- Diddell Road parking lot opened
- November- Van Wyck Parking Lot opened –spaces for 125 cars

Harlem Valley Rail Trail was listed on the National Registry of walking trails by American Heart Association

Dutchess Stadium activities and events:

- K-Fest concert on June 5- over 8,000 attendees resulting in \$10,000 in revenue for the county
- Repaired roof from December snow storm and replaced damaged sheet rock and insulation
- Installed additional drainage outside clubhouse and on field
- Added additional lighting at inside of new Main Entryway
- Added privacy slats on entire perimeter fencing surrounding the stadium

State/Professional Association Memberships:

Steve Olsen, Parks Director: member of New York State Recreation and Park Society, National Recreation and Parks Association & the Hudson Valley Leisure Services Association.

Harold Petershagen, Park Manager: member of New York State Recreation and Park Society member.

Dave Beck, Park Naturalist: member of the New York State Outdoor Educators Association.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Department's mission is to assist the Emergency First Responders of Dutchess County and local municipalities to prepare and respond to natural and man-made emergencies in their communities. 2011 provided multiple opportunities to fulfill that mission and the department worked diligently to meet the needs of our communities particularly with the number of large scale incident responses and multiple EOC activations. A new leadership structure was initiated to build continuity across disciplines.

Emergency Management Division:

- Three full scale Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Activations in 2011.
- Coordinated the response to spring flooding, a hurricane, a tropical storm and a significant October snow storm.
- Received a Presidential Major Disaster declaration for Hurricane Irene.
- Assisted County government and local municipal agencies apply for funding as a result of two declared disasters. (December 26, 2010 snowstorm and Hurricane Irene).
- Assisted numerous local municipalities in the development of local emergency management plans.
- Received a new HazMat Response Vehicle-entirely grant funded.
- The Dutchess County HazMat team won its second consecutive New York State HazMat Challenge. This competition event recognizes the team's excellence in response competencies and secured free training for 2012.

Emergency Medical Services Division:

- Received a new Mass Casualty Incident Responses Trailer-entirely grant funded.
- Completed initial planning document for the Dutchess County Alternate Care Site Plan (ACS).
- Secured equipment for ACS plan in excess of \$ 50,000. Entirely grant funded.
- Participated in a complete rewrite of the County's Automated External Defibrillator program.

The Medical Reserve Corps, a component of the Emergency Medical Services Division, had the following accomplishments in 2011.

- Over 200 volunteers attended over 500 hours of education
- 120 volunteers provided 753 hours of volunteer time at County events

- Provided over 70 hours of preparedness training to residents of Dutchess County
- Received competitive grant awards from the John T. Sloper fund and the National Association of County and City Health Officials to support MRC programs.
- MRC Coordinator received the Clinical Excellence Award from New York State Nursing Association District 12.
- Representative on Health and Human Services national workgroup for the Office of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps of the US Surgeon General's Office.

Communications Division:

- Prepared the County for the "Narrowband" mandate for the FCC. Requires a total upgrade to the radios systems. This includes five separate radio systems, almost the entire purchase is grant funded.
- Developed a new radio system for the Dutchess County Sheriffs Office. The new radio simulcast system will utilize existing county radio system infrastructure and this entire project is grant funded.
- Upgraded radio consoles and dispatch computers which had been in operation since 1998.
- Installing a new state of the art radio and telephone recording system. This system will assist the department in meeting the unique and changing communication needs of our society. The Dutchess County 911 Communications Center is capable of receiving nontraditional communications.
- Collaborated with the City of Poughkeepsie on a complete renovation and expansion of the backup 911 Communication site.

911 Communications Center:

- Successful completion of the training of four new Public Safety Dispatchers, adding needed staff to each dispatching group to improve efficiencies and minimize overtime expense.
- Hiring of three new Public Safety Dispatchers in July of 2011. These trainees underwent a new training schedule, which allowed them to complete the training in a more efficient manner. Training time was reduced by five months. This allows the department to greatly reduce unexpected overtime. Additionally, the 911 Communications Center is better equipped to meet the needs of the community.
- 911 Communication Center staff developed a solution to addressing the Dutchess Rail Trail. Allowing *Phase II* wireless technology to request for assistance to this heavily visited Dutchess County Park.
- Developed a competency based training curriculum for all 911 Communication Center positions. This will ensure staff have received and demonstrated the required skill sets.
- Developed a new process to complete Quality Improvement on 911 Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) protocols to adjust for the elimination of the full-time EMD position in 2010.
- In response to Hurricane Irene, over 3,000 requests for service from the community were processed in a 48 hour period. This was a record number of requests, a record to be broken in October.
- In response to the October snowfall the Center processed over 4,000 requests for service from the community in a 48 hour period, setting a new record number of requests.
- Received over 162,000 phone calls for assistance and dispatched 127,014 calls for service for emergency services in Dutchess County.

Fire Rescue Division:

- The Training Center saw its greatest use ever. Over 8,500 Fire and EMS professionals attended educational sessions on the Emergency Response campus in 2011.

- A new “roof simulator” was constructed by BOCES students in 2011, providing an excellent training prop at limited expense to the taxpayers.
- Continued ongoing maintenance of Training Center grounds providing emergency services with an excellent facility.
- The Fire Investigation Team responded to 41 separate incidents in 2011.
- Coordinated with New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control (NYSOFPC) in response to Hurricane Irene. Assisted in deploying five Dutchess County Fire Departments to four different counties.
- Cooperating with the NYSOFPC, the department was able to demonstrate the need for additional State Fire Instructors. In 2011, NYSOFPC hired three additional instructors; bringing the number of 10 to its highest level ever in Dutchess County. This will significantly improve the number of students trained and allowed response professionals to be as prepared and capable.

OFFICE OF PROBATION AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The primary goal of the department is to ensure community safety through recidivism reduction. The department has continued to advance this ultimate objective by implementing evidence-based practices based on scientific research. The department also has a commitment to assist victims of crime.

Over the past several years, the department embarked on a systematic plan to implement these practices by introducing actuarial assessments (based on risk level (to recidivate) and criminogenic need. Supervision strategies were designed to address risk and need. Special populations also were considered: DWI, sex offenders, individuals with mental health/substance abuse issues and domestic violence.

In 2011, the Office of Probation and Community Corrections:

- Partnered with the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services and Division of Criminal Justice Services to begin discussion on promising approaches to creating science-based, system-level transformation for dealing with individuals with substance abuse issues in the criminal justice system. Albany, Dutchess and Ulster counties were selected to participate in this project by DCJS—Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives. The ultimate goal is to develop a model that can be implemented by the rest of the state and nationally.
- Dutchess was one of several counties asked to participate in the development of a statewide detention risk assessment instrument. Dutchess was selected because of our commitment to improving and reforming the juvenile justice system and the steps already undertaken in this process, including the use of an actuarial assessment instrument, the YASI, the development of a pretrial program for juveniles, collaboration that already existed and a database that could be used to assist the research. A stakeholders meeting was held in August, 2011 as the first step in the development process.
- Continued to see positive results from juvenile justice innovations: 33% reduction in juvenile out of home placements.
- Began to experience the full impact of Leandra’s Law, mandating the installation of ignition interlock devices in vehicles owned or operated by individuals convicted of misdemeanor or felony DWI offenses. This has resulted in additional duties for probation personnel, but the department has

been able to remain in compliance with the new regulations. The fact that the department had created a separate DWI Unit several years ago (as part of the evidence-based restructuring process) enhanced ability to meet the new requirements. Still, staff resources are stretched to meet the additional requirements.

- Working in collaboration with other law enforcement, criminal justice and service providers, participated in enhancing the county's response to domestic violence incidents, particularly in high risk cases, as part of a High Risk Response Model. Engaged in training to identify and respond to potentially lethal cases.
- Served on statewide workgroup to revise probation supervision rules; align them with evidence-based practices. After mandatory review period, these rules will be adopted in 2012. Departmental training will follow.
- Signed an MOU with the Research Foundation for Mental Hygiene, Inc. to engage in a pilot program "From the Probation System to the Mental Health System: Understanding Youth Uptake and Engagement in Services." Project is in conjunction with Columbia University, NYS Psychiatric Institute and the NYS Office of Mental Health. Purpose is to describe Probation-Mental Health collaboration and cross-system referrals and those factors that influence successful collaboration and understand needs of probation youth and whether those needs are being met.
- Engaged in a study with Columbia University "A Family-Based HIV/STI Prevention Intervention for Youth on Probation." Study will continue into 2012.
- Continued curfew monitoring program after brief interruption due to lack of funding. Program has been embraced by parents, judges and others in system. It provides an intermediate step in the juvenile justice system.
- Further expanded use of Transitional Housing to include probationers from Community Transitions Program in need of structured, supportive housing.
- Focused on quality assurance by researching best practice models and adapting to department. Enhanced Quality Assurance process (already had QA team) by creating several workgroups for review and recommendations. Teams include: Dispositional Review, Violations, Sanctions/Incentives and Staff Development. Increased peer review of department processes by including staff at all levels.
- Staff Development Committee will plan and oversee extensive training needed in 2012 with the implementation of the new supervision rule.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

The Public Defender's Office provided legal assistance in more than 7,240 cases in 2011, an increase of approximately 10% over 2010. Overall arrests across all jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies in Dutchess County trended downward in 2011. It appears that a higher percentage of those arrested are qualifying for the services of the public defender than in previous years.

SERVICES for AGING, VETERANS and YOUTH (SAVY)

County government restructuring in 2011 created the new Department of Services for Aging, Veterans and Youth (SAVY), with separate divisions focusing on the specific needs of seniors, veterans and youth. Throughout 2011, the three divisions took affirmative steps to work together while maintaining their individual focus on the three constituencies as required by state and federal funders.

Two “Meet and Greet” sessions were held early in 2011 for staff of each division to learn about the others’ missions, programs, activities and service delivery system.

Also during the year, Youth and Veterans participated in the Aging Services Division picnic program conducting outreach activities as well as presenting information on services. Additionally, Veterans and Aging both took part in training provided by their state agencies focusing on the each other’s services.

Division of Aging Services

2010 Census Data

The release of the 2010 Census data showed Dutchess County’s senior population continues to grow. The following are some key facts regarding the County’s senior population:

- In 2010, there were 57,062 residents of Dutchess County over age 60, compared to 44,660 residents in 2000, a 20% increase in the age 60+ share of the population;
- Dutchess County’s total population grew 6.55% between 2000 and 2010, but the age 60 and over population grew by 27.77%; and
- Not only has the growth in the senior population far outpaced the growth in the overall Dutchess County population, but the growth of the older senior population has been remarkable as well. The age 85 and over population jumped 36.44% between the 2000 and 2010 census.

This data is reflected in the numbers of long term care intakes received and the growth in this area. Between 2010 and 2011, Aging Services experienced a 12% increase in the number of intakes received.

Client Demographics

Aging Services provides core services to the most vulnerable of the county’s elderly population. Such services include home care, home delivered meals, adult day care, nutrition counseling, legal services and transportation. The following paints a picture of these clients:

- 75% are frail or disabled
- 62% are over the age of 75
- 30% are over the age of 85
- A majority are isolated, with 42% living alone and 31% being rural
- 47% of clients have been assessed to be at High Nutrition Risk
- All Medicaid clients are low income and of those clients who are not Medicaid eligible, 30% of clients receiving in-home services are low income

Service Impact

Over 12,000 people were served last year in the full spectrum of services offered by the Division of Aging Services. The mission of the agency is to provide community based services and serve as an advocate for seniors and others in the long term care system.

Service Detail

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Home Delivered Meals served | 113,671 |
| Congregate Meals served | 37,625 |
| Case Management hours (Medicaid) | 5,108 |
| Case Management hours (Non Medicaid) | 6,759 |
| Home Care hours (Non Medicaid) | 32,656 |
| Transportation* (one way trips) | 28,463 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Respite hours to Caregivers of Seniors | 4,851 |
| Respite hours to Grandparents Raising Grandchildren | 752 |
| Adult Day Care hours | 1,178 |
| Personal Emergency Response Systems clients | 391 |
| Legal Assistance | 579 hours for 204 clients |
| Nutrition Counseling | 128 hours for 60 clients |
| Nutrition Education | 12,208 units for 1210 clients |
| Energy Assistance (primarily HEAP applications) | 1,597 units |
| Senior Center Recreation and Education | 1,525 events for 2480 clients |
| Health Promotion (Senior Exercise, Brain Games, Screenings) | 52,448 units for 1668 individuals |
| Insurance Counseling during open enrollment period | 1,177 clients assisted |
| Intakes received for long term care information and referral | 3,097 Intakes |
| Information and Assistance | 61,139 contacts |
| Volunteer Services | 310 volunteers for 38,448 hours |
| Web Site Activity | 144,854 web hits |
| Caregiver Workshops, Training, Counseling and Support Groups | 1,340 sessions |
| In Home Contact and Support provided by volunteers (includes Friendly Visiting, Shopping Assistance, Telephone Reassurance, Volunteer Respite) | 2,065 hours for 41 individuals |

**(Dial A Ride removed for 4thQ 2010)*

Needs Assessment

In 2011, the Division of Aging Services completed its federal and state required Needs Assessment. The Needs Assessment relies on a number of data sources, including surveys of seniors, caregivers, and those in the aging and long term care network. For the 2011 report, a remarkable 2125 surveys were completed by Dutchess County senior citizens alone, thanks to extensive outreach and assistance from community partners and service providers.

Senior survey results were tabulated by zip code in order that localities and community agencies may access reported needs for their own regions in the county. Further, results were also tabulated by age and income in order to further provide insight into the needs of target groups.

Based on the data received, the five greatest areas of unmet need for the senior population in Dutchess County include the following:

- Transportation
- Understanding health insurance/Medicare
- Keeping up with medical costs
- Knowing where to obtain information about services and benefits
- Household chores and maintenance

Additional Achievements for 2011:

- Intake and Outreach Units were merged, streamlining the process for those receiving basic information about services and accessing benefits and services.
- The New York State Office for the Aging, in its Annual Evaluation, which monitors compliance with state and federal requirements, gave the division high marks, once again issuing no compliance problem findings and praising the county and the Aging Services staff and subcontractors for

innovative and high quality services. New York State also praised the agency for a number of best practices including emergency preparedness

- Several walking groups for seniors were initiated in 2011. These groups meet weekly on the Dutchess County Rail Trail and the Walkway Over the Hudson.
- The Community Living Program, where Dutchess was one of six counties in the state selected to participate, has served to provide those at risk of nursing home placement and Medicaid spend-down, with goods and services designed to maintain them in the community and prevent or delay them from needing to access Medicaid.

State/Professional Association Memberships:

Aging Services Director Mary Kaye Dolan was elected to the Board of the New York State Association of Area Agencies on Aging after just ten months in the position, another indicator of our statewide stature.

Division of Veterans Services

The Dutchess County Division of Veterans Services mission is to provide benefits counseling and advocacy for Dutchess County's 19,500 plus veterans and their survivors, and members of the active duty military.

In 2011, Veteran Services had 10,888 contacts and rendered 13,338 services to the veteran community.

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) reports over \$36,995,000 came into the county from the following veterans programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disability; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for non-service-connected disabilities; education, vocational rehabilitation/employment, burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.

The DVA also reports for Dutchess County an additional \$59,547,000.00 in medical care expenditures which includes dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, etc.

Aggressive outreach to veterans and families is done by being out in the community, where veterans are, attending Division of Aging Services Senior Socials in towns and villages throughout Dutchess County, Community Day Celebrations/Fairs, and working with our local National Guard Unit.

In 2011, the division partnered with the County Highway Division and the VA Hospital Volunteer Services Assistant Chief to set up a system where the VA could park their vans at a County Facility convenient for their volunteer drivers in order to more effectively and resourcefully transport veterans at great distances from the VA Hospital to their scheduled appointments.

In March of 2011, the Dutchess County Clerk and Veteran Services rolled out the F.A.V.O.R. (Find and Assist Veterans of Record) Discount Program. This program has enabled the Division to reach out to more than 1,700 veterans, which has resulted in scores of veterans utilizing the services provided by our office for the first time. More than 150 businesses have signed up to offer discounts to local veterans. Several evening outreaches have been conducted to include rural areas of the county to facilitate veterans applying for their FAVOR Card. These outreaches provide an opportunity for veterans and their families to meet with us to provide them with information on services that are available to them.

In November, the division hosted its sixth annual 'Dutchess County Veterans Appreciation Day' with over thirty Federal, State, local government agencies, veterans organizations, etc., present to provide information on benefits and programs available to county veterans. Almost 300 veterans and family members attended. Three veterans and a widow (of a World War II veteran) were presented with their long overdue medals, ribbon and badges.

We attend seminars and conferences provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, American Legion, New York State County Veteran's Service Officers Association and New York State Division of Veterans Affairs to make certain we are current with the frequently changing issues affecting the veterans' community. We attend meeting with the American Legion Department Service Officer and staff at the New York Regional Office monthly in order to discuss changes in the system and work on complicated and delayed cases affecting our veterans and their families.

Some of the events the Division of Veterans Services participated/attended include:

- Participated in Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery in association with SEMPER FI Parents of the Hudson Valley
- Active with the 727th Military Police/Law & Order Detachment of the New York National Guard Family Readiness Group, regularly attending their monthly drill weekend. Also assisted in preparation and serving home cooked meals and speaking to veterans on their benefits.
- Hosted a food drive with the 'Food Fights for Vet's organization at Veterans Appreciation Day event.
- Attended Leadership Summit with VA Hudson Valley Health Care System management staff to discuss how to best serve our veterans.
- Attended meetings of the New York State Industry for the Disabled (NYSID – Preferred Sources Solutions) to ensure the needs of disabled veterans seeking employment, education etc. are heard, and to share what we and other Service Officers from across the state can offer the organization.
- Re-established monthly Outreach to unemployed veterans in collaboration with the NYS Department of Labor.
- Presented "A Salute To Our Veterans", a Live Radio Broadcast featuring Big Band Music at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home in Hyde Park, NY on 11/11/11, as part of a group venture with the Sound of Life Radio Network, Hyde Park Chamber of Commerce and area businesses.

Community involvement and association with numerous organizations help to convey positive outlook of what the DC Division of Veterans Services can accomplish for our county veterans and their families in relationship to their issues and concerns. This has resulted in many of the agencies in Dutchess County ensuring once an individual is recognized as having served in the military they are referred to our office to ensure they are fully aware of their benefits and assisted in filing for the appropriate assistance.

State/Professional Association Memberships:

- Member of the Governor's New York State Council on Returning Veterans and Their Families
- Member of the Dutchess County Local Workforce Investment Board
- Member of the Dutchess County Long Term Care Council
- Member of the Dutchess County Housing Consortium
- American Legion; serving as Dutchess County American Legion Service Officer
- Member of the Plattekill Veterans Committee
- Fleet Reserve Association
- Veterans of Foreign Wars

- VA Hudson Valley Health Care System, Castle Point; serving on the Directors Veteran Advisory Counsel, Patient Satisfaction Review Committee and Women Veterans Health Committee
- Latinos Unidos of the Hudson Valley, Board Member and Veteran Representative, 2011 - present

Division of Youth Services

The Division of Youth Services administers state funding for special delinquency prevention programs, youth development delinquency prevention programs, local municipal recreation and service grants; monitors and evaluates all funded programs both programmatically and fiscally; provides free short term counseling for youth experiencing family and/or school difficulties; offers professional training on youth development issues and “hot topics” like bullying prevention, bias awareness and diversity, conflict resolution, and child development; and operates the Dutchess County Youth Council, our youth leadership and empowerment council for the county’s high school aged teens.

2011 Youth Services Accomplishments

- Funded seven municipal recreation programs with NYS OCFS Funding (\$27,026)
- Funded seven municipal service programs with NYS OCFS Funding (\$25,239)
- Funded four non-profit agency programs with NYS OCFS Special Delinquency Prevention Program Funding (\$73,528)
- Funded three non-profit agency programs with NYS OCFS Youth Development Delinquency Prevention Initiative Funding (\$32,674)
- Funded the Hudson River Housing Shelter and Independent Living Programs with NYS OCFS Runaway Homeless Youth Act Funding (\$107,584) and County funding (\$21,844)
- Funded three non-profit agency programs with NYS OCFS Youth Development Delinquency Prevention Recreation Funding (\$39,707)
- Funded five non-profit agency programs NYS OCFS Youth Development Delinquency Prevention Service Funding (\$59,600)
- Funded two non-profit programs with County funding:
 - Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H Program (\$150,000)
 - Voluntary Action Center Youth Services Program (\$10,003)

Youth Council 2010-2011

The Youth Council had approximately 39 members representing ten high schools (nine public and one private) throughout the county for the academic year 2010-2011.

Each year, Youth Council members engage in a variety of community service projects that interest them and hear speakers teach on topics they want to learn more about. A few of our activities are listed below:

- Attended “Youth Leadership & Empowerment” Youth Forum at DC BOCES in October.
- Fall Retreat on Nov. 7th at Tymor Park, Unionvale with leadership training on public speaking by Jill Michele Sawick, Youth Services.
- Partnered with Semper Fi and created handmade Holiday cards which were mailed to troops in Iraq.
- A few members attended the Legislative Budget hearings regarding Youth Services.
- Collected donations for the Red Cross Japan Earthquake Relief Fund.
- Served dinner at the Lunch Box for over 75 people
- Collected personal hygiene items for River Haven programs.

The following Guest speakers/topics were presented to the Youth Council:

- Social Networking and How to Use it For Jobs, College and Keeping up with World News presented by Scott Jarzombek, Adriance Library
- Teen Dating Violence and Date Rape presented by Kat Raynor, Battered Women’s Services
- Bullying in Schools and the Anti Bullying Pledge presented by Jill Michele Sawick, Youth Services
- Teens who Live on Their Own and River Haven Services presented by Jennifer Jones, River Haven Independent Living program
- Court Issues and Teens presented by Judge Heather Kitchen, Town of Wappinger

Youth Forum 2011

- 82 students and 29 adults attended held on October 20th at BOCES Salt Point Campus.
- Theme was on Bullying and Diversity issues
- The evaluations were very positive.

Youth Services Unit Highlights 2011

As of December 31, 2011, YSU provided the following services:

COUNSELING SERVICES:

General counseling cases open: 175
PINS Diversion counseling cases: 17
JD Diversion counseling cases: 35
TOTAL COUNSELING CASES: 227

At closure:

89% reported improvement/linkages in place
77% reported improvement/linkages in place
90% reported improvement/linkages in place

COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Workshops presented: 27
Total in attendance: 1976
Youth in attendance: 1229
Adults in attendance: 747

Some topics included Diversity & Bias Awareness; Anti Bullying; Anger Management & Conflict Resolution; Meditation & Stress Reduction; Holiday Blues; Talking to Kids; and Youth Services.

Audiences included the following groups: Youth from Linden Avenue Middle School (Red Hook), Orville A. Todd Middle School (Spackenkill), Van Wyck Junior High School (Wappingers), Hudson River Housing River Haven Independent Living Support Program, members of S.A.D.D. chapters present at C.A.P.E.S.’ fall conference, the Dutchess County Youth Council, students (and school personnel) present at the 3rd Annual Youth Forum, counselors in training and staff of Hyde Park and Town of Poughkeepsie summer recreation programs, young campers and their staff at East Fishkill Summer Recreation.

State/Professional Association Memberships and Committees:

Enhanced Coordinated Children’s Services Initiative, Tiers 1 & 2
Children’s Providers Committee
Juvenile Justice Committee; Court-Involved Youth Committee; Workforce Investment Board; and Northeast Networking Coalition, and Safe Schools Roundtable of Dutchess County.

MENTAL HYGIENE

In 2011, the Dutchess County public mental hygiene system served approximately 20,000 persons and provided over 497,000 services.

The major accomplishments during the year are as follows:

Positions

Began 2011 with 28 fewer staff than was budgeted in 2010 and ended the year with 28 additional positions slotted for elimination in 2012.

Open Access

Open Access was implemented throughout all clinic treatment programs for both adults and children, making treatment more accessible than ever before.

Trauma Team

The Trauma Team responded to community events 39 times in 2011 for an all time high. The interventions ranged from debriefing ICU nurses at Vassar Brothers Hospital after a City of Poughkeepsie policeman was shot to death to assisting both students and faculty in the Red Hook, Pawling and Poughkeepsie school districts after acts of violence, including suicide and attempted murder.

HELPLINE

In 2011, HELPLINE answered 25,873 calls, 1,118 more than 2010; almost half of the calls were made by people in acute crisis.

NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH)

OMH's Clinic Restructuring was fully implemented in all public mental health clinics.

Mansion Street Clinic

In DMH's Mansion Street Clinic, the census tripled from 100 to over 300 and centralized scheduling was introduced to increase staff efficiency.

Transition of Continuing Day Treatment Programs

DMH continued in the transition of its Continuing Day Treatment program to Occupations, Inc. (OI), with the transfer being completed on or before April 1, 2012. In its place, OI will develop a Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) Program.

Recovery Center

OMH awarded DMH an additional \$250,000 per annum to develop and maintain a Recovery Center aimed at supporting seriously mentally ill individuals in their recovery process. This program will be contracted out to PEOPLE, Inc. and Independent Living, Inc., who together have been identified to implement the program in Dutchess County.

Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS) Program

DMH worked with Mental Health America in Dutchess County, Inc. in the planning and recent opening (January 3, 2012) of the first PROS Program in Dutchess County, which is located on Main Street in the City of Beacon.

Intensive Treatment Alternatives Program (ITAP)

ITAP continues to be a core program in the outpatient rehabilitation of persons who have contact with the County's criminal justice system. According to the NYS Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services' (OASAS) "Score Card" for all licensed programs, ITAP continued to meet or exceed the average statewide rating; this, despite the fact that the level of measured "patient dysfunction" was higher in most categories compared to other comparable programs statewide.

In 2011, the ITAP Program continued to receive grant funding from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. ITAP has received over \$130,000 a year since its inception 21 years ago in 1990.

Jail-Based Mental Health Services

The 2011 survey of females in the Dutchess County Jail found that 81% of the incarcerated women had a history of treatment for a mental disorder and 33% were diagnosed as seriously mentally ill. The results of the survey were presented to the Chemical Dependency Providers Committee and to the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council.

HEALTH

The year 2011 once again presented many challenges for the department, yet we continued to meet those challenges in carrying out our mission to protect and promote the health of Dutchess County residents.

Maintaining Public Health Preparedness

In 2011 the department revised and updated our Public Health Emergency Response Plans which were submitted to the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response as an annex to the Dutchess County Comprehensive Emergency Response Plan. These detailed plans follow the framework for an All Hazards response as noted below:

1. Community Mitigation and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions
2. Risk Communication and Public Information
3. Epidemiology and Laboratory Surveillance
4. Prevention of Disease through Medical Countermeasure Distribution

In August 2011, the department planned and implemented a scaled response to Hurricane Irene, utilizing the Health Annex of the Dutchess County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). The department worked to control and respond to the health effects of the hurricane through the use of risk communication strategies and outreach to particularly vulnerable and at risk populations. The department also provided representation at the County Emergency Operations Center to provide public health nurses and environmental sanitarians and engineers to respond to public health needs as necessary.

In order to continually update, train and educate staff, numerous programs were offered. Twenty members of the Collaborative Outbreak Response team (COrE) team, which encompasses representatives from all divisions, completed 5 week on line course entitled "Field Epidemiology 201: Practical Skills in Outbreak Investigation.

The course definitely enhanced the ability of staff to respond to various outbreaks that presented themselves. In 2011 our Communicable Disease Division in conjunction with Environmental, Nursing and

Health Planning, investigated several outbreaks that included Pertussis, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, and Norovirus (gastrointestinal disease). Preventive treatments were all recommended and if in a school setting, letters to parents and staff were drafted and additionally appropriate public health advisories and/or alerts were sent to health care providers. A few of these were:

- Pertussis was one that was identified in early spring which involved a multi-county athletic competition. This resulted in 2 confirmed cases and recommendation for preventive treatment of over 70 persons
- In an overnight summer camp hosting 60 boys – with 1 child duly infected with Pertussis and Mycoplasma pneumoniae – 50 boys were recommended preventive treatment
- In the fall of Mycoplasma with three schools experiencing clusters. One school had over 20 cases over a 6 week period with 3 of them needing hospitalization.

The Medical Examiner, as part of emergency preparedness, purchased a refrigerated morgue trailer for storing bodies in the event of a multiple fatality incident, made possible through grant funding.

Immunization Clinics and Drills

In 2011 the Adult Immunization and Screening Clinic was initiated, merging several clinics together making it easier and more convenient. It also enabled a more efficient use of staff time and resources. The Department again received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to provide adult vaccines to the public free of charge, 291 doses of Tdap and 197 doses of Gardasil were provided.

The department worked on the planning of the 11th annual Mid-Hudson Adult Immunization Coalition Meeting held in Sullivan County where over 100 officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and other Local Health Departments attended in order to raise awareness and inspire new initiatives to prevent vaccine preventable illness and disease.

In 2011 the department offered five seasonal flu clinics throughout DC with approximately 400 residents receiving flu vaccine. Additionally 2 point of dispensing (POD) drills were done in conjunction with the MRC in November. The drill focused on the use of a NYSDOH online pre registration system known as Clinical Data Management System (CDMS). Staff was also able to test another function of CDMS, by entering patient data at the POD in real time through the NYSDOH Health Commerce System (HCS).

Finally, the department instituted a tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) promotion campaign to address the dramatic increase in diagnosed pertussis, also known as whooping cough, in infants. The goal is to get those in closest contact with infants to become vaccinated in order to prevent the disease from occurring.

Chronic Disease Prevention

The **Dutchess County PAD Program** has 27 PAD sites, with a total of 46 Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) located throughout DC Government buildings, an increase of 2 sites as compared to last year. The number of AEDs were also increased in 2011 as follows: Department of Emergency Services, 392 Creek Road - Two (2), Dept of Mass Transit –One (1), Dept of Public Works Highway Business and Engineering – One (1), District Attorney’s Office – One (1)

Each PAD site has a Site Representative to assist with maintenance of the AEDs. There are currently 337 certified responders at the 27 sites. AED/CPR drills are conducted quarterly at the various locations followed by a review of CPR and AED protocols.

The **HEART Safe program** promotes and supports CPR training in the community, Public access to defibrillation through strategic placement of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) for use by public safety professionals and other trained community members, early advanced care, and increase of out of hospital survival rate. In 2011, Hudson Valley Pop Warner in LaGrange was the newest organization designated *HEARTSafe*, bringing the total of community and municipal organization designations to 55.

The **Nutrition/Diabetes and Physical Activity** programs are offered to healthcare professionals, schools, seniors and community residents to increase awareness and promote healthier lifestyle choices. Sixty-five sessions from preschool to middle school were given to over 1,200 students and 7 programs to over 1,100 senior citizens on programs such as: *Portion Distortion, Munchies and Movement, Healthy Eating MyPyramid, and Diabetes Guidelines*. Additionally *Diabetes Awareness Sunday*, a five minute educational awareness program is offered to faith based congregants in November.

In collaboration with Health Quest, an Obesity conference was held to address this major public health issue. Over 70 healthcare professionals, school personnel and community organizations attended. 2011 also afforded the training of 112 doctors, pediatric nurses and school teachers training to use with children and parents to promote healthy eating and physical activity.

Poughkeepsie Plenty, a collaborative effort with the Poughkeepsie Farm Project, received an FDA grant, to assess the food security and choices residents make in the City of Poughkeepsie. Interns working at the DOH along with DOH staff conducted surveys within the community to assess food security and food choices. A total of approx 320 surveys were done and will be analyzed by the biostatisticians.

The Great Halloween Candy Exchange is designed to help reduce the obesity epidemic in children and promote healthier choices. The Health Department, along with Fishkill Allsport, Children's Medical group, Learning Insights and The Literacy Connection held the 6th annual event where children can donate their candy in exchange for books, fun passes etc. Approximately 2,000 pounds of candy were shipped to military personnel on a USS aircraft carrier in the middle of the Indian Ocean and to troops in Afghanistan in 2011.

In order to increase awareness for parents and caregivers regarding childhood injuries and how to prevent them, the DOH promoted the New York State Department of Health's campaign **Injury-free Kids**, which was placed on our website.

Maternal Child Health

In 2011, the Department of Health made over 1,100 visits, assisting more than 500 mothers, infants and children enrolled in the maternal child health home visiting program. Education about childhood growth & development, positive parenting skills, breast feeding, injury prevention and the importance of having a primary physician for themselves and their children. Public Health Nurses focus heavily on prevention of injury protection from Shaken Baby Syndrome, SIDS, and Second Hand Smoke, early identification of Children with Special Health Care Needs and also provided education about healthy eating patterns, dental health and health activity to address the growing problem of childhood obesity.

In addition, Public Health Nurses work closely with the Department of Social Services Foster Care Program to provide developmental screening and follow up for children ages birth to 3 years to insure they have adequate medical care and immunizations.

The DCDOH continues to be an active partner with local hospitals, health care providers and community based organizations to promote maternal child health initiatives such as:

- *Dutchess County Breastfeeding Coalition* to raise awareness about the benefits of breastfeeding. The department participated in the 5th Annual Breastfeeding Awareness Walk in August with over 350 participants to raise public awareness breastfeeding benefits.
- *Vassar Brothers Medical Center Care Center* - to provide home visiting services and education to pregnant and postpartum women and infants
- *Hudson River Health Care* - to provide home visiting services and education to pregnant and post partum women and infants.
- *Dutchess County Healthy Families* - to provide training and consultation for family support workers in childhood growth and development and breastfeeding education and support services
- *Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network* – a network of health care and human services providers who meet regularly about maternal child health issues. The department participates in an Annual Community Health Education Day (CHED) event planned annually to educate pregnant and parenting families on a specific health topic
- *HCAP* - a network of individuals working together to increase access to care - the department often uses this venue to provide education on public health topics such as lead poisoning prevention and childhood and adult immunizations.

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs** program is delivered through the public health nursing division and provides valuable information to families regarding particular health issues and to serve as a source of information regarding support systems available in our community. **Physical Handicapped Children's Program** provides financial assistance to parents of physically handicapped children. The goal of these programs is to improve access to care and services, assist with linkages to insurance coverage and insure a medical home. This year, the Children with Special Health Care Needs program serviced 26 families and the Physical Handicapped Children's Program serviced 27 families.

Under this program, the public health nursing division partnered with "Parent to Parent", a statewide not for profit organization established to support and connect families of children with special health care needs, to deliver a successful program called the "Notebook Training". This program was conducted in June of 2011 at the Eastern Dutchess Government Center where parents attended and learned how to better organize complicated medical records and information for their child to facilitate improved communication with physicians and health care providers and also to promote parental advocacy for their child in navigating the health care delivery system. This program was so well received by the community, the department will be conducting additional programs in 2012.

Early Intervention (EI) and Preschool Special Education Programs

The **Early Intervention Program** enrolled 1078 infants and toddlers with disabilities this year and worked to help them reach their developmental milestones where possible by providing special instruction, speech and motor therapy services and parent training.

At the start of 2011, seven employees from the Public Health Nursing Unit were re-assigned to the Administration Unit and Early Intervention Program. The new team made changes in transition (from EI

to Preschool) procedures to achieve 100% compliance with transition regulations as determined by NYSDOH Bureau of Early Intervention. The new team also participated in an IPRO audit with few findings that were quickly corrected and accepted by NYSDOH. The NYS web based management system called NYEIS went live on April 1st and has presented many challenges to all counties that are still in the process of trying to be resolved.

The **Preschool Special Education** program provides evaluations and services for children ages three through five who have disabilities that affect their ability to achieve in an educational setting. Approximately 1500 children each year receive evaluations, special education instruction, speech and motor therapies and counseling in special education preschool programs or at home or in daycare. Approximately half the children who receive preschool services do not require further service once they become school aged and are able to attend regular education programs along side their typically developing peers.

Communicable Disease Control Division (CDCD)

In 2011, **tick-borne infections** such as Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Ehrlichiosis, and Powassan virus remained the focus of Dutchess County Department of Health education and prevention efforts. By the end of 2011, Dutchess County will most likely surpass 80 reported cases of Babesiosis. Cases of Anaplasmosis/Ehrlichiosis remain high. There were no confirmed cases of Powassan virus this year. Although these infections are not as numerous as Lyme, they are potentially life threatening and can result in significant long term neurologic effects.

The Dutchess County Department of Health continues to collaborate on a National Science Foundation grant with Bard College to study vector transmission of Anaplasmosis. The grant funding was used to sponsor the “Not Just Lyme: part 2” Physician’s Conference in June 2011 which approximately 80 local providers attended. DOH was able to present the findings of the study given to physicians and other healthcare providers in 2010, regarding their knowledge on treatment and management practices and assessment of their needs. The data and final report, which was compiled, analyzed, and written by our biostatisticians and college interns, was completed and placed on the DC website in 2011.

The Department continues to promote awareness of Lyme disease and prevention in our schools. One way is through our “Be Tick Free” campaign. All school district superintendents are provided information on the annual **Fight the Bite Poster** campaign, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In June, a 6th grader from LaGrange Middle School was named the New York State winner of this nationwide campaign. This is the second consecutive year a Dutchess County student has won.

The **Tuberculosis Control program** has faced some challenges in 2011. Tuberculosis is becoming more complicated to treat, due to drug resistance with individuals requiring more intensive long term treatment and case management. In 2011, there were 4 cases of active TB, a reduction from 12 cases reported in 2010 (2 of the cases from 2010 did continue all of 2011), 7 TB suspect cases required extensive investigation, and 69 individuals were treated for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

The **HIV Control Program** had 41 new cases of HIV infection reported in DC for 2011, a 150% increase from 2010.

The County’s HIV control program invested in the strategy Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended (prior to the 2010 HIV testing mandate that public health case finding efforts be

transitioned to persons who were HIV infected as opposed to a broad spectrum outreach) approach by placing all staffing resources into education and assistance to providers who diagnose new cases of HIV infection. Case finding and contact tracing efforts were concentrated on the interviewing and education of HIV positive persons as opposed to targeting persons at high risk for infection. Through these efforts, Partner Services staff has identified and located nearly 60 persons who have been exposed to HIV.

Staff conducted rapid testing for HIV in the field. Access to care and additional referral services were arranged for all persons found to be infected with HIV. Finding and treating new cases of HIV infection has proven to be the best way to successfully stop the spread of HIV infection and disease.

Lead Primary Prevention

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Program is a collaborative effort mainly between Environmental Health Services division (EHSD) and Public Health Nursing division (PHND). EHSD staff conduct evaluations for lead hazards of all properties where a child with an elevated blood lead level spends time; PHND do follow up, blood level testing surveillance, case management to children and prenatal women with elevated blood levels, outreach and education.

Of the 63 children in DC reported with elevated blood lead levels, 25 met the criteria of 15mcg/dL which required EHSD investigation. In 2011, 34 environmental investigations were done and staff educated the property owner on the results of the investigation, outlined the local, state and federal regulations to be followed in eliminating the lead hazards, and followed up with field visits and inspections until the lead hazards have been mitigated. The PHND made 80 public health nursing visits to provide education and case management services.

This is the third year of the collaboration with the DCDOH and the City of Poughkeepsie for the **Lead Primary Prevention program**. City of Poughkeepsie homes in the 12601, which the New York State Department of Health has identified as the zip code with the highest annual incidence of Blood Lead Level (BLL) in Dutchess County are targeted.

Effective in April 2010, all contractors, painters, plumbers, electricians and landlords were required to attend training in Lead Safety prior to conducting any work activities on residential units built before 1978. As part of the Lead Primary Prevention Program, the DOH has collaborated with DC BOCES to manage and run classes in the US Environmental Protection Agency's Lead Safety for Remodeling, Repair and Painting. Consequently the county has been able to defray the cost of tuition for DC property owners and businesses. The first class in Spanish is being offered and is scheduled for early 2012.

Education and outreach were conducted throughout 2011 on lead poisoning prevention. Through the PHN division, educational outreach was done monthly at WIC and DSS locations as well as paint and hardware stores. Over 70 outreach educationals were done reaching over 100 parents and store owners. Outreach done at health fairs reached over 1,000 community residents.

Additionally to help address a disproportionately high number of elevated blood levels in children in the City of Poughkeepsie, a *"Wipe Out Lead by Renovating Right!"* campaign was instituted as part of the Primary Lead prevention grant. It too promoted outreach through community events (Kids Expo), media campaign (billboards and releases), and an educational component to include giveaways and through the Lead-based Paint renovation, repair and painting training.

Lastly a DC PHN co-sponsored an event with Catharine Street Community Center during the summer where families received lead poisoning prevention information and cleaning products designed to reduce lead paint exposure.

Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention (ATUPA) and Clean Indoor Act

There were 314 tobacco retail vendors and one tobacco vending machine under permit with the department in 2011. Between October 1, 2010 and September 30, 2011, minors were used to complete approximately 378 compliance checks at tobacco retail establishments and vending machines throughout the county. Forty-eight (48) adult compliance checks were also completed. Adult compliance checks are done at specific businesses and to also confirm that facilities with suspended permits are not selling tobacco products.

As a result of these efforts, twenty-five (25) tobacco retailers were cited for selling tobacco products to minors. The total number of tobacco sale violations during the 2010/2011 fiscal year was virtually unchanged from the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

The Dutchess County Department of Health also enforces the **Clean Indoor Air Act** at bars, restaurants, and other places of employment and areas open to the public. From January 1, 2011 to date, eighteen complaints of indoor smoking have been investigated.

Public Water Supplies

The Department currently regulates 684 public water supplies (PWS). In the city of Beacon, and the city and town of Poughkeepsie, approximately 90,000 people rely on public water. This represents almost one-third of the population of Dutchess County. These larger community supplies, along with 125 others, are regulated by the engineering section of the Environmental Health Services division. Water supplies at facilities under permit (restaurants, motels, camps, day care centers, etc.) are inspected by public health sanitarians assigned to one of the three district offices. There are approximately 260 of these water supplies. The remaining supplies (300) are monitored by the Department's Water Enhancement Program staff.

During 2011, as a result of 625 inspections, re-inspections, and sanitary surveys at public water supplies, 475 violations were issued. The most common violations cited were: failure to monitor for contaminants in a timely manner; incomplete or unacceptable reporting by the supplier of water; the presence of a cross-connection between potable and non-potable water; unsatisfactory operation of treatment equipment; source water pollution; failure to maintain disinfection chemicals at proper concentrations; and modification to the treatment system without approval.

Over the course of the year samples were collected and analyzed for principal organic contaminants (POCs), which are most commonly associated with petroleum, fuel oils, and industrial processes. On established sampling schedules, samples for POCs were collected at 151 of the 978 active public water supply (PWS) wells. POCs were detected in 14 of these PWS wells, with three of these wells containing POCs that exceeded the maximum contaminant limit of 5 parts per billion. Treatment to eliminate POCs is installed at the supplies served by the three wells exceeding the maximum contaminant level in the raw water, and this treatment is designed to remove all POC's from the water served to consumers.

PWS are consistently sampled for inorganic chemicals and coliform bacteria. During 2011, inorganic samples were collected by water suppliers (657 samples) and the Department (46 samples). The combined number of bacteriological samples taken by water supplies and this Department was 5,960 of which 2 % were repeat samples to determine if a violation existed.

A continued emphasis is being placed on the presence of chlorides in drinking water at public water supplies. Chloride is considered a "secondary contaminant" by EPA, in that its presence is not generally a threat to health. It does, however, impart an objectionable taste and can contribute to corrosion of plumbing fixtures. The overarching difficulty with chloride is that once it reaches high levels and must be removed, the treatment is most exclusively "reverse osmosis," which can be expensive and place an undue burden on on-site sewage disposal fields. During 2011, samples were analyzed for chloride at 113 water supplies. Five wells returned chloride in excess of 500 ppm. Two of those wells have been granted temporary waivers from the chloride MCL. Those waivers expire in 2012. The remaining three supplies have installed treatment approved to reduce chloride to acceptable levels prior to consumption.

A large share of field investigation and data processing involving public water supplies is the responsibility of the Water Enhancement Program (WEP), which currently operates under a grant of \$299,000 from New York State. WEP is audited quarterly by the NYS Department of Health's Bureau of Water Supply Protection and evaluated for a variety of qualifying parameters. In addition, the US Environmental Protection Agency conducted a data verification audit in 2011. The conclusions reached by these reviews are favorable to the program.

In 2011, the Department of Health began contracting with private laboratory for water testing services. As part of this change, the following procedure modifications were made:

- The reporting process from the laboratory was streamlined and made more efficient with an email client that was programmed to save the sample report emails, and server computers were programmed to index the reports and store them in a central location on the file server. The index allows easy access to the reports by DCDOH employees. The index also aids in performing quality control checks to ensure that all samples that are paid for have actually been taken. Other new quality control applications were created to ensure that samples are entered into the New York State Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS) database.
- Several major improvements were made to the data processing for laboratory sample billing to water facilities. A much more sophisticated system of tracking overdue bills was added. Better statistics and lists to assist in billing were developed and implemented. Tools to help save and find invoices were added.

Engineering Highlights

Department of Health engineers approved 204 plans for subdivisions, individual lots, commercial properties, public water and sewerage systems, and public swimming pools during 2011. Engineers also approved water and sewer connections for Malcolm Hall at the Anderson School in Hyde Park, for housing at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, as well as for the central water connection at Lime Kiln recreational center in East Fishkill.

Additional accomplishments during 2011 included:

- The Department reviewed plans, reports and specifications for a state of the art membrane filtration plant for the Village of Pawling water supply which will allow the Village to use its surface water reservoir. This will provide greatly needed additional source capacity for the village water system.
- Town of Beekman received approval for improvements to its bathing beach at the Recreation Park by raising the water level, providing a new beach bottom, improving the stone wall and adding new concrete walls. The work was performed before the opening of the swimming season. Gold's Gym in Town of LaGrange received approval to open up a summer camp that was originally located at the Casperkill Country Club in Poughkeepsie. The camp successfully completed its first year.
- A meeting was held with Village of Red Hook officials to inspect the site of a proposed photovoltaic solar panel array to be constructed on the edge of the Village well field. Specifications were reviewed to assess potential impacts of the installation on the aquifer. The solar panels would provide power to the firehouse and adjacent storage building.
- The Town of Beekman received water and sewage approval for a pavilion with a kitchen at the recreation park off Clove Road. It is under construction.
- Town of Stanford was granted approval for a new highway garage.
- The public water supply at High Meadows Park in Dover is making progress with source capacity and quality concerns. After implementing an aggressive flushing program, this Department has seen a drastic decrease of complaints.
- Swimming pools were approved and installed at Hopewell Glen in East Fishkill and Highlands at Pawling.
- E. coli well contamination issues were resolved at Green Meadow Park in LaGrange, Ledge Rock Mobile Home Park in Hyde Park, Country Manor Lodge in Milan, and Arbor Arms Apartments, Country Commons, and Valley Meadows in Pleasant Valley.
- Construction is underway for the replacement of a 1 million gallon storage tank for the United Wappinger Water District distribution system.
- An inventory and quality monitoring program is being conducted on all DC Airport potable wells in cooperation with DC Airport Operations.
- Maplebrook School in Amenia is in the process of designing an improved public water system and new on-site sewage disposal system for a new expanded dining hall.
- The Town of Wappinger completed water and sewer main installation for the newly opened Adams Fairacre Farms on Route 9.
- The Village of Wappingers Falls completed construction of the new water treatment plant and is currently undergoing start-up testing of the new wells and treatment system.
- Birch Hill Manor Subdivision in Beekman is in the process of installing treatment on its water supply for iron/manganese removal. This includes enlarging the existing treatment plant building to accommodate the equipment.
- Green Haven Correctional Facility in Beekman replaced all underground water pipes within the boundaries of the prison walls. Work is nearly finished.
- Dogwood Knolls public water supply in East Fishkill received approval to install iron and manganese treatment.
- Town of Hyde Park received approval for water and sewage disposal at the Hyde Park Police Station.
- North Hopewell Plaza in East Fishkill received approval to expand the sewage disposal system serving the plaza.
- The Hudson River Psychiatric Center in Poughkeepsie and Springwood Village in Hyde Park completed replacement of their water lines.

- Kensington Village and Venture Lake Estates in Hyde Park connected to the Hyde Park/DC Water and Wastewater Authority water system.
- The new Walgreens on Route 44 in Poughkeepsie connected to central sewer via a forcemain.
- The City of Beacon continues to implement its corrective action program to reduce inflow and infiltration into its sewage collection system and to eliminate sanitary sewage overflows.
- Daytop in the Town of Washington installed a 5-log Cryptosporidium removal water treatment system.
- Articles 5, 11, 16, and 19 of the **Dutchess County Sanitary Code** are being reviewed by the engineering section so that advice can be given to the Board of Health for possible revisions.
- Work with DC Office of Computer Information Systems and DC Planning is ongoing to include water districts and public water supply distribution systems as layers in the GIS mapping program.
- After conducting a performance analysis of the Eljen Geotextile Sandfilter (GSF) subsurface sewage disposal system, this Department has revised its policy regarding the sizing of Eljen GSF. This will allow the system to be installed on a smaller footprint.

During 2011, there were **Weather Related Issues** that Dutchess County experienced particularly tropical weather systems which affected regulated water and sewer systems. Effects from these events included:

- The Village of Rhinebeck water system, which has a surface water treatment plant, suffered from the effects of storms Irene and Lee. A water main crossing the Landsman Kill Creek was damaged by the floodwaters. A boil water order was generated and distributed throughout the Village. DCDOH implemented the Rapid Notify phone system, and outreach was conducted to more than 2600 phone numbers in the affected area. As water levels receded, the leaks were located and valved off. A 12" water main failed in an unrelated event, a 20' section of main and a valve were replaced.
- A sewer main crossing the Fishkill Creek in the City of Beacon was damaged when a rock or debris impacted the line during Hurricane Irene.
- The City of Beacon experienced a sanitary sewage overflow into a storm drainage pipe by the train station following Hurricane Irene. The City continues to investigate the possibility of an intermittent discharge of sanitary wastewater into the storm drainage system.

Community Sanitation Highlights

During 2011, the Poughkeepsie District Office, which oversees permitted facilities in the central region of the county, was restructured due to staff retirements. Inspection duties were assigned to other division personnel, and district lines were redrawn, transferring some facilities to the other district offices.

2011 highlights included:

- As a result of widespread power outages due to Hurricane Irene, outreach to food service establishments via email and fax was performed. In addition, field visits were conducted to areas that were more severely affected.
- Inspections (Agricultural Fairgrounds and food service) were conducted at the Dutchess County Fair.
- Environmental personnel canvassed the entire county on May 24th to ensure that specific toxic substances were not being sold at certain stores. This was done in connection with a request from NYSDOH. None of the dangerous substances were found.
- DCDOH personnel visited the prisons in Dutchess County that are supplied cook/chill food from a central production and distribution center in Oneida, NY, to determine existing procedures and to suggest improvements. As a result of this investigation, a new procedure and form to more

accurately monitor cooling and reheating of foods was developed for statewide use, and better monitoring and tracking of food products has occurred.

- Three disease outbreaks occurred at children’s camps this summer. These outbreaks were the result of person-to-person spread of infectious microorganisms; an enterovirus outbreak at one camp resulted in a febrile illness with rash and vomiting, a suspected mycoplasma outbreak resulted in respiratory illness at another camp, and a bacteria or virus produced conjunctivitis at a third camp.
- An informational email regarding norovirus was sent to all day care facilities.
- The Environmental Health Director in cooperation with the County Attorney Office processed and approved 13 Dutchess County solid waste hauler permits.
- In May, a fox attacked and bit a Pleasant Valley man while he was working in his yard. Because it was suspected of being rabid, the specimen was sent for emergency testing. The fox tested positive for rabies and, as a result of the prompt action, rabies post-exposure treatment was able to be started immediately.
- A Dutchess County resident stopped to aid a cat which appeared to have been hit by a car and was bitten. The cat was tested for rabies and was determined to be positive for the virus. Prompt post-exposure treatment was initiated for this individual.
- A sewage backup occurred at a food service establishment in Fishkill. An investigation revealed that food service workers continued to prepare and serve food during the backup. Sewage flowed into the customer service area. The facility was immediately closed and formal action was initiated.
- In May, there was a fire at a plaza in Wappinger Falls. As a result, several food service establishments were affected. An investigation revealed that food at several facilities was contaminated and therefore was voluntarily discarded.

Community Sanitation statistics:

| Service Type | # Completed |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Food service inspections and reinspections | 2943 |
| Nuisance FV and complaint investigations | 538 |
| Subdivision and individual lot insp. /reinsp. | 346 |
| Res. Sanitation (housing) and complaint investigations | 505 |
| Residential Lead investigation field services | 95 |
| Animal bite/Rabies investigations | 495 |
| Rabies specimens to Albany for testing | 106 (with 7 positive) |
| Rabies post-exposure treatments | 38 |
| Drowning prevention seminars | 11 (173 attendees) |
| Food safety training | 18 (135 attendees) |

Community Sanitation Enforcement Actions

| Type | Number | Penalty Amount |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| ATUPA | 25 | \$ 12,950 |
| Daycare | 1 | \$ 500 |
| Food Service | 8 | \$ 6,950 |
| Sewage Disposal System | 1 | \$ 500 |
| Water Supply | 5 | \$ 5,250 |
| TOTAL | 40 | \$26,150 |

Environmental Hazards

Responsibility for inspections for x-ray equipment at all medical facilities in Dutchess County and responding to local radiological events reverted back to the NYS Department of Health in 2011. From July to September, DCDOH staff coordinated with the NYSDOH staff to prioritize and complete inspections and re-inspections due so that there would be an orderly transition.

Oil spill reports forwarded by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation were reviewed for potential impacts to residential well water supplies. Staff conducts evaluations in accordance with the oil spill relocation policy and advises residents on relocation when appropriate. Inactive Hazardous Waste reports were reviewed for ongoing monitoring and for potential impacts to both private and public water supplies.

Due to warm, wet weather, the Radiological and Environmental Health Assessment Program (REHAP) program fielded numerous mosquito complaints from schools and homeowners. These calls were atypical in that the complaints indicated large numbers of day biting mosquitoes.

Also in 2011, REHAP had its first spring/summer smoke complaint of an outdoor wood boiler that was used not only to heat the home but also the outdoor swimming pool.

Rabies Clinics and Post Exposure Treatments

The DCDOH hosted three **rabies vaccination clinics** for pets in 2011. These clinic services were offered free of charge to all Dutchess County residents. The clinic sites were dispersed throughout the county. The first clinic was held at the Millerton Firehouse in March, the second at the Dutchess County Highway Garage in July, and the final clinic was held at the Stanford Firehouse in November. A total of 681 pets (dogs, cats and domestic ferrets) were vaccinated (192 – Millerton Firehouse; 252 – Dutchess County Highway Garage; 237 – Stanford Firehouse).

The Public Health Nursing division provided rabies post exposure treatment to approximately 30 patients and provided over 70 visits to these patients.

Special Community Education

The department offered **drowning prevention** seminars to lifeguards and other members of the general public interested in learning about drowning victim recognition. In 2011, eleven drowning prevention seminars were conducted, reaching a total of 173 individuals.

Eighteen **Food safety trainings** were provided to restaurant owner/operators, food service managers and food service workers in 2011. Approximately 135 individuals were educated about food safety principles and how to implement effective food safety management systems in their food service establishments.

DCDOH staff also provided training to Emergency Room staff at Vassar Hospital and St. Francis Hospital on rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (RPEP), including guidance on understanding when to administer RPEP and how to administer it properly.

Communications and Public Health Information designed to increase awareness in order to help reduce health risk and promote better health was disseminated to the community through the use of Public Health advisories, press releases, monthly Poughkeepsie Journal articles, six Commissioner's column articles (which to date has received 311 hits on our website), Quarterly Morbidity report, Veterinarian

Newsletter, we were able to reach over 700 healthcare providers, 50,000 students and faculty, and over 35,000 individuals who attend summer camps on issues such as Pertussis, Pneumonia, Influenza, Foodborne illness, Bedbugs, Rabies, Arthropod diseases and more throughout the year. All information is then placed on the county website page, where there were more than 351,877 website hits in 2011.

Access to Care Initiatives

For 2011 the **DC NACo Prescription discount drug program**, which is not an insurance plan affords all residents to join for free and utilize this program for medications (including those with insurance, whose plan does not cover certain medications). For 2011, as of November, 8,076 residents were served, a total of 14,271 prescriptions were covered with a total savings YTD of \$353,243.00 or 30.51% per prescription.

This August the County launched with NACo the **DC NACo Dental discount program**. Like the prescription discount drug program it not an insurance plan. Participants sign up for free and are able to save between 5- 50% off their dental care (to include oral exams, cleanings, dentures, root canals, crowns and more) utilizing participating dentists. As of November 2011, 165 residents have signed up for this program. It is too early to know the cost savings. Since its inception, there have been 782 hits to the county website.

The Department continued to work with Maternal Infant Services Network to increase DC referrals to **Child Health Plus and Family Health Plus**. Informational packets were put together in both English and Spanish and distributed to DOH clinics and nursing home visits. Additionally, a mailing was sent to all superintendents and principals in DC in both English and Spanish with complete information, including financial requirements for them to copy and sent home with each child.

Medical Examiner's Office

The Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office works closely with law enforcement and other County agencies, and strives to inform, educate and support all County and State agencies concerned with sudden unexpected or suspicious deaths in previously healthy individuals, violent deaths due to homicide, suicide or accident, pediatric deaths, deaths at the work place, and deaths in custody. The Medical Examiner's Office is also actively involved in investigating patterns of drug abuse along with law enforcement and other County agencies.

- In 2011, the Medical Examiner's Office investigated more than 800 cases.
- The number of cases requiring a full autopsy remains constant at 25-30% of cases reported and attests to the excellence of our medicolegal investigator staff. The increase in case load in 2011 is principally attributable to an increase in vehicular deaths and drug overdoses (both illicit and prescription) compared to prior years.
- The purchase of a refrigerated morgue trailer for storing bodies in the event of a multiple fatality incident has been made possible through grant funding.
- In compliance with emergency preparedness directives, the Medical Examiner's Office is planning an all fatality mass disaster exercise in May 2012 at the Emergency Response Center in Hyde Park; to test the activation of the Regional Multiple Fatality Management Response Plan, set up a temporary morgue, explore victim identification procedures, and stand up a Family Assistance Center.

Community Health and Assessments

Community health assessment is defined as a part of a strategic plan that describes the health of the community by collecting, analyzing and using data to educate and mobilize communities, develop

priorities, garner resources and plan actions for improvement. It is an essential function of Public Health Departments. In 2011, we engaged in several assessments, including:

- HEAL NY9
- Healthy Community Access Partnership (HCAP)
- Community Health Assessment - "Health and Well Being of Children, Families and Adults in Dutchess County"
- "The Immigrant Health Initiative – A Study of Health Care of Recent Immigrants in Dutchess County" Report

Weights and Measures Division

As part of the overall restructuring of Dutchess County Government in 2011, Weights & Measure was reassigned under the auspices of the Health Department in January. This gave the division the ability to carry out its mandated inspections with one less staff member. The division was able to carry out inspections of commercial seals, gas pumps, home heating fuel delivery meters, package commodities, and scanner and item pricing found in retail establishments, with assurance of accuracy. Through their New York State Petroleum Quality Program, random inspections of gasoline and diesel fuels were performed heightening consumer confidence knowing that the petroleum products they purchase meet the labeling standards.

In 2011, the division of Weights and Measures:

- inspected a total of 958 establishments throughout Dutchess County
- inspected 4,408 weighing and measuring devices used for commercial transactions including:
 - 2,151 petroleum meters (gas pumps)
 - 176 vehicle tank meters (home heating delivery vehicles)
 - 1,479 commercial scales
- 221 gasoline octane samples were taken in 2011 from Dutchess County gas stations to ensure the correct octane.

2011 Health Department Awards & Recognition

Audrey Waltner, from the Health Planning and Education Division, received the DCDOH Commissioner's award and was inducted into the New York State Public Health Honor Roll.

Rana Ali, Epidemiologist from the HP&E division, was recognized by the Dutchess County Dental Society for her contribution to continued education in Dentistry, after a presentation she was invited to speak at in June 2011.

State/Professional Association Memberships:

The Department of Health's staff continue to participate in various committees at the local, regional and state level. The following is a list of the major linkages and representations:

- New York State Association of County Health Officials (*Dr. Caldwell*)
- Hospital Infection Control Committee (*Linda Squires*)
- American Heart Association (*Dr. Caldwell, Ozie Williams*)
- American Cancer Society Cancer Screening program (*Deb Mance, FNP and Maricela Rios*)
- Poughkeepsie Plenty/NAC (*Ozie Williams*)
- Smoke Free Dutchess Coalition (*Evelyn Kaufmann*)
- Ryan White HIV Health Services Planning Council (*Lisa Cardinale, Sabrina Marzouka*)

- LGBTQ taskforce (*Andrew Rotans*)
- Legislative Task Force on Tick- Borne Diseases (*Andrew Evans & Christen Hertzog*)
- Northeast Mosquito Control Association (*Andy Evans, Christen Herzog*)
- Metro Area Bio-Terrorism Workgroup (*Rana Ali and Andrew Evans*)
- Regional Preparedness Council (*Barbara Zelig*)
- Healthy Community Access Partnership (HCAP) (*Lisa Cardinale, Rana Ali*)
- Integrated County Planning Committee (*Sabrina Marzouka, Audrey Waltner*)
- STOP/DWI Board Member(*Evelyn L. Kaufmann*)
- Traffic Safety Board Member(*Lin Li Chang*)
- NACCHO Infectious Disease Prevention and Control (*Rana Ali*)
- NYS Public Health Association, Board of Directors (*Rana Ali*)
- Smart Eating Every Day (SEED) Board of Directors (*Rana Ali*)
- March of Dimes New York State Program Services Committee (*Carol Wanyo*)
- NYS Department of Health, Community Health Assessment Impact (*Sabrina Marzouka*)
- NYS DOH Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication Committee (*Sabrina Marzouka, Aisha Phillips*)
- NYSDOH Sexual Assault Forensic Examiners (*Judy Lyons*)
- Office for the Aging, Advisory Board (*Sabrina Marzouka*)
- Hudson Valley Regional Health Officials Network - (*Dr. Caldwell, Sabrina Marzouka, Barbara Zelig*)
- THINC RHIO, Public Health Committee (*Dr. Caldwell, Rana Ali, Andrew Evans*)
- Association of Clinical Research Professional (*Linda Squires*)
- ECCSI (Early Childhood Coordinated Services Initiative) – (*Jamie Farrell-Lizotte, Joan Wright*)
- LEICC (Local Early Intervention Coordinating Council) – (*Jamie Farrell-Lizotte, Joan Wright*)
- School Safety Advisory Committee (*Vicki Lucarini*)
- Hospital Infection Control (*Linda Squires*)
- Astor Early Childhood Advisory (*Joan Wright*)
- DC Families Advisory Board (*Joan Wright*)
- DC Housing Consortium (*Lisa Cardinale, Tara Fitzpatrick, Wendy Johnson*)
- Eastern Dutchess Rural Healthcare Network (*Tara Fitzpatrick*)
- NYS Weights and Measures Association (NYSWMA) – (*John Matask and Eric Morabito*)
- Southeastern Weights and Measures Association (NEWMA) – (*John Matask and Eric Morabito*)
- Northeast Weights and Measures Association (NEWMA) (*Eric Morabito*)

SOCIAL SERVICES

Accomplishments for 2011:

- Over 30,000 new applications were processed in 2011.
- Authorized \$383,206,274 in medical care in 2011.
- Authorized \$5,863,694 in HEAP benefits.
- Authorized \$28,624,312 in food stamps. (Jan. – Sept.)
- Collected \$28,774,225 in child support. (Jan. – Nov.)
- Authorized \$15,584,735 (Jan. – Sept.) in temporary and emergency assistance.
- Investigated 3,047 child protective service reports.

- Investigated 719 adult services reports.
- Had \$14,378,223 in cost avoidance from our Special Investigation Unit.
- Paid for 158 burials.
- Sponsored special computer training for 28 individuals.
- Held first leadership “graduation” with Retired Brigadier General Don Smith as keynote speaker.

Child Support Enforcement Unit (CSEU)

- Collections from January 2011 – November 2011 (\$28,774,225).
- Processed 6,677 Family Court petitions from January to November 2011.
- Has presented at Father’s Right Group quarterly.
- The Director serves on Astor Head Start Health Advisory Council the Hudson Valley Fatherhood Initiative, and the Hudson Valley Father’s Day Parade Committee.
- A supervisor serves on the Astor Head Start Policy Council.

Integrated Services Unit

- In the Special Investigations Unit for 2011:
 - 181 burial request (133 approvals and 48 denials).
 - 158 burial payments were made.
 - Paid \$258,159 for burials.
 - Had \$50,924 in claims against estates.
 - Medicaid reimbursements totaled \$16,036.
 - Total amount in lawsuits recovered was \$455,768.
 - Recovered \$20,513 in bond, mortgages and assignments.
 - Personal incidentals and other bank accounts totaled \$82,414.
 - Income executions accounted for \$28,144.
 - SSI repayment recoveries amounted to \$579,547.
- The Special Investigations Unit had 11 Temporary Assistance disqualifications (\$13,324) and 77 Confession of Judgments equaling \$232,441. We also had 16 Food Stamp disqualifications for a total of \$22,137.
- Cost avoidance completed by FEDS for 2011, in Temporary Assistance - \$4,675,856; Medicaid - \$7,598,259; and Food Stamps - \$1,896,322; and Child Care - \$207,785.

Staff Development

- Scheduled all mandatory and necessary training for new and existing staff; tracked CPS staff to ensure compliance with state training regulations (six hours per year).
- Coordinated the 2010 Annual Report and the 2011 Employee Appreciation Day.
- Participated on the Foster Care/Adoption Review Board.
- Administered the Adelphi MSW Program for four Children Services staff members, the Dutchess Community College Program for up to 35 agency staff, and ten staff in the Empire College Bachelor’s Program.
- Transitioned the first Dutchess County BSW scholarship student into a CPS position at DSS.

Transitional Benefits

- The Division of Transitional Benefits consists of the units that handle the stand alone cases of Medicaid (including the Managed Care unit), Food Stamps, and the Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).
- This division oversees the contracts for and works closely in conjunction with Cornell Cooperative Extension for the Eat Smart Healthy NY Program, Dutchess Community Action Partnership, NY Connects and Office for the Aging.
- In 2011 the division adopted several families. Fund raisers were held and staff within each division donated various items for gift baskets and gift cards to local grocery stores. Staff continues to make donations to the DSS Liz Carlson Food Bank.

Statistics:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Active Food Stamp cases | 11,749 |
| Authorized Food Stamps | \$28,624,312 |
| Active HEAP cases + | 3,081 |
| Active FS cases | 9,922 |
| Total HEAP cases | 13,003 |
| Active Medicaid cases | 20,486 |
| Authorized Medicaid payments | \$383,206,274 |

Accounting

- Maintained accounts for 153 T53 clients and made payments totaling \$1,465,000 on their behalf.
- Maintained approximately 95 percent of reports as PDF's instead of printing and filing paper reports.
- Implemented the new T53 accounting program (Accufund). The program was presented at NYPWA. As a result of the presentation, there are a number of counties who are interested in using the Accufund program.

Reception

- Streamlined the process for applicants with the intake units, reducing wait time for the client and reducing paperwork copies.
- 4th quarter client transactions totaled 27,702 in 2011.
- Continued to effectively direct EMT personnel and direct first responders to emergencies that occur within the building.

Computer Information Systems

- Assisted with computer camp session.
- Facilitated the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program.
- Made customizations to programs in use such as the HEAP log, to reflect evolving needs.
- Processed 267 employee change forms, including setting up new profiles for 47 workers.
- Replaced 165 aging computers.
- Consolidated 461 duplicate CINS.

- Implemented Accufund – a modernized system for tracking trust accounts.
- Assisted in arranging access for DSS workers to the DIR database.
- Facilitated the rollover from Kindertrack to CCTA.
- Collected funds to adopt a family.

File Room

Inclusion of the File Room in Status Tracing has allowed for automation of case look-up for verifying case numbers and providing new case numbers. Case numbers are provided same day of application allowing less lag time for caseworkers and less wait time for clients.

In February 2011, began using the On-Sight-Imaging process. Rather than preparing paperwork and sending it out for imaging, it is now scanned on-sight which makes it available instantaneously to the staff, eliminating the 3-4 day lag time for the imaging to be viewable in IEDR.

- In 2011, the File Room handled 13,500 pounds of incoming mail and all outgoing mail for the building.
- Prepared and imaged paperwork in the following units (all complete and kept up-to-date):
 - Medicaid
 - Medicaid Nursing Home
 - Food Stamps
 - Temporary Assistance
 - HEAP
 - SSI/MA
 - Special Investigations Unit
- Shipped and retrieved the following from retention:
 - Sent 765 boxes.
 - Retrieved 131 boxes for various staff members.
 - Retrieved 675 case records for various staff members.
 - Destroyed 387 boxes that were at retention.
- Purged 6,965 records from the File Room.
- Assigned new case numbers to 6,692 new applications.
- Handled all in-coming voter registration forms as follows:
 - Yes – 635, which were sent to the Board of Elections at 47 Cannon Street on a weekly basis.
 - Blanks and No – 8,563.
 - Already registered – 344.
 - Requested and received – 18.
- Coverage and training in other units as follows:
 - Reception coverage (125 hours) plus training of one employee for coverage.
 - Finger imaging coverage (139 hours).
 - Switchboard, Food Stamps, Medicaid and CSEU phone coverage (75 hours).
- Daily loose filing for CSEU, Day Care, Drug & Alcohol, CPS, APS, and Children’s Services.
- Spanish translation (1,150 hours) between home visits, in-house translation and phone translation.

Legal

Dutchess County Family Court has been a pioneer in many innovative court programs including:

- Family Treatment Court for Adults
- Permanency Hearing Part with Court Attorney Referee
- SCU computers in the Support Parts
- Domestic Violence Part which now includes Art. 10 Abuse and Neglect cases
- Regularly scheduled pre-trial conferences and discovery

As part of our County involvement as a model court , DCDSS Legal is active in the Dutchess County Court Improvement Project for Abused and Neglected Children.

Dutchess County DSS Legal was also active:

- As a member of the Advisory Committee on Electronic filing in the Family Courts to explore e-filing of petitions
- in the exploration of prisoner issues with regard to adult guardianships
- in the exploration of a new medical component for the Child Abuse Center

Dutchess County DSS with the Legal unit continues to participate in collaborative systems.

- Weekly CPS review of cases with Attorney
- Weekly court case conferences with Attorney(s)
- Biweekly foster care case review with foster care unit and legal unit
- Biweekly Child Advocacy Center meetings
- Child Advocacy Center with concomitant interaction amongst the DA Office, Police, CPS, County Attorney Office, Mental Health, Probation, Victim Services and Medical Services
- In-house training

Adult & Family Services

- Child Advocacy Center with concomitant interaction amongst the DA Office, Police, CPS, County Attorney Office, Mental Health, Probation, Victim Services and Medical Services
- The Adult Services Division deals with individuals over the age of 18 with mental or physical impairments that prevent them from meeting essential needs and who are in need of protection and who have no one to assist them responsibly.
- In 2011, the division had 331 active cases. There were 719 referrals for Adult Protective Services. There were 31 Guardianship cases and 106 Representative Payee cases. Staff continues to participate in case consultation meetings and attend regional meetings.
- During 2011, a liaison from the division continued to have meetings with the Mediation Center to discuss senior concerns and to develop a process to address referrals from their agency. Another staff member attends the Coalition on Elder Abuse.
- In 2011, staff members walked for the March of Dimes. At Christmas time, Angel Tags were distributed for the Salvation Army.
- The Adult Services Division also provides housing assistance to the Temporary Assistance population that is homeless. Lack of affordable housing continues to be a problem. In 2011, \$2,924,960 has been spent on motels. The average length of stay is about 12 weeks. We continue to be a member of the Dutchess County Consortium in an effort to address the housing crisis in Dutchess County. The division also monitors the family type homes and the foster family program.
- The Adult Services Division provided services to victims of Domestic Violence. There is a Domestic

Violence Liaison (DVL) who screens those who have domestic violence issues. The DVL provides information about resources and assesses whether the victims are able to safely comply with department rules. The DVL networks with domestic violence service providers regularly. Funding is provided for both non-residential and residential domestic violence services under Title XX. Information and referral for these services is available through the Adult Services Division. In 2011, the DVL conducted 149 assessments and 87 reassessments.

- In 2011, staff members were on a panel at the NYPWA winter conference to discuss outstanding programs and practices promoting protection of vulnerable adults.

Children's Services

- Children's Services is participating in the B2H program which provides needed services to children up until age 21. DSS works in collaboration with Astor Services for Children and Families, Abbott House, and Children's Village for implementation of services through this program. There are three categories that children can be eligible for: severely emotionally disabled, developmentally disabled, and medically fragile. Presently, 30 children are participating in the B2H Program in Dutchess County.
- In collaboration with the Department of Mental Hygiene and Astor High Risk Services program, five home based crisis intervention waiver slots continue to be available to Dutchess County children. This program offers intensive home based services to children with psychiatric problems to prevent the need for psychiatric hospitalization and residential care.
- Children's Services works in collaboration with Family Court on the OCA/OCFS Permanency Project.
- Dutchess County adoption staff members completed 30 adoptions in 2011 and have eight pending in Family Court at this time. This unit also completed three private adoption home studies.
- Dutchess County received a monetary allocation from OCFS to implement programs to prevent the need for detention. This money is used to fund collaborative efforts between Children's Services and the Department of Probation for services to meet the needs of Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) and Juvenile Delinquent (JD) youth in Dutchess County. In 2011, 106 youth were placed in non-secure detention.
- Children's Services staff members are participating in a higher education program leading to the Master's in Social Work Degree at Adelphi University. Four staff members were enrolled in this program on 2011 and 12 staff members have graduated from the program.
- The statewide Connections Computer System, a computerized case recording system for all Children's Services cases, continues to be utilized and expanded.
- In 2011, Child Protective Services has investigated 3,047 reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment. As of December 31, 2011, there were 230 children in foster care.
- The annual foster parent picnic was successfully held in August, with various activities and foods.
- Two Children's Services case managers continued to be part of the Dutchess County Family Treatment Court team, presided over by Judge Forman, which provides intensive support and supervision to families in which substance abuse has led to neglect of children. The Family Treatment Court graduated five individuals and their families in 2011.
- A Children's Services Case Manager is part of the Youth Treatment Court, presided over by Judge Forman, which provides intensive oversight to Dutchess County youth who have become involved with family court due to substance abuse issues. The Youth Treatment Court graduated two youth in 2011.
-

- Two domestic violence liaisons jointly supervised by Child Protective Services and Grace Smith House continue to be located in Children's Services. The liaisons receive referrals from child protective, foster care, and preventive caseworkers, attend case conferences, and provide direct services, training and consultation regarding domestic violence issues.
- Funding continues for both mandated preventive and community optional preventive services provided by the Probation Department and Youth Services. A respite services contract with the Riverhaven Shelter continues to be utilized for youth involved with the Departments of Probation or Social Services.
- There continued to be an emphasis on staff and foster parent development and training in 2011, with numerous training opportunities being offered by the Department of Social Services. A sampling of the sessions provided includes in house training for case managers, training regarding community services available, car seat training, and computer training. The Foster Parent Liaison arranges trainings for foster parents and provides some trainings one on one in the foster home.
- The provision of preventive services for families, designed to prevent the need for children coming into foster care due to neglect and abuse, continues to be a crucial service offered. These services are provided by Children's Services caseworkers, and are also contracted for with community agencies including Astor Services for Children and Families, and Abbott House.
- As always, recruitment efforts continue to locate, train, and certify qualified foster parents for Dutchess County children. Foster Home finding case managers have attended community functions to advocate for foster parenting. Foster Parent and Relative Foster Parent certification training sessions have been completed to train 21 new foster/adoptive parents and ten new relative foster parents. Presently, Dutchess County has a total of 87 active foster/adoptive homes and 16 relative foster homes certified and open at this time.
- In 2011, one foster care worker volunteered to be a Field Supervisor for a BSW intern from Marist College. This is a year-long internship where the student receives education about foster care and the Child Welfare Division. In May 2011, the BSW intern graduated from college and started working full time for CPS in Dutchess County.
- In 2011, DSS and Mid-Hudson Children's Museum continued to partner in working with families involved in foster care or preventive services. DSS has access to the Children's Museum for supervised and unsupervised visitation between parents and their children.
- Once again in 2011, Children's Services staff members collected hats, mittens and toys to donate to children in foster care. Staff members from other parts of the agency, foster parents, and other members of the community also generously donated items and their time to this cause.
- Children's Services staff sponsored multiple families for Christmas, providing them with gifts and food and all the makings for a family celebration.
- In 2011, DSS assumed the responsibility of coordinating Secure Detention Services on a 24-hour basis. In 2011, 43 children required Secure Detention Services.
- In 2011, DSS implemented Family Meetings in Child Welfare. Training was received from OCFS and two models developed that will be incorporated in our regular practice. The first model is Family Team meetings, focused on developing and maintaining positive relationships between birth parents and foster parents. The second model is Family Team Conferencing, focused on bringing the immediate family, extended family and significant people in the family's life together to discuss what safety/risk factors have been identified by DSS and how the family may be able to come up with a plan to address these in lieu of placing the children in foster care.

Temporary Assistance (TA)

- In 2011, Family Assistance caseload had a slight decrease of 30 cases from 785 to 755. Safety Net Assistance (SN) caseload also had a decrease in numbers from 810 to 705. The number of individuals mandated into substance abuse treatment, therefore deemed unemployable, decreased from 171 to 115. This decrease is due in part to one TA worker dedicated to closely monitoring these substance abuse cases. There were an additional 341 individuals in receipt of Temporary Assistance that were deemed unemployable due to physical and/or mental health reasons.
- In 2011, 79 single/childless couples' cases reach their maximum time limit and 117 families that reached their 60 month time limit, a 43 percent increase from 2010. The continued increasing of cases reaching their maximum time limit shows it is getting harder for families to transition to self sufficiency.
- Diversion payments continued to be used to meet those individual's needs with rent, security, transportation, car insurance, tools, clothing, and licensing fees in order for the individual to obtain or retain employment. Diversion payments decrease the need for on-going Family Assistance or Safety Net Assistance. Those individuals/families who are no longer eligible for Temporary Assistance due to employment or increased child support payments receive transitional MA/FS and/or day care benefits.
- Hosted one-day computer camp. Those in foster care, in addition to TA recipients, were included. 28 individuals ranging from 15-20 years of age attended and completed the training. Upon completion the students were given a laptop computer, a printer, MS Office books, and copies of Job Hunting Handbook.
- Eastern Dutchess Government Center (EDGC) continued to be a generic unit. Three Social Welfare Worker II's are responsible to interview and determine eligibility for Temporary Assistance, Medicaid, Food Stamps, HEAP, and day care. There were 834 combined TA/MA/FS opened cases and there are 141 active HEAP only cases at EDGC. One Social Welfare Worker II is responsible to determine eligibility and process applications for Medicaid received from Facilitated Enrollers. EDGC received an average of 150 Medicaid applications from the FE's per month.

Day Care Unit

- The Day Care Unit continues to meet the needs of those whose income is below 200 percent of the poverty level. Effective July 1, 2011 the income guidelines were changed to those whose income is below 125 percent of the poverty level.
- In 2011, the Day Care Unit provided services to 612 families and 875 children.

Employment

- Mentoring/Work Now Program –in this program mentors work closely with the employment workers. They are instrumental in assisting TANF eligible individuals in job searches, soft skills, resumes, obtaining and retaining jobs. In 2011, 69 TANF recipients participated in this program.
- Responsible Parent Initiative (RPI) – The employment worker refers those TANF individuals who are facing an employment sanction or who are on a current employment sanction. The employment worker sets up a meeting with the individual who is not in compliance with RPI mentor, and employment worker. Together they try and avoid the sanction or get the individual in compliance to conclude the sanction. In 2011, 30 individuals worked with the RPI mentor.
- Youth Employment Services (YES) – This program serves youth between the ages of 14 and 20, providing mentoring and tutoring. 36 individuals participated in YES in 2011.

- Intensive Case Manager (ICM) – this program provides an important one-on-one service to hard-to-serve individuals who face multiple barriers that prevent them from becoming self-sufficient. The ICM works with the employment worker and the individual to set goals and design a plan that will assist the person in removing the barriers in order to become self-sufficient. In 2011, the ICM had six TANF participants from which four are actively seeking employment, and two were deemed medically exempt from employment.
- Work Skills Training (WST) – This is a 50 hour pre-employment training designed to help the individual set/achieve goals, overcome barriers, keeps and advance in a job and improve; communication skills, presentation and interview skills. 40 recipients successfully completes this program in 2011. Twenty-one recipients, who completed WST, became employed.
- Transitional Jobs –partnered with Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board to implement this program. Transitional Jobs makes available funding to local businesses to hire individuals in receipt of TANF benefits. The program goal is to provide the individual with employment and training/educational opportunities that will help them prepare for unsubsidized employment. Three individuals were placed in Transitional Jobs.
- Temporary File Room Positions – There were eight TANF recipients placed in these positions in 2011. Two individuals are currently in a position and one position will be filled shortly. Five have remained off of TANF.
- Professional Culinary Academy (PCA) – a post-secondary school licensed by NYS Department of Education. This is a 600 hour commercial cooking program. The first 400 hours the students learn; skills development, food preparation, catering, food sanitation, and quantity cooking. The last 200 hours is on the job training in a variety of areas in the commercial food service industry. Graduates of PCA are ready to perform many of the entry level roles in the food service industry such as sous chef, garde manager, pantry person, short order and line cook. PCA offers lifetime job placement for all graduates. In 2011, one recipient completed her 200 externship hours and graduated.

DSS Leadership Development Program

Approximately 30 DSS employees participated in the DSS Leadership Development Program at DSS, which was started in 2010. Nine staff members designed and presented special topic sessions to the group. Eleven met the graduation program requirement of 8 credit hours, thereby completing Level One training and moving onto Level Two. The past year's topics were:

- **Meet and Exceed the Standards You Ask of Others: Lead from the Front** : Suzanne Howell, TA Clerical
- **Attitudes Are Contagious; Is Yours Worth Catching?** : Linda Green, Social Welfare Worker, Intake
- **Patience is a Virtue (Positive Psychology)**: Kara Cerilli, Specialist/Contracts & Planning, Administration
- **Motivating and Rewarding Excellence**: Valencia Bailey & Christian Jones, Special Investigations Unit
- **Lessons from the Kennedy School of Government** : Theresa Giovanniello, Deputy Commissioner
- **Dressing for Success**: William Sleight III, Retired City of Poughkeepsie Police Detective
- **Happiness in the 21st Century: Your Personal Toolkit**: Bob Giovanniello, Sprint Coach
- **Service Based Leadership**: Barbara Swanson, Social Welfare Worker, Day Care Subsidy Unit
- **Conflict Appreciation & Resolution** : Chris Corman, Asst. Director of Intake, SI & Day Care Subsidy Units
- **Life Goals**: Wendy Baur, Supervisor, Adult & Family Services Unit/Housing
- **Achievement Award Session with Guest Speaker Putnam County Sherriff Donald B. Smith, Retired Brigadier General "What Leaders Do: A Model for Leadership Success"**

State/Professional Association Memberships:

- New York Public Welfare Association (NYPWA)
- New York State Staff Development Advisory Committee
- NYS Staff Development Association
- Region V Staff Development Group
- NYS Staff Development Conference Planning Committee
- STARS USERS group
- NYS TA Sub-committee