

Dutchess County Executive's Annual Report for 2021



Submitted by

Marcus J. Molinaro

Dutchess County Executive




COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

Marcus J. Molinaro
County Executive

MEMORANDUM

TO: A. Gregg Pulver, Chairman & Members of the County Legislature

FROM: Marcus J. Molinaro, County Executive 

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **Dutchess County Executive's Annual Report for 2021**

Pursuant to the Dutchess County Charter, filed herewith is the County Executive's written report of the finances of the County and the activities of the Executive Branch of County Government for the year 2021.

I remain grateful for the longstanding partnership with the Dutchess County Legislature, a fruitful collaboration which has again resulted in the highest quality of service to residents throughout our community. Though not without its challenges, 2021 was undoubtedly a year of success for the various departments of Dutchess County Government, and I proudly submit to you the accomplishments and activities of the County workforce – devoted men and women who routinely go above and beyond to serve their Dutchess County neighbors. While still coping with a new reality brought on by a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic, these individuals continued to adapt and innovate, fulfilling, as always, their mission to serve the residents of our great county. The selfless efforts of so many in our Dutchess County Government workforce never cease to amaze me, and that continued dedication to their duty can serve as a source of pride for every resident in this community. As this document illustrates, the best of Dutchess County is on display every day in our various departments and divisions, as well as the unparalleled services and programs they deliver to the nearly 300,000 people who call this county their home.

Eager to build on the successes detailed in the following pages, we will look ahead to a prosperous new year when I will host my annual State of the County Address. We will be determining a date for the annual address and look forward to having you join us as we continue our strong and rewarding partnership throughout 2022.

Thank you.

County Finances

Dutchess County began 2021 still in the depths of a pandemic, with cases continuing to rise after the Christmas and New Year holidays. However, 2022 also brought approved vaccines to combat the virus and the County quickly mobilized to implement vaccination clinics. Although counties had spent years preparing for these emergency scenarios, the State instead relied on a primarily centralized approach opening limited State regional mass vaccination sites while tasking Counties with focusing on essential worker vaccinations with limited vaccine supplied from the State. The County established vaccination sites in Central and Eastern Dutchess, as well as several targeted “pop-up” clinics throughout the County to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible.

The economic fallout from the pandemic left lasting and disrupting impacts on labor markets, production and supply chains, global energy markets, and shipping and transportation industries. However, federal government support, pent up consumer demand and strength in savings, enabled a strong recovery for the County.

Additionally, the Federal Government implemented the American Rescue plan (ARP), allocating almost \$2 trillion to residents directly as well as States, Counties, and Municipalities to implement several initiatives aimed at minimizing the impact of the pandemic on residents and government services. Child tax credits, direct payments to families, increased unemployment benefits, rental assistance programs, and small business aid among others, all increased the supply of money in the economy. Dutchess County was allocated \$57 million in ARP funding and has allocated these one-time funds primarily to meet one-time expenses and not ongoing costs. Dutchess County’s plan “Dutchess Invests” can be found on the [County Executive’s website](#). \$7 million is allocated to support rehiring staff over the next 4 years, and the remaining \$50 million will be used to make key investments in various areas including our parks system, homeless facility, youth center, tourism industry, emergency communications system, high-speed internet, water storage capabilities, and municipal and not-for-profit infrastructure investments.

At the end of 2020, due to the uncertainty of the economy at the time, the County budgeted sales tax revenue (which totals 40% of all revenue) for 2021 at 1.75% lower than the 2019 realized sales tax. The County ended 2020 with \$200 million in sales tax, 4% or \$8.5 million lower than 2019. However, this hit was primarily related to the economic shutdown with sales tax quickly recovering due to the additional money the federal government infused, as well as a returned consumer confidence. Year-to-Date sales tax with three payments remaining in 2021, totals \$233 million, \$28 million more than budgeted. It is projected the County will end the 2021 year with a sales tax surplus of over \$40 million. This surplus is primarily the result of consumer spending, coupled with the impact of inflation, as consumer prices rose by 6.8 percent November 2020 compared to November 2021 and the price of energy has increased over 33 percent. Used cars and trucks have increased 31 percent and new vehicles are up over 11 percent; the greatest increase since 1974. The County shares sales tax with our municipalities and they will see higher

than projected revenue as well, through their annual growth payment in March of 2022 when sales tax has been finalized.

The County's fund balance policy states: The County will strive to maintain an undesignated general fund balance of 1-2 months of general fund operating expenditures in the general fund balance as a means of maintaining financial stability. To the extent general fund balance exceeds 2 months of operating expenditures, the County will use general fund balance to pay down or avoid indebtedness and/or provide property tax relief through offsetting current year operating expenses. Although there will be other impacts to fund balance, both positive and negative, the projected increase in sales tax will have a significant positive impact on the County's general fund balance when the 2021 Annual update document is finalized in April 2022. With this projected impact to fund balance in mind, the County administration, with approval from the County Legislature, approved resolutions to use fund balance to reduce indebtedness, invest in short-term low-cost capital projects instead of bonding, and reduced taxes in the 2022 Adopted Budget. The 2022 Adopted Budget reduced the property tax levy by over \$5.5 million, the largest reduction in County history, and decreased the property tax rate by 10%.

Dutchess County's current fiscal position is strong, but we must continue to maintain a healthy fund balance, invest in our economy, and help industries hardest hit by the pandemic to not only recover, but to flourish, and we can with appropriate investments, support, and partnerships.

The County's Think Dutchess Alliance for Business continues its important work and has contributed to Dutchess' strong economy by bringing new business and jobs to Dutchess. With \$2.3 billion in projects under construction, \$1 billion in new development in the pipeline, and \$2 billion in recently completed projects, our tax base continues to grow. Dutchess County's housing market remains strong with 1,729 residential units currently under construction.

Dutchess County Government remains committed to controlling costs wherever possible, limiting the tax burden, and providing programs and services to help residents and improve the quality of life for those who call Dutchess home.

The following are highlights, by department, of the activities of the Executive Branch of Dutchess County Government, for 2021, including continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Office for the Aging

During the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, the Office for the Aging has continually adapted its services to meet the evolving needs of Dutchess County's older adults. The challenges OFA met during the pandemic will continue to apply in the future – notably, in providing information regarding OFA services and services remotely, through increased use of technology by older adults and their caregivers.

- Offered Senior Exercise programs (Matter of Balance, Tai Chi and Bingocize) remotely.
- Coordinated a COVID vaccination clinic, in conjunction with Rite-Aid Pharmacy, with 600 seniors receiving a vaccination.
- Distributed more than 30,000 face coverings to County seniors.
- Placed phone calls to 2,700 hundreds of Dutchess County's older adults, assisted each with completing the COVID questionnaire, and subsequently scheduled a COVID-19 vaccination appointment at one of the County PODs
- Increased numbers of intakes as the older adult population and those of all ages needing long-term services and supports, increases in Dutchess County. OFA's NY Connects Unit had 6,796 intakes in 2021.
- Received 38,200 phone calls for Information and Assistance from clients, family members and caregivers.
- Distributed 26,666 pieces of Nutritional Education material to 2,100 seniors. These monthly newsletters, written by the OFA Registered Dietician and focusing on nutrition and various tips for healthy eating, are distributed to Home Delivered Meal (HDM) and Congregate clients.
- Provided over 19,951 hours of home care to non-Medicaid clients.
- Provided over 2,122 hours of Consumer Direct Home Care.
- Served over 136,400 hot daily home delivered meals to 633 clients.
- The Home Delivered Meal program also served 16,650 meals to 214 clients as a result of the pandemic and updated eligibility requirements, passed down from New York State Office for the Aging due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Held five Drive-in Bingo events attended by over 200 seniors.
- Held a Senior Legal Day in Rhinebeck with three speakers providing information.
- Co-sponsored the Golden Gathering as a drive-through event, where over 1,000 seniors received information about resources and services available to them. Over 500 seniors also received their annual flu shot.
- Hosted 12 senior drive-through picnics throughout the county with 3,966 attendees.
- Continued prescription drug collection by Traffic Safety/STOP DWI and the Sheriff's Office at all senior picnic events resulted in 412 pounds of unwanted/unused medication collected. Since initiative was launched in 2014, 1,950 pounds of unwanted/unused medication has been collected and destroyed.
- Staff made 1,227 Nursing visits to community-based, long-term care clients. Staff provided over 7,600 hours of Case Management.
- During Medicare open enrollment period, counselors met with 167 clients to discuss Medicare enrollment, explaining benefits, comparing available plans.
- Provided 656 hours of legal services to 82 clients.
- Provided 27,375 units (contacts) of service for Information and Assistance to over 2,200 clients.
- Provided Personal Emergency Response System units to 288 non-Medicaid clients.
- Received and Processed 759 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications, 132 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) applications, and 128 Medicaid applications, which includes all types of Medicaid (community, spousal, nursing home) and MSP (Medicare Savings Program) applications.
- Provided over 3,700 hours of Social Adult daycare.
- Provided 11,344 units (one-way trips) of transportation for medical appointments, shopping, and senior center activities.
- Provided 98 Alzheimer caregiver consultations which includes follow-up and ongoing support.
- Provided assistance to 578 older adults with benefit program applications and eligibility (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, EPIC, SNAP)

- Distributed over 1,000 Farmers' Market Coupon books to low-income seniors.
- Relocated the Tri-Town Senior Friendship Center to a new location that offers considerably more space.
- 275 volunteers served in various capacities for department programs and services including insurance counseling, picnic assistance, home delivered meals, senior centers, and office assistance.

Behavioral & Community Health

General Department Highlights:

- The department underwent several transitions to key leadership positions, including Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and Assistant Commissioner for Administration, among others.
- DBCH Public Health Emergency Preparedness merged into the Department of Emergency Response.
- In September, the Department began managing PCR Testing at the County testing site inside the former JC Penney store in Poughkeepsie.
- Received a total of \$2,951,984 for the New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program to hire and train up to 18 Fellows.
- Received \$5,861,394 in funding to enable local schools/districts to establish COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning (including public, private, BOCES, and charter schools as applicable). The County worked with the districts to distribute an Request for Quotation in order to establish a list of eligible vendors; to date, over 6 companies have applied and school districts are using 3 vendors.

Environmental Health Services (EHS)

Administration

- Continued Administrative Law judge contract to preside over administrative hearings. The types of enforcement actions include food service, water or sewer operation violations, ATUPA (Adolescent Tobacco-Use Prevention Act) violations, and lead and other housing violations.

- Continued work with OCIS to improve EDITS functionality, including the development of the enforcement tracking and reporting functions, the complaint investigation tab, the animal bite report, and the ability to link projects.

Adolescent Tobacco-Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)

- EHS conducted 340 ATUPA compliance checks, resulting in 17 tobacco or vapor product sales to underage individuals and 18 illegal tobacco or vapor product sales to adults. 23 enforcement actions were completed; this includes enforcements initiated in 2020.
- Despite the ban on the sale of flavored vapor products going into effect in May 2020, the ATUPA unit continued to observe these prohibited products on premises at area retail facilities. Nine enforcement actions were initiated for the sales of flavored vapor products or for non-compliance with department directives to remove these items from the store.
- Fourteen ATUPA and three Clean Indoor Air Act related complaints were received and investigated.

Bathing Beaches and Swimming Pools

- Regulated 26 bathing beaches including permitting, investigating complaints, investigating reports of harmful algal blooms, investigating drownings, conducting inspections, sampling, and enforcement. 2 critical violations were cited and corrected.
- Collected 531 samples at bathing beaches for fecal coliform testing, with 19 samples exceeding the threshold for acceptable bathing water. Those beaches were closed until resampling confirmed water quality was satisfactory.
- Hosted 3 drowning prevention seminars, attended by 64 people.
- Permitted 160 public pool operations and performed 515 public pool inspections and re-inspections. 81 critical violations were cited; most violations were associated with inadequate disinfection, inadequate supervision, and improper enclosure of the pool.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

- The Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPPP) is a grant funded program supporting access to high-risk housing to educate, inspect and control lead hazards in the City of Poughkeepsie. In 2021, EHS, received 7 referrals for housing interventions and conducted lead hazard assessments in 4 dwelling interiors, 2 common areas, and on 3 dwelling exteriors.

- Conducted environmental lead investigations at properties where children identified with elevated blood lead levels reside or spend a significant amount of time. In 2021, EHS received 54 elevated blood lead level referrals for environmental case management.
- Ten enforcement actions were initiated against property owners for failing to complete required lead hazard remediation.

Children's Camps

- Regulated 42 children's camp operations, performed 128 children's camp inspections and re-inspections. 5 critical violations were cited; most violations were associated with supervision and swimming safety. 30 reportable children's camp injuries/illnesses were investigated. COVID-19 illnesses were reported and investigated at 12 camp operations.

Communicable Disease

- Four rabies vaccination clinics for pets were held in partnership with the Dutchess County SPCA, with 341 pets vaccinated.
- Supported two community partner clinics with 95 dogs and cats vaccinated.
- Investigated 661 potential human rabies exposures from animal contacts.
- As a result of the rabies exposure investigations, 104 animal specimens were tested and of the specimens tested, 5 were positive for rabies.
- Investigated 316 reports of COVID-19 positive individuals in permitted/NYS Agriculture and Markets facilities. A response tool to aid the COVID-19 investigations was developed and modified several times as guidance changed during the pandemic.
- Numerous outreach efforts occurred to permitted facility operators regarding COVID-19 operation guidance and responsibilities. EHS staff had extensive interaction with facility operators.
- Continued to assist the COVID-19 response through staffing the call center, providing contact tracing duties, and assisting at the vaccination PODs.
- Partnered with Dutchess County SPCA to trap, neuter, vaccinate/return (TNVR) feral cats; County funded spay/neuter and vaccination of 94 feral cats.

Engineering Projects

- Reviewed 2292 engineering plan submissions for approval of private wells, sewage collection, treatment and disposal systems, public water source, treatment, distribution and storage systems, public swimming pools and subdivisions.

Food Service

- Regulated 1,371 food service operations, 112 mobile food services, 402 temporary food services and performed 1,810 food service inspections and re-inspections. 463 critical violations were cited and resolved; the most frequently cited violations were associated with non-compliance with COVID-19 guidelines, room temperature storage of food, inadequate cooling of food, and inadequate refrigeration.
- Responded to 161 food service facility complaints, of which 83 were related to COVID-19.
- Initiated and completed 4 enforcement actions regarding non-compliance with Dutchess County Commissioner's Order and the NYS COVID-19 requirements.

Housing and Nuisance Complaints

- Investigated 282 housing complaints.
- Investigated 170 public nuisance complaints.

Indoor/Outdoor Air Quality

- Investigated 34 indoor air quality complaints.

Legionellosis outbreak investigations

- Worked with Public Health and Disease Prevention Division (PH&DP) to evaluate an increase in reported Legionella cases in Dutchess County. NYS DOH investigated a possible hospital link between several patients, while the DBCH investigated a potential common community exposure for several others. In coordination with the NYS health department, EHS assisted with Legionella sampling at an area supermarket visited by several ill individuals. Water sampling and produce spray nozzle swabbing was done; all sample results came back showing no Legionella bacteria detected.
- PH&DP and EHS worked with Planning on mapping of cooling towers and Legionella cases.

Private wells

- Reviewed 451 sampling results for private wells tested as part of Town mandated private well testing initiatives and sent letters to homeowners when results exceeded drinking water standards.

Public Water Systems

- EHS regulates the operation of 628 public water systems and the activities include inspections, investigating complaints, reviewing sampling results, reviewing sampling plans, reviewing monthly operation reports, reviewing annual water quality reports, conducting some sampling and enforcement. There were 6 new public water systems in 2021.
- 1,292 site visits were conducted, approximately 400 sanitary surveys were completed; 713 violations were cited.
- 291 chemical spills were investigated for impacts to public water supplies. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation investigates the impact on soils, air and groundwater, including private wells.
- Reviewed 980 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) samples in 2021 in connection with the August 25, 2020 addition of these compounds to the public water supply regulations. Over 20 new violations were recorded for these chemicals; staff assisted NYSDOH with off-site well sampling.
- Several water systems had source depletion issues and trucked in water. Montclair Apartments was able to connect well 8 to help alleviate their water deficit.
- There were various water outages and emergencies during 2021, caused by water main breaks, PFAS contamination, well yield problems, and well pump problems.
- Tested 919 chemical samples and 1,681 bacteriological samples as per SDWIS.

Tanning Facilities

- Regulated 8 tanning facilities and performed 8 inspections and re-inspections. One critical violation was cited and corrected.

Temporary Residence, Campgrounds, Mobile Home Parks, Migrant Farmworker Housing, Rooming Houses & Bed and Breakfasts

- Regulated 87 temporary residences and completed 95 inspections and re-inspections; 5 critical violations were cited and corrected.
- Regulated 10 campground operations and performed 18 campground inspections and re-inspections; 1 critical violation was cited and corrected.
- Regulated 80 mobile home park operations, and performed 57 mobile home park inspections, identifying several sewage failures, and working to gain compliance; 5 critical violations were cited and corrected.
- Regulated 8 migrant farmworker housing operations and performed 32 inspections and re-inspections. Several new facilities were permitted, due to NYS redefining a migrant farmworker housing facility from a minimum of 5 occupants to 1; 3 critical violations were cited and corrected.
- Permitted 3 public functions (attendance of over 5,000 people): the Dutchess County Fair, the Sheep and Wool Festival, and Sinterklaas. No critical violations were cited.
- Regulated 38 rooming houses and Bed and Breakfasts and performed 20 inspections and re-inspections.

Weights and Measures

- Performed 773 inspections at 565 establishments.
 - Inspected 4565 weighing and measuring devices; 4,428 devices were found to be correct, a 97% accuracy rate.
 - Conducted 227 Gas Signage Inspections
- Submitted 180 gas samples taken from random Dutchess County gas stations for octane analysis as part of the New York State Petroleum Quality Program; no violations were found.
- Conducted 39 inspections for pricing accuracy, more than 3700 items checked with 99.4% accuracy rate.
- Responded to 33 complaints which included: gas signage, scale accuracy, weight discrepancy, accuracy of amount of fuel dispensed, fuel pump operation, fuel dispenser condition, fuel quality, item pricing and scanner accuracy at supermarkets, delis, and small establishments.

- To date, 27 supermarkets and 17 chain pharmacies in Dutchess County are participating in the Item Pricing Waiver Law, enabling them to provide price scanners and shelf price labels instead of placing a price sticker on each item.
- 24 Secondhand Dealers were licensed in Dutchess County.
- Participated in Operation Homer, an investigation to ensure that secondhand dealers in Dutchess County comply with Dutchess County Local Law No. 5 of 2018. The operation was led by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. The conclusion of the operation resulted in three arrests, one license revocation and one license suspension.

E/I and Preschool

- The Early Intervention (E/I) and Preschool Special Education programs continue to work with service providers to efficiently maintain services for approximately 3,500 children annually.
- Students enrolled in 14 center-based sites in six counties attended programs in a “hybrid” model of in-person/virtual learning until August 2021. All Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education services were fully in-person in September 2021 but due to COVID surges, NYSBEI and NYSED continue to support virtual learning/services.
- The PSE program monitoring efforts continue to result in cost savings and improve the quality of services delivered to the children we serve. Our monitoring activities include:
 - Review of all evaluations for use of appropriate assessment tools and SED required standards
 - Monthly review of Medicaid exclusion list and monitoring of Medicaid required documentation
 - 100% desk audit of session notes to ensure compliance with Individual Education Plans (IEP) and appropriate SED services tracking forms; Annual review of IEP's and SED services tracking forms
 - Regular program director meetings, provider meetings, and site visits to ensure quality services and compliance with SED regulations
- Continued to work with the Environmental and Nursing divisions to identify children who may be exposed to lead paint in their home. Reinstated the annual trainings offered to EI On-going Service Coordinators and Providers in July 2021 and plan to resume the annual training for identifying lead paint hazards in 2022.
- All Early Intervention staff distribute the HELPLINE number on all business cards so that the families and community members have better access to mental health assistance.

- Presented on the Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education Programs at the 2021 Annual ThinkDIFFERENTLY conference.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP)

- Continued with NYSDOH contracts and worked with regional partners on several initiatives including but not limited to:
 - Regional pediatric emergency management plan
 - Regional Hazardous Vulnerability Analysis (HVA).
 - Regional Healthcare evacuation planning and Coalition Surge Test (CST) Exercise.
- COVID response included:
 - Investigations, surveillance, and contact tracing
 - Led the county's nursing facility task force and worked with the facilities on their COVID response
 - Infection control investigations and surveillance with the skilled nursing facilities
 - Operated a residential facility mobile vaccine POD to support vaccination of residents and staff at facilities without medical capability.
 - Worked with other critical partners on COVID-19 regional response.
 - Maintained wrap around services for county residents in isolation.
 - Provided support to homeless providers in quarantining and isolating cases in the community, provided vaccine and testing capability in the shelters.
 - Supported schools COVID response by ensuring testing capability for each district and private school.
- Provided planning and logistics services with regards to the Covid response and provided properly stored vaccine to county partners.
- Supported vaccination PODs to expand access to COVID-19 vaccines.
- Provided training for participants at all levels of the response.

Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)

The Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County's volunteers were active and instrumental in the County's response to COVID-19 throughout 2021 providing almost 28,000 hours of volunteer service, including:

- Volunteering over 21,000 hours to help staff in practically every role in the COVID-19 Vaccination PODs in 2021;

- Delivering groceries and/or medication orders to those in isolation;
- Volunteering and training to become contact tracers and case investigators and tackling data projects as needed;
- Tabled at a variety of community events and locations to help answer questions about the COVID-19 vaccines and how to register for an appointment;
- Assisting with logistical operations;
- Assisting residents, especially the underserved community, to find vaccine appointments and transportation;
- Supported all 12 Senior Citizen Picnics, the Foster Family Picnic, the Think Differently Fitness Day, the LGBT Pride Parade, as well as a number of events sponsored by Dutchess County Parks to provide First Aid and other services;
- MRC volunteers were trained to become trainers for the Narcan program;
- MRC's Animal Response Team (DCART) staffed every shift at the Dutchess County Fair as well as developed and distributed pamphlets on animal preparedness and animal CPR. In addition, they presented a program on Pet First Aid for the community;
- MRC's Mental Health Team was formed and trained to help respond to mental health emergencies in the community. Volunteers assisted staff at a number of incidents;
- MRC, in conjunction with the Dutchess County Sherriff's Office, presented the Stop the Bleed portion of the Active Shooter Training for a variety of community groups.

Veterans Services

- Rendered over 17,383 contact services to Dutchess County Veterans and their families regarding services and entitlements available from federal, state and local government.
- Maintained designation of Functional Zero Veteran Homelessness in County.
- Collaborated with MHA of Dutchess VET2Vet in setting up weekly Zoom meetings.
- In partnership with Senator Sue Serino, conducted two drive thru pasta dinners.
- Hosted three Fireside talks including a Vets on the Hudson where veterans came together around a fire to talk about veterans' issues in the County and how to resolve them.

- Conducted a Veteran Stand Down Event; 22 veterans came out to network with other agencies that provide information and services for veterans, such as employment and housing.
- Continued the relationship established with network of Veteran Liaisons, comprised of one town board member from each municipality within Dutchess County, to conduct outreach and make referrals to the Division of Veteran Services.
- Provided a \$70,000 grant for Hudson River Housing VETZERO to hire two full time drivers for transportation for Dutchess County veterans to and from appointments.
- Conducted two Veteran Stand Down events with MHA VET-TAP where the division provided information and were able to look up and submit claims immediately.
- Collaborated with Dutchess County DPW department on a plan to build a Veterans monument at the Dutchess Counties Veterans Memorial Highway, also planning first Dutchess County Veterans Memorial cemetery located at Wappingers Rural Cemetery.
- Increased funds for our Veterans Homeless program (HERO) in response to significant increase in local rents.
- Continued to obtain home addresses from the VA Records Management Service, allowing the Division of Veterans' Services to send letters to all newly discharged veterans returning to Dutchess County, inviting them to apply for veteran benefits with the Division of Veterans' Services.
- Worked with county offices as well as police and fire departments to host Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies.
- Provided funding for VET-TAP (Veterans Employment Training – Transition Assistant Program) through MHA of Dutchess County.
- Assisted Veterans in applying for the Tom Zurhellen Fund, which awarded \$15,292 to help veterans in need.

- Worked in tandem with Mental Health of America Dutchess County in facilitating services and applications for VA benefits for veterans participating in Vet2Vet: Veterans' Peer Services Program. The Program is available to all Dutchess County Veterans and their families and provides:
 - A network of Peer Support Groups facilitated by a veteran;
 - Referral to services addressing PTSD, suicide and suicidal ideation, TBI, depression, and other issues;
 - Case management: advocacy, support, and connection to resources for veterans and/or their families;
 - Socialization activities for veterans and their families; and
 - Liaison with other veterans' services.

Public Health Disease Prevention

- Hired two part-time Family Nurse Practitioners to staff clinic and provide additional clinical support to the division.
- *Vaccination:* Public Health and Disease Prevention staff were integral to the change in focus from contact tracing and case investigation to supporting the Dutchess County Vaccine response; staff offered both technical, logistical, and other support to developing and implementing the vaccination PODS.
- *Case Investigation:* Through grant monies, Public Health and Disease Prevention, hired (6) COVID Public Health Advisors and a COVID-Senior Public Health Advisor. This team does the contact tracing and Rapid COVID Response and supported POD-related activities.
- *Immunization Program:* Assisted in planning and implementing the department's COVID-19 response: Vaccine Administration Skills Checks were completed for division staff and MRC volunteers; CPR certifications were updated.
- *Tuberculosis Program:* Services include contact tracing and Direct Observed Therapy (DOT). Direct Observed Therapy services were provided remotely whenever possible. TST tested was provided as needed.
- *Rabies Pre and Post Prophylaxis Services:* The Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis Program had an exceptionally high-volume year. Residents following mitigation advice to social distance and pursue outdoor activities may have contributed.

Community Engagement and Prevention

- Offered and/or participated in multiple public trainings, including:

- Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers
- ThinkDIFFERENTLY panel participation
- Hosted monthly virtual Narcan training
- Street Outreach Training
- Developed training for Office of Probation and Community Corrections on Trauma Informed Approaches and Recovery
- Crisis Intervention Training
- LGBTQIA+ Considerations for local organizations, DBCH staff, and community members, attended by approximately 90 people
- Trauma informed Care the Arlington Central School District, attended by 75 members of school staff
- Institute for Family Health Information Sharing, attended by 7 professionals
- Enhanced Coordinated Children's Services Initiative Network Sharing, attended by 75 participants
- Building Bridges Conference, attended by more than 100 attendees;
- Mental Health First Aid for Adults (five trainings with 65 attendees) and for Youth: (1 training with 10 attendees)
- Question, Persuade, Refer (4 trainings with 115 attendees)
- Pedestrian Safety with 260 attendees
- Trauma in Childhood & Sexuality and IDD training day with 60 attendees trained
- Held 168 Opioid Overdose Prevention Trainings and trained 1,235 individuals trained, including agency clients, professional staff, college staff and students, first responders, general community, school nurses/staff; 85 people were trained to become new trainers.

Recovery Coaches

- Hired new recovery coach, as well as community and engagement prevention coordinator to expand outreach and support individuals with unmet behavioral health needs.
- Developed and implemented a protocol for integrating recovery coaching into local drug courts.
- Developed programming and conceptual model for the “Empowerment Center,” a safe, supportive drop in space for anyone in recovery to learn new skills and receive immediate support and connection; currently searching for a location.
- Began weekly harm reduction street outreach, monthly street clean ups.

Children & Youth Services

- Received 88 Children's Single Point of Access applications (community cases) as of 12/15/21 and 7 applications for Residential Treatment Facilities included in the 88 applications.
- Facilitated Children & Youth Subcommittee Forum, attended by 142 individuals.

COVID-19 Response

- Supported and augmented the department-wide COVID-19 response.
- Multiple sessions with Pupil Personnel Directors to discuss school trends and transition issues post COVID.
- Managed COVID-19 Call Center
- Developed several online COVID-19 apps to assist with contact tracing, positive test reporting, COVID letters, and 24/7 Covid Call Center
- Nursing home reviews
- Volunteers at JC Penney POD

Other Activities

- Obtained OMH SOC 25K grant
- 80 individual IDD community cases accessed IDD coordinated
- Conducted first virtual MHB Subcommittee Public Forum
- Offer a monthly Covid Support Call to school Districts to assist youth returning to school after virtual learning experience.

Partial Hospital Program

- Clinicians completed a 4-day intensive certification training course on Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT)
- 3 clinicians completed a 2-day Cognitive Processing Therapy Training Program for the treatment of PTSD and started weekly consultation to become CPT providers

- 2 clinicians became Certified Clinical Tele-Mental Health Providers

Program Additions/Improvements

- Review of program by NYS Office of Mental Hygiene (OMH)MH, delayed due to COVID-19, was completed; received a full 3-year licensure renewal (through June 2024).
- Successfully added Tele-mental Health permanently to County's license as an option for treatment
- Returned to in-person services while adjusting for OMH's COVID-19 guidelines for safety
- Received OMH Workforce grant (\$36,000)
- Secured equipment to allow hybrid (in-person and online) treatment to help better serve those in remote locations of the county as well as to meet the needs of those quarantining/isolating from COVID-19.

Program Participation

- Total referrals: 338
- Total intakes: 120, lower than typical pre-pandemic volume, though an increase from 2020 (83 intakes).

Assisted Outpatient Treatment

- 81 individuals have AOT orders, and 6 individuals are receiving voluntary Enhanced Services.

Helpline/Trauma Team

- Successfully relocated Helpline operation to Department of Emergency Response, changing the entire phone system as well.
- Developed a protocol with 911 Supervisor to allow non-imminent mental health and/or substance use calls to be transferred to Helpline., thus reducing the unnecessary use of emergency services (police, fire & EMS).
- Completed MOU with NYC Well to be County's back-up coverage for all bridge phones.

- Increased Lifeline hours from M-F 9AM-4PM, to daily 9AM-12AM; within the first week, saved a life during modified hours.
- Assisted with completing and launching new Helpline App.
- Compiled all needed documentation for American Association of Suicidology reaccreditation.

HELPLINE

- Through first 11 months of 2021, Helpline staff:
 - Answered 23,843 calls to 845-485-9700;
 - Completed 2,654 pre-intakes;
 - Answered 742 text messages; and
 - Answered 218 Lifeline calls
- As of 12/14/21 Helpline made 501 referrals to the Mobile Crisis Team.

Trauma Team

- Responded to 37 trauma calls, as of Dec. 15, 2021.
- Added additional team members from MRC, DBCH and People Inc; team now includes 22 members.
- Received approval and filled two new Helpline Crisis Counselor positions, as well as changed title of position; received approval to fill second shift Supervising Social Worker position.
- Participated in multiple planning sessions on a state and local level for future 988 implementation. Revised 9.45 protocol (involuntary transport to psychiatric assessment 9.39 hospital)

Epidemiology

- Continued to provide support and data research for Opioid Task Force
- Continued preparation for the next Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan cycle in 2022.

- Coordinated and managed COVID-19 data on
 - Over 30,000 cases
 - Over 200,000 vaccinations
 - Almost 300 deaths
 - Provided cluster and technical support

Adult SPOA (Single Point of Access)

- Received and processed 261 Adult SPOA applications; housed 31 individuals. Current SPOA list is 173 individuals.
- Received and processed 102 Adult Care Management applications
- Received and processed 48 ACT (Assertive Community Treatment) referrals.

Medical Examiner's Office

- 1,623 total cases, compared to 1,251 in 2020 (30% increase).
- 304 total autopsies: NUMBER from Dutchess County, NUMBER from Rensselaer County.
- Continued with the COAP grant toxicology testing.
- NIJ Iris Study grant research project was completed and a scientific paper was accepted for publication.
- Contracts were set up for Touro College medical students and Marist College physician assistant programs students to rotate through the DCME.
- Established a shared services contract to perform autopsies for Rensselaer County Medical Examiner's Office and the Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office.

Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS)

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Continuity of Operations

- Provided the technology setup and needed supplies for vaccination PODs at multiple locations including the Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH), Dover High School Gym, Dover CVS Outlet, and JCPenney Galleria Mall.

- Coordinated the logistics for continued support of the homeless shelter POD at the Dutchess County Jail campus.
- Streamlined Central Services courier mail routes to make them safer and more efficient during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Coordinated procurement and distribution of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) KN95 Masks to all departments.

Remote Access

- Supported employee work from home remote access via virtual private network (VPN) with Citrix and Microsoft 365.

Website Support

- Maintained up-to-date information on a wide array of COVID-19 webpages, including new forms to engage citizens.
- Developed a COVID-19 Positive Case Reporting Form for the Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) to allow citizens to report positive results of at-home tests.
- Developed a web form for citizens to determine eligibility and schedule avaccination appointment at a County-run site.

Division of Information Services

Awards

- Winner 2021 Best of New York Awards for Best Application Serving the Public, Path to Promise Website by Government Technology Magazine.
- Glenn Marchi, OCIS Commissioner named 2021 LocalSmart Award for Golden Government: Executive of the Year by StateScoop.
- Ranked No. 6 in the nation for 2021 Digital Counties Survey Award for best use of technology to produce efficient services and better serve residents (250,000-499,000 population category) by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo). Dutchess County has consistently ranked in the nation's top ten for each of the last 16 years and in the top five for the each of the past five years.

Shared Services

- Migrated shared services municipal websites from the Bluehost provider to WPEngine cloud-based web hosting, including Board of Elections, Path to Promise, Village of Beacon, Town of Amenia, Village of Wappingers, and Town of Wappingers.
- Converted legacy Public Safety data into Town of Hyde Park Public Safety Solution to allow access to years of historical data .
- Redesigned and began hosting Town of Amenia website for improve citizen engagement through targeted information and faster access.

County Intranet & Internet

- Continued to expand online intranet training portal to give employees access to learn Office 365 productivity tools, OnBase tools, and cybersecurity.
- Served more than 4.3 million page views on the County’s website and the following Internet citizen engagement indicators have improved in 2021:
 - Visitors: The number of visitors or users who visited the Dutchess County Government website increased by 12% from 1,016,635 in 2020 to 1,161,365. A website visitor is defined as someone who views/goes to your website.
 - Pageviews (HTML pages only): Increased pageviews by 17% from 3,584,034 in 2020 to 4,341,695 in 2021. A pageview is defined as single viewing of a web page.
 - Unique pageviews: Increased unique pageviews by 13% from 2,902,718 in 2020 to 3,321,444 in 2021. If a user views the same page more than once in a session, this will only count as a single unique page view.
 - Bounce rate: Improved bounce rate by 1.8% from 67% in 2020 to 65.2% in 2021. Bounce rate is defined as the percentage of visitors to a particular website who navigate away from the site after viewing only one page.
 - Average time on page: Increased average time on page by 14 seconds from 1 minute 56 seconds in 2020 to 2 minutes, 10 seconds in 2021.

Community Engagement

- Commissioner Glenn Marchi served on several industry organization committees and participated in various summits including the New York State Virtual Digital Government Summit, and , New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) Committee, and New York State Local Government Information Technology Director’s Association (NYSLGITDA) Conference.

Customer Service

- Conducted the 4th Annual OCIS Customer Satisfaction Survey. Benefit: Achieved a 91% level of customer satisfaction (i.e., Satisfied and Very Satisfied), which is up from 86% in 2020. Top-5 strengths: 1) Finds best solution, 2) Makes a positive contribution, 3) Is well respected and trusted, 4) Positive attitude towards change, and 5) Works as an effective team. Top services for the Division of Central Services: Mail/Courier, Print, Storeroom, Multipurpose Copiers, and Bids/RFP/Quotes. Top services for the Division of Information Services: Helpdesk, Email and Security. Coordinated the processing of the 2021 School and Property Tax Rolls and Bills with multiple departments and met the State mandated deadline of December 31, 2021.

Digital Transformation

- Created the Engineering Project Status Portal to provide public access to activity regarding Engineering projects within the Environmental Health Services division of DBCH.
- Provided Geographic Information Systems (GIS) integration with Dutchess County's Long-Range Transportation Plan, www.movingdutchessforward.com.
- Built an application program interface (API) to upload data nightly into the NeoGov Human Resources (HR) Training Management System to improve tracking of employee training courses by Human Resources.
- Migrated Netsmart, a nursing case management system, from on-premises to the cloud to improve support and maintenance capabilities.
- Built a web application to allow the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) to update over 700 resources displayed on the Path to Promise (P2P) website. The new application replaced a very complex manual process and allows updates to be completed more efficiently via an easy-to-use interface.
- Streamlined the Public Safety Firearms Seizure process for the Dutchess County Sheriff's office Pistol Permit Bureau by automating label creation thus eliminating manually writing out evidence tags and increasing efficiency.
- Used OnBase WorkView to create Reasonable Accommodations and Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Database for Human Resources HR to improve tracking of complaints.

Infrastructure Support

- Rolled out latest version of Citrix Workspace application, an information retrieval service where users can remotely and securely access programs and files through a Web browser.
- Upgraded County network with new core switches to increase capability from 20 Gbps to 100 Gbps. Installed additional Wireless Access Points (WAPs) to expand County access.
- Increased cybersecurity awareness by promoting a Dutchess County proclamation for National Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October while promoting employee engagement via intranet links to cyber safety tips.
- Addressed all cyber regulations for New York State Board of Elections (BOE) including network segmentation and joint contract between OCIS and BOE.
- Implemented CrowdStrike end-point security, which delivers continuous, comprehensive endpoint visibility that spans detection, response and forensics to cyber attacks.
- Upgraded firewall network security via CheckPoint firewalls, which blocks cyber attacks on the County network.
- Created cyber governance, including the Cyber Incident Response (IR) Policy and IR Plan to enable a coordinated response to a cyber incident.
- Used a \$50k grant from New York State (NYS) Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHES) to provision an end-point security solution.
- Implemented Splunk, which provides monitors, logs and provides real-time alerts for any cyber threats.
- Implemented recommendations provided by an internal risk assessment from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).
- Provided cybersecurity end-user awareness training via KnowBe4, which uses active campaigns testing end-users on phishing attacks and online learning.
- Implemented Zerto Long Term Recovery (LTR), which allows for faster recovery time and improved continuity of operations during a disaster.
- Deployed new Enterprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Server Architecture to allow for easier system growth/scalability in the future.
- Supported technology infrastructure including networks, servers, Help Desk, telephones, deskside workstation support, printers, and/or server rooms to meet ongoing business needs.

Division of Central Services

Mail Room

- Expanded courier service for County mail delivery to include additional outside agencies (e.g., Chamber of Commerce).
- Worked with the United States Post Office to recoup monies for spoiled postage.

Municipal Procurement Assistance Program and Shared Services

- Processed approximately \$257,000 in sales from the Dutchess County Storeroom, of which an estimated \$37,000 was from local municipalities' and agencies' bulk purchase of items such as paper, envelopes, cleaning supplies, paper towels, calendars, trash can liners and more by the County, thereby providing significant savings to municipal partners.
- Maintained the Municipal Procurement Assistance Program for municipalities to have access to professional, lower-cost procurement services throughout the County, reducing the need for the services at the local level and providing significant estimated savings.
- Contracted with 20 municipalities for procurement shared services; assisted contracted municipalities with over 20 procurement projects.

Print Shop

- Migrated the Digital Store Front work order system to a cloud-based version 12.0, allowing the Print Shop Staff to utilize more functionality and a more precise billing system. Trained customers on the updated Digital Store Front.
- Received over 1,000 printing requests. Completed 3 million impressions. Printed numerous COVID-19 posters, fliers, and laminated signs in an efficient and timely manner.

Procurement Card

- Dutchess County Comptroller's Office Audit Report of the Dutchess County Procurement Card Program found that fiscal oversight was strong with adequate measures in place that detect and prevent fraud and/or misuse.
- Assisted in identifying vendors that could provide COVID-19 supplies in a timely manner.
- Received a yearly rebate based on spending for the Procurement Card Program. For the third year of the program (March 2021 – February 2022), Dutchess County received over \$19,000 in rebates.

- Ensured the necessary procurement card limits were increased to allow the procurements of commodities (including emergency purchases) for COVID-19.

Purchasing

- Received 92 Request for Bid and Proposal submissions in 2021. Received 36 Request for Quotes submissions in 2021.
- Received appointment for a staff member as an Assistant Region Representative on the Board of Directors for the New York State Associations of Municipal Purchasing Officials (SAMPO).
- Received Legislative approval to allow acceptance of electronic bid submission to increase efficiencies in the County's procurement process.
- Coordinated with County departments for emergency purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Participated in multi-County bids and forums to enable the procurement of supplies during the negative impacts of supply chain distribution.
- Received designation for a staff member as a Certified Procurement Professional by the National Institute of Government Purchasing (NIGP), the leading public procurement association.
- Revised 2021 Procurement Policy to allow acceptance of electronic bid submission and updated Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Uniform Guidance requirements.
- Coordinated with County departments for emergency purchasing of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Storeroom

- Continued e-waste program with E-WASTE Plus, eliminating the County's need to pay for disposal service resulting in the removal of 7,023 pounds of e-waste from the waste stream in an environmentally conscious way.
- Repurposed approximately 220 pieces of furniture allowing County departments, local municipalities, and agencies to save over \$30,000.
- Continued to be the main distribution point for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for County Departments.

- Coordinated efforts with the Department of Emergency Response for the acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies for COVID-19.
- Coordinated four surplus vehicle, equipment, and office furniture auctions, generating over \$93,344 in revenue.

Community and Family Services

- Delivered services to more than 1 in 10 Dutchess County residents, reaching over 30,000 unduplicated individuals across all programs.
- Much of the delivery of services provided in 2021 continued to be affected by the pandemic. The Department took several steps to mitigate the situation and ensure that staff and clients were safe, and that service level was maintained. A phone booth was installed in the reception area of the main office building to enable clients to talk with their workers without having to meet face to face.
- NYS oversight agencies issued several waivers, including the requirement to hold face to face interviews with Temporary Assistance applicants, allowing telephone interviews instead. Other waivers affected the re-certification period, effectively extending the re-certification period for Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients.
- Ensured that Medicaid coverage that would have expired during the pandemic was reinstated so there was no gap in coverage for existing Medicaid recipients.
- The Department was granted a NYS waiver to provide additional benefits under the Child Care Assistance Program due to COVID-19. These waivers were initially in place in March 2020 and continued until July 2021. The waiver expanded the income eligibility standards to serve families with incomes up to 85% of the State Median Income and allowed the family share to be waived for those families impacted by COVID-19. In addition, starting 12/1/2021, new case authorizations for childcare assistance provide a 12-month eligibility period and certain families receiving childcare assistance will no longer have a family share.
- The Commissioner's Rapid Response team received 1,005 inquiries through the DCFSinfo email on the County public website.
- DCFS offered the annual *Navigating the DCFS System* workshop virtually to bring providers up to date on the various benefits available, with a particular focus on Temporary Assistance. 77 individuals representing 11 agencies attended the WebEx.
- Collaborated with The Mid-Hudson Valley Benefits Advisory Group hosted by Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. (TRI) on May 21, 2021, and gave a presentation on Medicaid Eligibility & Application Process. Approximately 27 people attended.

- Adoption recruiter partnership with NYS Office of Children and Family Services, Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie and the Wendy’s Wonderful Kids Foundation continued. The recruiter worked with 9 children. The Department finalized a total of 13 adoptions in 2021.
- The number of children in Foster Care continued to decrease and the percentage of children placed in approved relative homes slightly decreased. As of December 31, 2021, there were 114 children in foster care, with 30.7% (35) of them placed in approved relative homes. As of December 31, 2021, there were 186 children in foster care, with 27% (50) of them placed in approved relative homes.
- Continued the partnership with Mental Health America to pilot a Coached Visitation Program, an interactive program that focuses on trained volunteers coaching parents during supervised visits, teaching them to meet the needs of their children so that children can safely return home from foster care. In 2021, four families received these services.
- Continued to provide emergency shelter services at for the homeless the temporary PODs located in the Law Enforcement Center and Jail campus, sheltering an average of 92 individuals per night.
- Dutchess County was allocated federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to assist households that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. The program provides assistance with rental arrears, temporary current rental assistance, and assistance with unpaid utility bills. While the program is administered by the State, the Department spearheaded an extensive outreach effort to get the word out and assist both landlords and tenants with the application process. As of December 31, 2021, there were 2,429 applications from Dutchess County.

Reception

DCFS continued to attend to the needs of County residents through the ongoing pandemic. Many new policies and procedures were implemented to provide alternatives to in-person visits, but if the requirement or desire was present to visit our service locations, we were open and ready to serve.

- The Poughkeepsie Front Desk handled 18,403 transactions between June and December; similar figures from January to May are not available.
- 10,555 new/recertification applications were received, or documents dropped off (including 4,697 for Temporary Assistance, 742 for Medicaid, 4,314 for Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, and 802 for the Home Energy Assistance Program).
- A total of 193 additional transactions were completed through the Poughkeepsie self-service kiosk.

Administrative Services

- Processed 117,203 pieces of outgoing US Mail (not including inter-office mail).
- Distributed 5,019 documents submitted through the NYDocSubmit mobile app.
- Recorded 8,366 incoming voter registration forms (included in benefit application packages).
- Held and processed 485 Fair Hearings. DCFS was successfully upheld in 95% of fair hearings held. All Fair Hearings have been held virtually in response to the pandemic.
- Completed 34 Fiscal Day Care Audits for NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) for the first three quarters of 2021. All transactions and funding calculations were properly claimed and processed for Dutchess County without any discrepancies.
- Processed over 300 contracts for various services including, but not limited to, supportive service agreements, domestic violence, employment, homeless prevention, foster care services, resource parents, etc.
- Processed 81,100 fiscal transactions in the Accounting unit, totaling more than \$44,652,000.
- Accounting began accepting credit and debit cards both online and in-person as a new, convenient way for customers to remit payments.
- Scheduled all mandatory and necessary training for new and existing staff; tracked CPS staff to ensure compliance with State In-Service training requirements.

Adult Services

- Received 750 Protective Services for Adults (PSA) referrals and provided ongoing services to 473 adults, of which 30 involved Guardian Services and 69 Representative Payee Services.
- Administered the Family Type Home Program, a licensed community congregate care program that provides 24-hour adult care in a home environment to adults in need of minimal assistance with their adult daily living needs. As of December 31, 2021, there were 15 such homes in Dutchess County.
- Conducted 16 inspections for the Foster Family Home Program, a licensed community congregate care program with medical oversight.

- Provided Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) service to individuals who need assistance in obtaining waivers for eligibility determinations, emergency residential services or non-residential domestic violence services. There were 43 new DVL assessments and 5 reassessments.
- Provided Temporary Emergency Housing to 510 adults and 234 children, with \$5,461,802 expended on emergency housing.

Children's Services

- Child Protective Services (CPS) investigated 2,868 reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment in 2021.
- Placed 34 children in foster care and discharged 78 children from foster care to permanence; 114 children are in foster care as of December 31.
- Completed 13 adoptions and 6 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGap) discharges. As of the December 31, 36 foster children had a goal of adoption.
- Recruitment efforts continued to locate, train, and certify qualified foster parents for Dutchess County children. In 2021, 11 new kinship foster homes were certified and 6 more are open in emergency status, pending final certification. As of December 2021, Dutchess County had a total of 68 active foster/adoptive homes and 20 relative foster homes certified and opened.
- Continued implementing family meetings, bringing the immediate family, extended family, and significant people in the family's life together to discuss how they can address the safety concerns in lieu of placing the children in foster care.
- Continued to partner with the Office of Probation and Community Corrections to provide services to meet the needs of Juvenile Delinquent (JD) youth. In 2021, 18 youth required non-secure detention.
- Continued to partner with the Office of Probation and Community Corrections to provide services to meet the needs of Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) youth. In 2021, 4 youths were in Pre-Dispositional Placement.
- Continued to coordinate Secure Detention Services on a 24-hour basis. In 2021, 17 youth required secure detention and 4 youth required specialized secure detention placement.

Safe Harbor/Human Trafficking

- Received 32 referrals of at-risk youth.
- Held three meetings of the full Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking and three steering committee meetings.
- Conducted 7 human trafficking awareness trainings to Dutchess County agencies and residents.
- Attended the National Night Out event to disseminate information
- Held 2 evidence based “Not a Number” prevention education programs for youth.
- Participated in Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse and SART committees, the Criminal Justice Council Victims Subcommittee and the DCFS Diversity and Inclusion Team

Youth Services

- The Youth Board and Coordinating Council awarded New York State Office of Children and Family Services funding to 18 programs for a total of \$278,762.
- The Youth Board and Coordinating Council awarded scholarships to a Poughkeepsie High School student and a Dutchess Community College student.
- Provided supported services for 127 children/youth. Of those, 71 cases were closed, and 70 clients achieved at least one goal.
- Conducted 16 workshops with a total of 212 youth and 26 adults participating.
- Organized the Strengthening Families Forum to provide an opportunity for former and prospective participants to come together to learn about the program and each other.
- Four families enrolled in the 7-week Strengthening Families program; three families successfully completed the program.
- Distributed approximately 200 bookbags to children donated by Fostering Hope Together at the National Night Out event held in Poughkeepsie.
- Dutchess County Youth Council enrolled 48 students throughout the County. The council piloted the “Spirit Run” book club for ten students involved in the Dutchess County Youth Council and the Green Teen Programs.

Path To Promise

- Launched the Path-To-Promise website (pathtopromise.net) to provide information about Path To Promise initiative and community assets for children, youth, and families in Dutchess County. There were 6,737 page views and 973 users. The website was awarded 1st Place for the Best of New York Award for Best Application Serving the Public.
- Joined Dutchess County BOCES Main Advisory Council to assist with developing career and technical education programs in Dutchess County.
- Launched the Youth Opportunity Union (the-You.org) website to provide information and updates pertaining to the County's state-of-the-art youth facility. With the Youth Opportunity Advisory Committee, department continues provide input in the redevelopment of the former YMCA site in Poughkeepsie.
- Partnered with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board and Dutchess Community College to organize the Annual Youth Summit for 150 youth held on August 5th at Dutchess Community College's Fishkill campus.
- Collaborated with the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet, Poughkeepsie City School District and Boston College Lynch School of Education to launch the City Connects pilot initiative at Poughkeepsie Middle School to provide individualized support services for 6th grade students.
- Partnered with Astor Services for Children and Families to launch the READY4K pilot program for 372 families enrolled in the Head Start program. The READY4K Core curriculum includes literacy, math, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and/or health information delivered via text messages to families enrolled in program.
- Collaborated with Family Service's SNUG program to develop the "Bridging The Gap" and "Community Mentor" initiatives to address gun violence in the City of Poughkeepsie.
- Collaborated with the Boys and Girls Club of Poughkeepsie and Newburgh, the Boy Scouts of America, Pathfinder FC, and the Dutchess County Public Transit Department to organize a 6-day summer sports, camping and educational enrichment program for 70+ youth.
- Conducted a Path To Promise presentation and participated in strategic planning sessions with Geoffrey Canada, founder, Harlem Children's Zone and Paul Reveille, founder, of Harvard's EdRedesign Lab and their colleagues.

Temporary Assistance

- Processed 4,354 Temporary Assistance applications and 8,215 SNAP applications.
- Referred and opened 88 cases with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to assist with SSI applications. A total of 54 applications were submitted and 8 were to receive awards; the 8 awards total \$81,120 in annual benefits (\$6,760 monthly) to Dutchess County households and \$26,396 in retroactive benefits received for clients who were assisted with applications.
- Temporary Assistance averaged 859 cases per month. As of December 31, there were 827 individuals receiving temporary assistance (TA). According to the employment assessments conducted by our contractor Industrial Medicine Associate (IMA), as of December 31, there were 103 TA recipients deemed unemployable due to Substance Use.
- Through continued partnership with BOCES, 26 individuals completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) intake assessment. 9 Temporary Assistance recipients enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes and/or the High School Equivalency program. Additionally, there were 18 individuals enrolled in other training programs offered at BOCES, including Certified Nurse's Assistant (CNA); Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC); or phlebotomy; 14 completed their training.
*Note: Intake began in July of 2021.
- Through a partnership with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, DCFS offers TANF eligible individuals with employment and life skills workshops, job seeking, placement, and retention services. 48 clients participated in the Workforce Connections program; 14 recipients became employed.
- DCFS offered a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through the Work Force Investment Board (WIB) for eligible youth from low-income households, foster care, juvenile justice, runaway and homeless youth. 161 county youth participated, of which 7 were active on Temporary Assistance.
- The "Way to Work Dutchess" program, (formerly Community Solutions for Transportation) administered by the Workforce Investment Board for DCFS, assists low-income working families meet their transportation needs. 6 participants received preowned vehicles. Additionally, 3 individuals passed their road test and obtained their NYS driver's license.
- Contracted with Exodus for employment services targeting eligible TANF and Safety Net individuals, post-incarceration, with comprehensive job seeking, job retention services, job education and training career/employment planning. 23 individuals participated, with 8 becoming employed, earning an average hourly wage of \$13.36 and working an average of 22 hours per week.

Day Care Unit

- Provided services to 614 families and 1,023 children with no waiting list. The eligibility for accessing childcare services is at 200% or below of the Federal Poverty Level.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- As of December 31, there were 10,446 SNAP cases representing 17,131 individuals.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

- Authorized 11,125 regular benefits for a total of \$3,261,085 for the 2020-2021 HEAP season (November 2, 2020 to August 31, 2021)
- Emergency HEAP opened on January 4 and closed on August 31. A maximum of 3 emergency benefits per eligible case were available in the 2020-2021 HEAP season. A total of 1,431 1st Emergency HEAP benefits were issued, totaling \$732,920. 371 households received a 2nd and 3rd emergency benefit, totaling \$184,152.
- Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement (HERR) started on October 1, 2020 and closed on September 30, 2021. Authorized 12 furnace/boiler repairs, 35 furnace/boiler replacements, totaling \$169,781.
- Clean & Tune Component of HEAP opened on October 1, 2020 and closed on September 30, 2021. 138 Clean & Tune services were completed, totaling \$41,053.
- During the 2019-2020 HEAP Season, the Emergency Fuel Depots dispensed a total of 820 gallons of heating fuel to 75 households.
- Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) of HEAP opened on May 3 and closed on August 31; 96 CAC benefits were issued totaling \$75,615. The maximum benefit was \$800 per unit.

Indigent burials

- 244 burials assistance were requested: 122 were approved and 122 denied. A total of \$254,602 was paid to funeral homes for burial of the indigents.

Medicaid

- Processed 32,555 transactions, for a total caseload of 14,734 (as of 11/30/21).
 - 2,111 applications were Community Medicaid applications, bringing total community Medicaid cases caseload to 13,846.

- 416 chronic care applications were received, for a total of 905 active cases.
- 178 SSI applications were received, for a total of 5,352 SSI active cases.
- 137 cases had determinations for Disability Reviews.
- 767 cases referred by New York State of Health (NYSOH) for local processing.
- Participated in the ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference “Dutchess County’s Collaboration of Services and Care Across the Life Span for People of All Abilities.”
- Initiated 8 projects for the consolidated 1915c Children’s Waiver from NYSDOH to LDSS. This involved contracting and setting up the procedure for Environmental and Vehicle Modification. These include 2 Bathroom, 1 Ramp, 1 Generator, 2 Stair Gliders, 1 Patio, and 1 Vehicle.

Child Support Unit

- Child support collections totaled \$28,575,167.
- Filed 3,677 Family Court petitions.
- Established paternity for 94.67% of children in the IV-D caseload born out-of-wedlock.
- Support establishment rate is 91.93%.
- Began accepting credit card payments in the agency and online for payment of Child Support.

Special Investigations – Fraud Prevention & Detection

- \$6,267 was recovered in claims against estates.
- Amount recovered in lawsuits totaled \$46,172.
- Recovered \$22,820 in bonds and mortgages and Medicaid property liens.
- Personal incidentals and other bank accounts totaled \$96,521.
- Income executions accounted for \$12,299.
- There were 38 SSI repayment recoveries amounting to \$179,983.
- There were 3 Temporary Assistance disqualifications totaling \$21,938, and 8 SNAP disqualifications totaling \$10,418.

- The number of Confession of Judgments equaled 41, totaling \$144,773.
- Cost avoidance by Front End Detection System (FEDS) were as follows: Temporary Assistance \$2,204,178 and Day Care \$291,540. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, FEDS interviews were not held from March 13-September 1.

ThinkDIFFERENTLY

- Continued to collaborate with Dutchess Community College on the two-year job readiness program “Think Ahead” by going to a hybrid classroom system. Program has continued uninterrupted each year, with 9 students accepted for 2021-2023 academic year.
- Constituent call volume increased in 2021 with concerns surrounding access to the COVID-19 vaccine, virtual learning challenges and service disruptions continued.
- Anderson Center for Autism’s (ACA) Autism Supportive Environment trainings were provided to 8 businesses.
- Expansion continued at www.thinkdifferently.net, which serves as a resource to local families. The website was visited 29,911 times, up 16.8% from last year. In addition, many visual supports were developed and made available on the ThinkDIFFERENTLY website to assist families with the COVID vaccine, holiday tips and more.
- “Think Jobs” Round Table was held as a hybrid event in partnership with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board; 12 businesses and 16 providers attended.
- Shared information on ThinkDIFFERENTLY at Roy C. Ketcham’s Virtual “Special Needs Transition Night”.
- Organized over 28 COVID-19 vaccine PODs for special needs individuals living in congregate care settings and private homes around the county. Additionally, coordinated vaccine opportunities for individuals and their families who reside independently or at home.
- Presented Dutchess County’s 5th Annual “Collaboration of Services and Care Across the Life Span for People with Special Needs” virtually which was attended by 60 providers and families. Participated as guest speaker for pre-service teaching students at Marist College to share the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative and services available in our community.
- Hosted the inaugural ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day at Bowdoin Park, attended by over 350 people.

- Expanded “ThinkDIFFERENTLY” Day at the D.C. Fair to having a presence all week with resource tent and collaborating with D.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension’s 4-H program for children of all abilities.
- Partnered with DBCH to host a full-day training featuring professionals speaking on both “Trauma in Childhood” and “Sexuality and Individuals Living with IDD”. The virtual training was attended by 70 people.

Emergency Response

9-1-1 Communications Center

- The 9-1-1 Communication Center answered 206,799 individual phone calls for assistance and dispatched 119,786 individual incidents through the 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD).
- Created and published a detailed Request for Information (RFI) regarding the development and deployment of a new consolidated public safety radio communications system. A detailed review and vendor selection was completed in the 4th quarter of 2021.
- Instituted a new process to transfer nonviolent mental health calls directly to Dutchess County HELPLINE to better assess and deploy the most appropriate resources to a resident with mental health related issues. This is consistent with the Police Reform efforts to steer non-violent incidents to healthcare professionals.
- Utilizing grant funding, purchased and installed a new IP based audio recording system to consolidate recording efforts of various county agencies, including HELPLINE and the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, resulting in cost savings and minimizing IT equipment across the agencies as well as simplifying records retrieval based on new discovery standards in New York State.

Administration

- Deputy Commissioner continued to lead the County’s committee on Police Reform and Modernization for the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council.
- Participated in multiple events with the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights and other law enforcement partners to address police reform and hate crimes.
- Leading the County’s effort for High-Speed Internet Access, including a detailed survey for the community, developing a detailed map with identified service gaps. A strategic plan will be presented to the County Executive in 2022.

- Successfully completed the move and operations of HELPLINE to Emergency Response facility in January of 2021. This includes improving continuity of operations, critical failure process and creating a new job description and title.
- Further incorporated HELPLINE leadership into traditional uniform emergency services in meetings and planning/response efforts.

Fire and Emergency Medical Services

- Dutchess County Emergency Response’s specialized volunteer teams were active in 2020:
 - Fire Investigations Team investigated 54 incidents
 - Deputy Fire Coordinators responded to 152 Mutual Aid incidents
 - Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to 11 incidents
- The Fire Training Division provided over 735 hours of training across the county.
- 3,260 individuals participated in training hosted by various agencies at the Dutchess County Department of Emergency Response campus. These numbers continue to be decreased due to limited class availability and COVID-19 restrictions

Emergency Management

- Provided support and leadership staff to the Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) in response to COVID-19, including filling key leadership roles in the operation and providing supplies and logistical support for testing and vaccination sites.
- Provided planning and support to multiple public events.
- Lead the County’s effort to secure Stafford Act disaster relief associated with Hurricane Ida for municipalities, businesses, and individuals. This was a significant undertaking partnering with local governments, New York State, members of congress, and FEMA.

Finance (including Real Property Tax)

- Maintained a bond rating of AA+ with a stable outlook by Standard & Poor’s in March 2021.
- Paid of debt issued for capital projects in 2012 and 2013 early, saving the county \$470,000 in future interest payments.
- Updated and improved upon a rolling twelve-month cash forecast to project the cash needs of the county through the pandemic and beyond.

- Implemented an electronic Hotel Tax registration and payment process beginning January 1st, 2020. Enhancing the recording and reporting abilities of historical data. Moving to a 100% electronic payment system for all hotel tax payments beginning January 1, 2022.
- Waived interest and penalties for Hotel Tax filers for the duration of the Emergency Order and notified filers of changes to their filing requirements.
- Established methods for tracking the financial costs of the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing financial software's project accounting module
- Began to roll out project accounting for the grants managed by DBCH and we will complete this process in early 2022. In addition, it is being utilized to account for The American Rescue Plan Act local fiscal recovery funding received by the county.
- Lead multi-department team which reviewed RFP's and demonstrations and selected a vendor to implement a countywide electronic time and attendance recordkeeping system. The goals include increased efficiencies in all phases of the payroll process and standardization of time and attendance recordkeeping using biometric and other electronic data capture methods.
- Worked with the Capital Plan Committee to develop the 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Plan, providing financial reports with valuable information to the users of the capital plan.

Real Property Tax Division

- Completed all mandated programs under Article 5 of Real Property Tax Law, and completed all local programs and duties assigned by the County Charter including:
 - 99 investigative reports for Administrative Corrections of Errors,
 - Maintaining parcels lines for tax mapping and Parcel Access,
 - Administering the assessment software database for local assessors,
 - Providing State-mandated training to 32 Board of Assessment Review members virtually,
 - Processed over 7,700 property transfers, filed maps and other documents,
 - Maintained 45,667 escrow accounts, and
 - Calculation and verification of 396 tax rates for County, Town, City, School, Village and special district purposes.
- Worked with the City of Poughkeepsie Finance Department to help with the processing of the city tax rolls including providing for the maintenance of 3,766 escrow accounts and calculation of omitted taxes on 41 parcels.
- Coordinated with OCIS to process assessment and tax rolls as well as print tax bills for 60 school district segments, 20 towns, 2 cities, 8 villages and 1 fire district.

- Implemented changes to the assessment software, along with new procedures mandated by ongoing changes to the State’s STAR exemption and STAR Credit Check programs.
- Provided administrative and systems support for 14 municipalities in Dutchess seeking to sustain annual reassessment; approximately 76,000 parcels.
- The new RPT Director serves as a member of the Real Property Tax Administration Committee. This committee seeks to resolve administrative and procedural issues that arise because of changes in the Real Property Tax Law.
- The Director also serves an active member of the Real Property System Governance Group, which helps guide development and implementation of the assessment software used by Dutchess County and most assessing units in New York.

HISTORY

- Completed indexing of 30,000 pages of Ancient Documents for future imaging.
- Secured Phase 8 imaging funding of an additional 15,000 pages of the Ancient Documents Collection through a State Archives LGRMIF Grant for \$13,150.
- Assisted the District Attorney’s Office with historical appraisal of over 100 cubic feet of obsolete records.
- Assisted the Town of Amenia with securing a New York State Archives grant to conserve and digitize their early records, including the oldest municipal records in the county.
- Developed interpretive signage for Wilcox Park and assisted County Parks with collections challenges at Wilcox and Bowdoin Parks.
- Completed interpretative signage for Dutchess Poorhouse site and secured a roadside historical marker from the William G. Pomeroy Foundation.
- Hosted historical records appraisal training for the county history community.
- Wrote letters of support for several historical preservation grants for sites in Dutchess County.
- Led four online quarterly meetings of all Dutchess County history organizations for collaborative planning and networking.

- Launched an archival imaging initiative to assist local historical societies and municipal governments with imaging valuable historical records.
- Assisted with the running of the annual statewide conference for the Association of Public Historians of New York State.
- Introduced a local act to create a county-level planning committee for the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution, designed and instituted a network of local planning groups throughout Dutchess, interfaced with partner organizations in Ulster and Putnam Counties for Rev250 planning.
- Served as Secretary to the Board of Trustees for the Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS), the professional organization for NY government historians.
- Served as Region 3 coordinator for APHNYS, which includes Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester Counties.
- Served as president of the Greater Hudson Heritage Network (GHHN) Board and on the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Advisory Committee.
- Created panel exhibit for the Dutchess County Poor House and Cemetery site.
- Served as an ex officio member of the Dutchess County Historical Society Board of Trustees
- Answered research inquiries from the public at large and maintained county-wide communications network for county history community through department landing page and email list.

Human Resources

- Approved and tracked over 12,700 personnel actions including appointment, promotion and salary updates, etc. for over 9,650 employees of the County and covered agencies.
- Reviewed 5,659 applications for appointment eligibility (3,922 exam applications, 1,737 recruitment applications)
- Administered 137 civil service exams as well as FPAT testing for firefighters and Police Officer Agility Testing. Coordinated with DCSSO to re-design and modernize the Correction Officer Agility Testing.
- Reviewed 227 positions from County and covered agencies for classification and conducted multiple appeals and desk audits.

- Completed 53 payroll audits and certifications for civil service compliance for covered agencies.
- Developed and revised County policies for ADA Reasonable Accommodation and CDL DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy including joining the FMCSA Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse, for employees whose position requires them to possess and maintain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Conducted annual queries for current CDL drivers and training on the Clearinghouse for current CDL employees.
- Provided mandatory NYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Training to new and current employees.
- Held multiple Civil Service 101 Trainings with outside agencies and two within the County.
- Negotiated Snow Closure Stipulation for future County closures with all unions.
- Negotiated Stipulation for CSEA employees to exceed 45-day cap on vacation accruals for essential employees during the COVID State of Emergency.
- Engaged a vendor and began implementation planning on new Civil Service Exam Software Program.
- Coordinated with DPW/County Attorney to plan and develop Transit process to merge their contracted employees into the County workforce.
- Recognized excessive fraudulent unemployment claims, coordinated efforts with NYS DOL Major Case Squad and Westchester County Police Department to join the fraud claims investigation.
- Negotiated and settled the new four-year Dutchess County Dutchess Staff Association (DSA) Contract.
- Conducted public hearings for 35 Resolutions that were submitted to NYS Civil Service Commission to update the Rules for Dutchess County.

COVID Related accomplishments:

- Designed and negotiated DC Covid Leave Benefit with all four bargaining units.
- Designed and negotiated COVID Premium Pay Bonus with all four bargaining units.
- 327 NYS Sick Leave and DC Covid Leave applications were reviewed and processed.

Equal Employment Opportunity & Inclusion

- Received approximately 22 ADA cases and appeals, which were reviewed by the ADA Committee and Designee.
- 19 complaints of harassment/discrimination were received in 2021. 18 intake and full investigations were completed and/or referrals/mediated disputes were resolved involving nine departments.
- Dutchess County's inaugural Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted 4 cultural awareness events and met quarterly to discuss strategic planning initiatives to increase diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging as well as cultural awareness subcommittee planning.
- Worked with Police and Deputy Sheriff Exam recruitment team as well as community leaders whose collaborative efforts resulted in an overall increase in underrepresented groups. 86% increase in African American applicants, an 186% increase in Hispanic applicants, a 78% increase in Asian applicants and an 81% increase in female applicants.
- Participated in 5 Criminal Justice Subcommittee meetings and ongoing initiatives.
- Completed Procedural Justice Training with law enforcement professionals and community leaders.
- Co-sponsored two New York State Civil Service trainings for supervisors for Reasonable Accommodations and Implicit Bias.
- Participated in 25 Diversity and Inclusion webinars that covered protected class statuses and cultural awareness events.
- Participated in the Women in Leadership Alliance Diversity Panel.
- Participated in 6 ThinkDIFFERENTLY/Think jobs committee meetings and round table series.
- Participated in 5 committees related to career pipelines within Dutchess County Government.
- 55-a program was added to all new hire trainings and shared with all candidates interested in careers within Dutchess County Government. A total of 27 inquiries and applications were received and submitted with one applicant hired.
- Met with 20 community outreach and recruitment organizations that serve underrepresented groups regarding employment with Dutchess County Government.
- Participated in 3 Mastermind group meetings with Diversity and Equal Employment Officer leads statewide.
- Participated in 5 Veteran recruitment events.
- Participated in 16 Career and Recruitment Fairs.

- Drafted updates for the County’s EEO Policy and forms.

Risk Management Division

- 2,598 “1095” forms issued and distributed as specified in the ACA legislation
- Processed 31 Paid Family Leave claims
- Processed 31 Disability claims
- Revised and Transitions ADA Policy and Procedures from HR to Risk. Risk has processed 29 ADA Requests. Efforts ranged from gathering required documentation to obtaining follow up information through extensive interviews with employees.
- Received and processed 22 Workplace Violence claims and conducted 49 interviews in the investigation process. Staff then submitted written reports that detailed witness interviews for review by the Workplace Violence Committee.
- Secured new vendor for Online Defensive driving. The overall fee to both the county and employees dropped by 50%. 207 Defensive Driving courses were completed by employees.
- Rolled out the county wide online training program (NeoGov LEARN) This program allows for complete automated presentation and tracking of required training such as Discrimination and Harassment, Workplace Violence and BOSH.
- 130 employees were tested in May and received training in April for The annual hearing test (OSHA/PESH Hearing Conservation Program). This included 4 employees that were added to the program as a result of Risk Management performing a noise level evaluation for new equipment being utilized.
- Continued inventorying chemicals for the Online System for producing and organizing chemical Safety Data Sheets required by OSHA Hazardous Communication Regulations.
 - 7 Departments surveyed
 - Identified Gatekeeper for each department
 - 571 Chemicals entered in database
- 60 miscellaneous safety inspections performed including noise complaints, unsafe conditions, PESH follow-up, rodents, etc.
- Safety Staff completed a site analysis with accompanying photos and updated report as part of a PESH employee death investigation.

- Safety Staff completed a countywide assessment of all buildings for Workplace Violence compliance and accuracy of emergency evacuation maps on all floors. Coordinating with DPW to update the maps.
- Working with DPW, the department purchased and had installed an additional \$20,000 in security/surveillance cameras to increase employee safety and limit county liability.
- Risk Management was able to negotiate and obtain a 2-year guaranteed rate for the County Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Excess Stop Loss Coverage.
- Risk Management was able to negotiate renewal coverage for Cyber Insurance in a hard market where many municipalities were non-renewed.
- 168 Building inspections completed by safety employees for County and Workers' Compensation Trust participants' facilities.
- Held an annual meeting with all Workers' Compensation Plan participants to discuss plan performance and general Q &A regarding participant obligations and concerns.
- 241 new workers' compensation claims were opened and processed for the County and nine other Trust participants.

COVID-19 Activities

- Held a virtual meeting for retirees to discuss health insurance open enrollment topics.
- Safety Staff was responsible for conducting safety inspections related to COVID 19 concerns

Law (County Attorney's Office)

- Prepared and submitted approximately 153 resolutions on behalf of all the County Departments to the County Legislature for their review and approval
- Prepared and circulated through the Onbase system approximately 1,200 Agreements, Extension and Amendment Agreements on behalf of all the County Departments.
- Continued preparing and finalizing the necessary agreements, amendments/extension agreements for services to be provided to the citizens of Dutchess County, including but not limited to: testing sites, increased hospital capacity, emergency cleaning services, emergency shelters for the homeless, fit testing for masks, emergency laundry services, public vaccination sites, and school testing sites, associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Team at the County Attorney's Office continued preparing and finalizing the declaration of a State of Emergency, and various local emergency orders,

whenever necessary. The State of Emergency has been extended every 30 days and each local emergency order, where deemed necessary, has been extended every 5 days. The State of Emergency and Local Emergency Orders were continued through the middle of August of 2021.

- Facilitated the purchase of the land under which the Dutchess Stadium is situated, in the Town of Fishkill, by negotiating a contract of sale with the Beacon City School District, and providing legal advice on purchasing, financing, subdividing the property, and conducting a Monroe analysis regarding local zoning and planning regulation.
- Successfully dismissed a lawsuit filed against County Clerk employee by motion to dismiss by showing plaintiff's case is barred by prior order of the court and showing plaintiff's cause of action lacked merit.
- As Counsel to the Ad Hoc Ethics and Reapportionment Committee, responsible for drafting and recommending the passage of Dutchess County's initial Local Law creating an Independent Reapportionment Commission (IRC) in Dutchess County, and as such was involved with the subsequent drafting of amendments enacted in 2021.
- Instrumental in launching the Independent Commission. The Law Department set up MS Teams virtual meetings, made sure there was proper notice as per the NY Open Meetings Law, arranged for a webpage to be created, arranged for minutes of meetings to be transcribed and posted to the IRC webpage, provided instructional materials for the Commission, arranged for guest speakers to educate the Commission members on the reapportionment and redistricting process, and provided legal research and advice including research and legal arguments that led to the successful defense of a challenge to County action undertaken to protect the integrity of the IRC member selection process.
- Worked with the Medical Examiner's office to prepare and finalize a shared service agreement regarding medical examiner's services.
- Worked with the Department of Planning to prepare and finalize Grant Agreements for over ninety (90) grants awarded under the new Learn Play Create Grant program through the American Rescue Plan. This process began mid-September of 2021 and work continues on the remainder of the fifty-seven (57) grant agreements to be processed.
- In coordination with the Department of Planning, updated and revised all agreements utilized for HUD and HOME Investment Partnership Programs. Worked cooperatively with the Departments of Planning and Finance, and the City of Poughkeepsie to create the Dutchess County Poughkeepsie Land Bank. In addition, on July 28, 2021, the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank held its first official public meeting since Incorporation. This office continues to serve as the Legal Liaison and consultant to the Land Bank. The Department of

Law created and facilitated distribution of two RFP's for the Land Bank: one for Legal Services and a second for Web Services.

- Worked with the Departments of Planning and OCIS in formulating a program for storing and referencing Partnership Management Growth (PMG) records digitally to reduce paper and physical storage/archive requirements.
- Worked with the Department of Planning to prepare, review and finalize all of the necessary documents for four Conservation Easements on farmland in Dutchess County. These easements provided assistance to the owners of the farms to save and protect the farmland.
- With regard to CPLR 1101 Poor Persons Status applications, assisted 91 inmates, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley applicants, with their varied applications for the relief; and 22 Dutchess County residents with divorce or name change applications.
- Prepared and filed a large volume of Assisted Outpatient Treatment ("AOT") cases. AOT cases involve the most severe and persistent mentally ill individuals in the County. These AOT cases ensure that individuals who require medication to live safely in the community, receive the treatment required. The volume of AOT cases has increased exponentially over the past several years. While in 2015, there were approximately 20 AOT cases, that number jumped to 39 in 2017, 78 in 2020, and now increased by an additional 32 new cases for 2021. Court appearances have increased from one per month to two per week.
- Facilitated the purchase of 35 Montgomery Street (former YMCA) in the City of Poughkeepsie, to create the Youth Opportunity Center by negotiating contract of sale and providing legal advice on purchasing and financing.
- Prepared and finalized the contracts with BusPatrol America, LLC and various local school districts to install and operate school bus photo violation monitoring systems on school buses within the County. The monitoring systems identify and cite operators for failure to stop for a school bus displaying a red visual signal and stop-arm.
- The office prepared and submitted approximately 153 resolutions on behalf of all the County Departments to the County Legislature for their review and approval.
- The office prepared and circulated through the Onbase system approximately 1,200 Agreements, Extension and Amendment Agreements on behalf of all the County Departments.

Training:

- Presented at two Continuing Legal Education Seminars for the Bar Association.

- Organized a County-wide two hour FOIL and Open Meetings Law Seminar on September 10, 2021, featuring a guest speaker from the New York State Committee on Open Government, and applied for and received authorization to issue Continuing Legal Education credits to attorney attendees.
- Conducted several hours of training for police officers throughout New York State on juvenile delinquency and related issues. The police officers who attended received New York Certification as juvenile officers.
- Conducted training for police officers in New York State regarding the school resource program. The police officers who attended received certification as School Resource Officers.
- Conducted two trainings at the Dutchess County Sheriff's office in juvenile delinquency laws. The police officers who attended received a certification as Juvenile Officers.
- Presented on Juvenile Law for the DCSO Police Academy.
- Presented virtually on Raise the Age issues and caselaw for the 2021 CAASNY Virtual Juvenile Delinquency Training for JD prosecutors from all over New York State.
- Participated as a panelist for a question and answer for a Grace Smith House/CPS cross training seminar.

Planning and Development

Agriculture

- In conjunction with the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee, staff helped to plan and organize a five-part *2021 Farming in Dutchess Virtual Series*. The series convened agricultural stakeholders to discuss popular trends surrounding local agriculture. Session topics included working with assessors and enhancing landowner/lessee relationships, pathways for agricultural education, the resurgence of local food, social and land development pressures, and Food Security. Lessons learned from these sessions were discussed at the sixth annual Agricultural Forum at the Dutchess County Fair and will be used to develop 2022 priorities for the Agricultural Advisory Committee.
- Presented at the Putnam County Ag Roundtable virtual event, staff discussed the department's new publication, *Blueprint: Fielding Farm-Friendliness Through Planning and Zoning*. Staff introduced ways to implement farm-friendly practices into a community's land use documents.

- Organized and participated in the sixth annual Agricultural Forum hosted by the Dutchess County Agricultural Advisory Committee on August 26th at the Dutchess County Fair.

Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG)

- Completed the purchase of conservation easements on the 290-acre Glendale farm in the Town of Amenia, and 90-acre Dutchess Views Farm which were both partially funded by the Partnership for Manageable Growth.
- Conducted the 2021 application process including criteria for new pocket park acquisition grants. A tour by the DC Planning Board members of 5 potential PMG projects submitted for review in 2021 occurred in the summer and the Board made recommendations to fund those 5 projects in the fall.

Housing

- Kicked off the Dutchess County Housing Needs Assessment project, in conjunction with our consultant czb LLC and a steering committee. The consultant is gathering and analyzing relevant housing and demographic data, conducting interviews with a variety of stakeholders throughout the county, and evaluating the many factors that could be influencing our local housing market. A final analysis and report with action items, along with several public presentations, is anticipated in the first half of 2022.
- Joined the New York ADU Legalization coalition in support of proposed state legislation that would direct local governments to legalize accessory dwelling units in all areas zoned for residential use and provided feedback to the New York ADU Legalization coalition on proposed state legislation to legalize accessory dwelling units.
- Completed the [2020 Dutchess County Rental Housing Survey, a survey of the rental housing market for market rate, tax credit and inclusionary apartment, and subsidized housing.](#)
- Presented an overview of the 2020 Dutchess County Rental Housing Survey to the Dutchess County IDA/LDC.

Interdepartmental Support

- Worked with Budget and Finance to finalize the draft 2022-2026 Capital Improvement Plan for consideration by the Dutchess County Legislature.

Municipal Planning Support

- Provided community/technical assistance to:
 - City of Beacon regarding affordable housing
 - Town of Beekman CAC – Natural Resource Inventory
 - Town of Clinton - development of its agricultural events venues local law
 - Town of LaGrange on potential Incentive Zoning amendments
 - Town of Poughkeepsie regarding its draft 2030 Comprehensive Plan Update.
 - Town of Red Hook, Bard College regarding Annandale Road
 - Town of Stanford draft review of Comprehensive Plan
- Completed 381 development reviews and referrals under General Municipal Law Sections 239-l and 239-m and the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
- Responded to 28 requests for census information.
- Issued the [2020 Major Projects Report](#) and [Map, a compilation of selected information about development projects proposed in Dutchess County \(as of December 2020\)](#).
- Published four (4) issues of the *Plan On It* eNewsletter on behalf of the DCPF:
 - [Food for Thought – Supporting Urban Agriculture through Planning and Zoning](#), provides a comprehensive overview of what urban agriculture is and how it can take shape in different forms depending on the needs and desires of the community.
 - [Non-Conforming Uses and Dark Leases – Why They Matter, and How to Address Them](#), provides an overview of these two issues and offers strategies for dealing with them such as vacant property registration ordinances and reuse plans for large-scale development. Additional resources and model codes were included.
 - [Exploring the Highs and Lows of the Planning Profession – From a Storied Beginning, Through an Era of Infamy, to Finding Our Collective Purpose](#)—historic perspective on the planning profession, from its birth in the early 20th century, through some trying times in the mid-20th century, to the modern era of planning which attempts to be more people- and community-driven.
 - [3 Takeaways \(and 1 Big Headache\) from the Initial 2020 Census Release](#) – The first wave of 2020 Census data, the “redistricting” data, was recently released and provides some early insights into Dutchess County’s changing demographics.
- Assisted the Dutchess County Planning Federation Board of Directors to organize four (4) [training sessions](#) with a total of 448 attendees covering: *Zoning for Food Trucks, An Introduction to Planning and Zoning, Land Use Issues for Legalized Adult-Use Cannabis and Perspectives from Massachusetts, and County Referral – A DOS Overview of GML 239, and Dutchess County Highlights*.

Environment

- Worked with NYSDEC to complete contracting for the Dutchess CAPI Climate Smart Community Grant, including preparation of two resolutions to authorize the signing of the NYS CSC Grant Contract and the accompanying MOU with the 9 involved municipalities.
- Received a grant award from the NYSDEC-Hudson River Estuary Program to update the Dutchess County Natural Resource Inventory (grant period: 2022-2023).
- Finalized two new Greenway Guides, which were approved by the Greenway Council: Digital Signs & LED Lighting.

Community Investment

- Community Investment staff coordinated application cycles and awards funds for the following programs:

Program	Total Awarded	# of Applications	# of Awards
APG (Renewal Year)	\$1,143,775	0	26
APG Dutchess Reads	\$50,000	1	1
APG Summer Youth Programming	\$179,428	8	8
CDBG - Municipal	\$1,213,700	11	11
CDBG – Public Service (Renewal Year)	\$150,000	0	6
CDBG-CV	\$1,381,346	2	2
CoC (Renewals)	\$1,439,323	0	13
Learn, Play, Create	\$2,997,228	158	147
HOME	\$959,771.00	4	3
MIG	\$2,902,022	28	30
Total	\$12,416,593	212	247

Agency Partner Grant

- Launched the 2022 *Agency Partner Grant (APG) Program* and received a total of 40 renewal and new activity applications, requesting over \$2 million in funding.
- Launched the 2022 *APG: Infrastructure Program* and received 24 applications, requesting more than \$5.1 million in funding.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) municipal

- Staff held Pre-Construction Conferences with the following communities:
 - Town of Amenia-Downtown ADA Improvements
 - Town of Dover -J.H. Ketcham Memorial Park – Walking Path project.
 - Town of Wappinger-Spook Hill Park
 - Town of Wappinger-ADA Restrooms at Inspiration Field
 - Village of Millerton-Sidewalk Infrastructure Repair & Replacement
 - Village of Millerton-Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization project.
- Launched the 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Municipal Grant program, which included hosting a CDBG Municipal Public Hearing and Workshop for which there were 10 applications submitted requesting more than \$1.2 million in funding.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)—Public Service

- Launched the 2022 Program and received a total of 12 renewal and new activity applications, requesting close to \$221,000 in funding.

HOME-ARP

- Began planning process for HOME-ARP funds including a virtual workshop, co-sponsored by the Continuum of Care, to develop priorities for these funds.

Eviction Prevention

- Reviewed three (3) proposals submitted in response to the Eviction Prevention and Legal Eviction Assistance Request for Proposals (RFP-DCP-03-21) and awarded the Eviction Prevention Program to Hudson River Housing, Inc., and the Legal Eviction Assistance Program to Legal Services of the Hudson Valley.
- Wrote internal Policies and Procedures and Application Guidance and Instructions for Hudson River Housing's use to implement the Eviction Prevention Program.

Emergency Rent Relief

- Completed application, guidance, and policies and procedures for the Emergency Rent Relief Program to be implemented by Hudson River Housing, with CDBG COVID-19 funding.

Continuum of Care (CoC)

- Conducted the annual Point in Time (PIT) count identifying 20 unsheltered homeless people.

- Reviewed and awarded Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinator Request of Proposal Quotation (RFPQ-DCP-12/21) to CARES to provide CoC system and activities and annual NOFA and CoC monitoring on behalf of the Dutchess County CoC.
- Launched the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) partnership, recruiting Hudson River Housing to act as the lead for the CoC, which has referred 159 homeless households for subsidized housing vouchers available to homeless people unable to afford housing.
- In collaboration with CARES of NY, Inc. as the lead, the CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity application was submitted to HUD for continued funding.
- Supported 35 housing units with CoC rental assistance.
- In partnership with Hudson River Housing, secured \$1.3 million Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to develop a Coordinated Community Plan (CCP) to prevent and end youth homelessness. The first step in the process, completed in this quarter, was to create a Youth Advisory Board (YAB), hire staff, and develop a stakeholder group to create and implement the community plan.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Completed a new long-range transportation plan, [Moving Dutchess Forward](#), that will serve as the strategic guiding document for improving transportation in the county over the next 25 years. The plan looks at the policies and infrastructure needed to improve access, considering safety, reliability, basic needs, and equity. Designed as a digital product, the plan includes interactive maps and visuals to help readers understand the transportation issues facing the county. It also establishes the following vision: By 2045, Dutchess County's transportation system will be safer, more reliable, resilient, and equitable.
- Completed the [Arlington Main Street Redesign Initiative](#), which recommends a Complete Streets inspired design strategy for CR 114 (Main Street) in the Town of Poughkeepsie, including a roundabout for the Main Street/Grand Avenue intersection. The study presents a detailed, conceptual redesign of the road, and identifies issues, costs, and actions necessary to make it a facility that promotes safe and convenient travel for people of all ages and abilities.
- Completed a [Safety Assessment of CR 14 \(Hollow Rd\)](#) in the Town of Clinton from Route 9G to West Cookingham Rd – an identified high crash county road segment in [Moving Dutchess Forward](#). The assessment identifies a range of low-cost solutions to improve safety.
- In conjunction with Orange and Ulster counties, completed [Connect Mid-Hudson](#), the new regional transit plan for the Mid-Hudson Valley. The plan identifies ways to improve regional transit services in the tri-county area to include using a common passenger

information and mobile payment platform across systems, staffing a transit ombudsman office to advocate for transit customers and better coordinate services, and introducing micro transit services in underserved markets.

- Added over \$34 million in federal highway and transit funding for six new projects on our capital program – the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These included repaving the Taconic State Parkway in Pleasant Valley and Clinton, repaving Route 9 in Poughkeepsie, purchasing vehicles for County Public Transit, making improvements to the county’s bus garage, and replacing the Route 82/Railroad bridge in East Fishkill (Hopewell Junction).
- Adopted a new Unified Planning Work Program for the 2021-2022 State Fiscal Year that programmed over \$1.6 million in federal, state, and county funds to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process in Dutchess County.
- Completed Phase 1 of the [Poughkeepsie 9.44.55](#) study that is looking at redesign options for the 9/44/55 interchange near the Mid-Hudson Bridge and the east-west 44/55 arterials. The Phase 1 report recommends a roundabout-focused concept to alleviate safety and reliability concerns at the bowtie interchange. Also completed substantial work on Phase 2, which is focusing on redesign options for the arterials. Two design concepts (one a road diet, the other restoring two-way traffic) have been developed that would make the arterials safer and more walkable, while still accommodating vehicle traffic. The concepts were presented in an online self-paced virtual meeting (see [Library page on website](#)).
- Provided planning support to Dutchess County Public Works’ Universal Accessibility Program that provides funding for walking improvements on County facilities. This includes the recent improvements at the CR 69 (Dutcher Ave)/Henry St intersection in the Village of Pawling – a recommendation of the 2019 [Pawling Pedestrian Plan](#) – and the sidewalk being planned for CR 75 (Innis Ave) in Poughkeepsie.
- With the Orange and Ulster County MPOs, underwent a Federal **Certification** Review for the [Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area](#) (TMA). This review, done every four years by the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration, ensures that the MPOs are carrying out federal transportation planning requirements. The review included a virtual public meeting and written comment period.
- Organized more than 40 volunteers to count people walking and bicycling at various locations on rail trails and in city, town, and village centers, for the 10th year of this program. Also, coordinated automated video and bike tube counts at 8 locations along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail and 5 locations along the Maybrook Trailway to count people walking and bicycling.
- Conducted 140 counts as part of the 2021 traffic count program, collecting volume, speed, and classification data on county and local roads.

Economic Development

- Advised communities to assist them with their economic development objectives.
- Collected and provided demographic, development and other socio-economic data to Think Dutchess for implementing the economic development strategy.

Geographic Information Systems, Mapping, Graphics, and Data

- Provided support to County Departments, municipalities, local non-profits, and other outside entities with GIS and mapping for special projects. Highlights include:
 - Planned and produced floor plan designs for 8 different COVID-19 vaccination point-of-distribution (POD) facilities on behalf of the Departments of Behavioral & Community Health and Emergency Response and attended 15 COVID-19 vaccination center walkthroughs and site planning sessions.
 - Completed analysis work for the MPO on a transportation mapping series focused on barriers to basic needs as part of a long-range Metropolitan Transportation Plan.
 - Completed mapping project assisting DBCH with spatial analysis of recorded legionella cases throughout Dutchess County.
 - Conducted a quality review of address point data for emergency response and planning use, investigating addresses with uncertain residential characteristics.
 - Completed updating each municipal area for Dutchess County's zoning geodatabase based on revised 2021 RPT parcel boundaries.
 - Updated and improved National and State Register historic site data and collected information on local historic landmark laws.
 - Completed annual updates to County's Referral Identifier tool.
 - Implemented updates to Dutchess County's Parks & Trails online application with the addition of 6 new parks to the County inventory.
- Fulfilled 127 custom mapping and data requests for municipalities, engineering firms, local non-profits, and Dutchess County staff, including: zoning map updates for the Towns of East Fishkill, Hyde Park, and Milan; Memorial Day Parade route maps; two road closure detour maps for DPW; a vehicle fueling station zoning analysis for the Town of Poughkeepsie; a mapping analysis for CR-103; and 3 historic legislative district maps in support of the Independent Reapportionment Committee.
- Performed a variety of Census tasks:
 - Worked with the State Data Center and local officials to prepare Count Question Correction (CQR) and Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR) submissions.
 - Conducted an in-depth analysis of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data release, identifying trends and investigating potential issues with group quarters data.
 - Analyzed Census boundaries and submitted a set of proposed corrections to the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) division of the Census Bureau.

- Presented to several entities:
 - County GIS capabilities to the Independent Reapportionment Commission.
 - County Parks & Trails website and mapping application to the DCTC Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Winnakee-Dutchess Trails Roundtable.
 - Online mapping tools for local conservation planning as part of a collaborative Cornell Cooperative Extension webinar training.

- Provided support to County Departments, municipalities, local non-profits, and other outside entities with graphics for special projects including:
 - Produced large-format information signs for Department of Behavioral & Community Health for use in various Dutchess County COVID-19 vaccination centers.
 - Advised and assisted with the development and completion of various layouts of graphics for 6 differently sized bus shelters in conjunction with the MPO, Department of Behavioral & Community Health, and Transit Management.
 - Developed and completed a logo for the launch of the Planning Department's Agricultural Training Series, "2021 Ag Conference Series." This graphic is used on the website, in emails and on social media.

Solid Waste Management

- Hosted three Household Hazardous Waste and eWaste Collection events, 43,500 pounds of chemicals (a 52% decrease over 2020), 74,302 pounds of eWaste (a 27% decrease over 2020) and 3,050 pounds of fluorescents (a 60% increase over 2020) were collected from 934 residents.

- 11,056 pounds of pharmaceuticals, including 3,270 pounds from Dutchess County, were safely incinerated at the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Facility. This is a free community service provided to police departments from medication drop-box and collection events.

- Licensed 3 new solid waste haulers and relicensed 28 existing haulers.

- Issued a warning notice to 1 unlicensed hauler and responded to 7 non-recycling complaints. All were resolved.

- Gave 8 recycling presentations to schools and towns (7 virtually).

- Developed three YouTube videos for schools and residents on recycling.

- Developed an informational flyer on how to recycle items and distributed to municipalities.

- To promote backyard composting, Earth Machine composts bins continued to be sold at-cost; 14 bins were sold in 2021.
- Performed an audit of municipal transfer stations to determine current collection and recycling practices to keep up-to-date information for residents. Signage for proper recycling was requested, developed and given to the Town of Pleasant Valley transfer station.
- Continued to distribute recycling bins to municipalities to encourage recycling in municipal offices; 75 bins were distributed to 10 towns and villages.
- Completed draft of the next 10-year Local Solid Waste Management Plan, approval process will start in early 2022.

STOP-DWI

- The unprecedented response to the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the immediate funding and sustainability of the program which relies strictly on related fine revenues from impaired driving arrests/convictions. The shutdown of the NYS Court system, DMV, and the suspension of general traffic enforcement all have all been contributing factors. Through coordinated efforts, continued partnerships and commitments from Law Enforcement and the District Attorney's Office impaired driving arrest/conviction figures and the fine revenue that drives the program will rebound.
- With two additional allocations, the Dutchess County STOP-DWI Program was awarded a total of \$39,000 for participation in the NYS STOP DWI Foundation Impaired Driving Crackdown Grant project. Funding supported 11 law enforcement agencies countywide and directly resulted in 544.25 combined hours of coordinated enforcement activities (one checkpoint and dedicated patrols) resulting in 15 additional impaired driving arrests.
- The Dutchess County Prescription Medication Drop Box Program continues to be a proactive and effective campaign to reduce the availability of prescription drugs for misuse/abuse, as 3,270 pounds of unused, unwanted medications were collected/destroyed county-wide from the eleven (11) permanent drop boxes and multiple community events. The total includes 412pounds collected in partnership with the Sheriff's Office at DC OFA Senior Picnics for the eighth consecutive year. Since the drop boxes were established in 2013 more than 22,627 pounds of unused/unwanted medications have been collected and properly destroyed.
- Also coordinated participation in the National DEA "Operation Take Back" Days in April and October with the Sheriff's Office supporting 3 collection sites (Dover, Town of Poughkeepsie, and LaGrange). The community events yielded good turnouts and a large

amount of unwanted, unused medications (unweighed and not included in collection totals) was turned directly over to the DEA.

Traffic Safety Board (TSB)

- Partnered with six school Districts (Arlington, BOCES, Hyde Park, Pawling, Pine Plains, and Wappingers) as the pilot districts to implement the School Bus Stop Arm Enforcement Program. Equipment was installed on all of the vehicles in those districts, except BOCES and Pawling which will occur in early 2022. The warning period in Pine Plains began on December 13, 2021 for a one-month period, after which the program will go live. The warning period for the Arlington and Wappingers school districts begins on January 18, 2022. BOCES, Hyde Park, and Pawling will be scheduled shortly thereafter. The goal is to have all the other local school districts on board in 2022.
- Administered a “Multifaceted Injury & Crash Prevention” grant program through the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (\$61,295) with an emphasis on *Unsafe driving behaviors, Safe Older Driver Mobility, School Bus, Motorcycle, and Helmet Safety*. The emphasis is on enhancing community and individual awareness of traffic safety issues. The COVID response has negatively impacted opportunities and the ability to conduct interpersonal interactions.

Child Passenger Safety (CPS)

- A \$12,700 grant was awarded to provide child safety seats and fitting materials to nine (9) fitting stations covered under the TSB grant. Inspected/correctly installed 254 seats and replaced 25 additional child safety seats throughout the grant cycle.
- The grant project includes \$3,500 to support a Low-Income Seat Distribution Program coordinated with Department of Community and Family Services. With the support of the TSB child safety seats were purchased/provided to identified high-risk families and qualified caregivers; 47 seats were distributed. Each recipient was qualified after completing an instructional/education session on proper child safety seat installation and use by certified Child Safety Seat Technicians.
- Countywide the Dutchess County CPS Coalition collectively inspected/installed 636 child safety seats and replaced 96 in the 2020-21 grant cycle; continued restrictions and precautions related to Covid fitting stations suspended CPS activities to limit potential exposure of first responders and caregivers/children.
- A National SAFE-Kids CPS Technician certification course conducted in April was hosted by the Beacon Volunteer Ambulance Corp. The TSB and members of the Dutchess County CPS Coalition, in ongoing efforts to educate the public/caregivers on proper use of child safety seats coordinated/supported eleven (11) seat check events throughout the grant cycle.

There was an additional event coordinated Saturday, September 25th as part of “National Seat Check Saturday”. In total 121 seats were inspected and 26 replaced at these community check events.

- Since the DC CPS Coalition was established in 2001, 29,381 child safety seats have been inspected/installed and the parents /caregivers educated, with 7,952 child safety seats being replaced.

Probation and Community Corrections

Juvenile Services

- Continued the Dennis M. Mondoro *Probation and Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Project* with RFK National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice, a grant-funded initiative to review and enhance juvenile justice services in the county and serve as a model for other jurisdictions.
- Worked with Dr. Keith Cruise, Director of Clinical Training at Fordham University, to develop a trauma screening protocol and follow-up programming.
- Continued the evidence-based equine therapy program at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue and expanded the population eligible for these services.
- Two probation officers were certified as collaborative case work “coaches” for the Youth Assessment Screening Instrument. The coaches will work with other probation officers to enhance their skills in using this evidence-based instrument.
- Maintained restorative justice and evidence-based programs for youth including empathy workshops, Decision Points and Interactive Journaling despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pretrial Services

- Despite issues caused by COVID-19, 1,294 pretrial screens were conducted and 761 releases to supervision occurred, an increase over 2020.
- Working with the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council, continued to analyze the impact of bail reform on Pretrial Services and worked to develop alternative avenues to provide programming and services.
- Maintained certification of the Pretrial Services Program from the Unified Court System of the State of New York.

Adult and Administrative Services

- Collected \$250,000 in restitution for distribution to victims of crime.
- Continued participation with the Opioid Task Force and promoting availability of Medication Assisted Treatment to individuals on probation and in the Dutchess County Jail.
- Continued participation in the RESTART program through screening, referrals, and aftercare. RESTART is an evidence-based jail transition program that links to services in the community.
- Established a women's residential center in partnership with Project M.O.R.E. and with grant assistance from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation.
- Initiated a pilot program in the Drug/Diversion Court to add alcohol monitoring technology as an Alternative to Incarceration and sentencing option for the courts.
- Continued participation in the state GIVE (Gun Involved Violence Elimination) initiative, a multi-agency collaboration to reduce gun violence in the community.
- Employed more use of technology to interact with people on probation, the courts, and other agencies as part of the COVID-19 pandemic response, including implementing MS Teams, Zoom and other strategies to facilitate communication during the pandemic.
- All staff completed at least 21 mandated hours of training and most received extensive training in various specialized topics such as substance use disorders.
- Every probation officer completed a one-day training in Procedural Justice (Principled Policing) designed to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the community. Two probation officers assisted in presenting the training.
- Participated in the planning process to establish a Veterans Court in the county. The Veterans Court will be available in the Dutchess County Court presided over by the Honorable Jessica Segal and the City of Beacon Court presided over by the Honorable Gregory J. Johnston.
- Participated on the Centralized Arraignment Committee, an initiative to establish centralized arraignment in the county.
- Expanded availability of cognitive behavioral groups at the Office of Probation, Community Transitions Center, the Women's Center, and other agencies using virtual or hybrid sessions during the pandemic.

- Maintained a successful partnership with Project M.O.R.E.'s Community Employment Program. This program focuses on employment readiness and mentoring to assist people on probation find and maintain employment. It uses the highly effective evidence-based Ready, Set, Work curriculum.
- Director Mary Ellen Still continued to chair the Training and Qualifications Committee and Area III Committee for the Council of Probation Administrators.
- Supported the activities of the Criminal Justice Council with staff serving on its committees and as chairs of the Juvenile Justice, Special Populations and Justice-Involved Women's Committees.

Public Defender's Office

- Competently and professionally represented 6,570 individuals, including 4,109 cases in the criminal and appellate courts and 2,461 cases in the family courts of Dutchess and Ulster counties
- Provided legal counsel services at 3,505 arraignments in all Dutchess County criminal courts 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week. Of those, 2,483 were released on their own recognizance or other forms of immediate release. Of the remainder an additional 135 posted bail before being booked-in at the Dutchess County Jail.
- Continued to expand legal services provided to individuals charged with crimes through funding received from the five-year, approximately \$14 million contract from New York State's Hurrell-Harring statewide expansion fund/.
- Following statewide changes to discovery law, created management procedures and review protocols for processing and reviewing discovery provided in all criminal cases.
- Added a new position to the Appeals Unit to allow representation as the primary assigned counsel on all non-conflicted parole appeals saving the County the cost of hiring outside counsel for these cases.
- Criminal Unit achieved full acquittals on both felony jury trials in the 2021 caseload.
- Appeals Unit achieved reversals of parole denial in four cases and successfully appealed three matters to the Appellate Division.
- To improve the quality of representation for clients, increased officewide emphasis on litigation.

- Office members participated in numerous training programs including DWI Scholars Program and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA) continued legal education seminars.
- Management employees participated in numerous community programs, including Justice Involved Women’s Committee, Re-Entry Task Force Committee, Mental Health Community Challenges Committee, Domestic Violence Offender Project Committee, Alternatives to Incarceration Committee, and the Universal Response to Domestic Violence Committee.
- Continued remote virtual representation using Microsoft Teams as necessary due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- Paperless initiative is now in the trial phase and is currently being tested for wider use by entire attorney staff.
- Continued conflict swap program with Ulster County, allowing each Public Defender’s Office to handle criminal and family court cases in which the partner county has legal conflict that prevents representation.
- Hosted two legal interns who used student practice orders under the supervision of staff attorneys to represent clients at arraignment. Hosted 22 college interns who assisted with office intake/eligibility determinations. Hosted two master’s degree level student interns who assisted the social work staff to provide client services.
- A total of 17 individuals were incarcerated on civil commitment orders for 205 jail bed days, which was a reduction of 184 jail bed days from the previous year.
- Overall jail admissions in 2021 were 851, resulting in a slight increase from the previous year’s total admissions.

Public Works

Airport Division:

- Airport was awarded \$1.4 million in NYSDOT grant funding for the construction of a new salt shed as well as a new equipment shed adjacent to the Airport Operations Fire Fighting building.
- August 2021 saw the first full class of 25 students entered in the Dutchess Community College Aviation Maintenance program. In December 2021, the second cohort of students began classes in the program.

- Completed the installation of airport guidance signs, a project that was fully funded by the FAA's Airport Capital Improvement Program.
- Continued work on updating the Airport Master Plan, anticipated to be complete in 2022.
- In November, took ownership of two plow trucks, valued at nearly \$900,000 and fully funded by the FAA's Airport Capital Improvement Program.
- The number of aircraft operations (take-offs and landings) at the Airport exceeded 60,000 for the year, the highest traffic count in over 5 years.

Fleet Services Division:

- Provided safe, operational, and fully maintained vehicles and equipment for all Dutchess County departments and staff, Hyde Park Police, Hyde Park Recreation and Dutchess Community College.
- Implemented weekly toolbox talks with auto center and highway garage staff to discuss safety, fleet needs, and industry enhancements. These internal talks/trainings have improved staff safety, increased knowledge, and decreased incidents needing Risk Management investigation.
- Updated shop air compressors, at both the highway shop and auto service center, to improve tool efficiency and increase productivity.
- Initiated a project, in cooperation with OCIS, to add wireless internet to the highway shop and auto service center.
- Increased training and updated processes in the use of the County's computerized fleet maintenance system to increase operational efficiency and find cost savings as well as providing better service to departments and staff.

Buildings Division:

- Implemented a new work order system to improve efficiency and tracking progress of work orders.
- Relined the chimney at the District Attorney's office located at 236 Main St.
- In coordination with DBCH, established Vaccination PODs at the former CVS Pharmacy space in Dover and former JCPenney space in the Poughkeepsie Galleria.

- Expanded the JCPenney COVID-19 Vaccination Site to include the second floor for COVID-19 Testing.
- Began designing the relocation of the Emergency Response building's geothermal heating/cooling system valve vault to an above-ground location.
- Began designing the replacement of the outdated main electrical service and switch gear at the County Office Building, 22 Market Street
- Successfully replaced roofs at the following locations:
 - 626 Dutchess Turnpike (DPW)
 - Large salt storage building
 - Former Weights and Measures building
 - Bowdoin Park
 - Haunted Mansion main building
 - Wilcox Park
 - Storage garage
 - Emergency Response
 - Walkway overhang
 - Microwave Room
- After the discovery of Dutchess Stadium's forced sewer main connection being abandoned by NYS Office of General Services (NYSOGS), coordinated with NYSOGS to reconnect to the new sewer main that was installed on prison property.
- Successfully upgraded the entire security camera system at 60 Market Street with modern high resolution IP cameras and recording equipment.
- Procured and installed new LED field lighting at Dutchess Stadium to meet professional baseball league standards.
- Successfully moved the District Attorney's Narcotics Bureau from leased space at 1 Civic Center Plaza to a newly renovated space at 85 Civic Center (POJO.)
- Successfully completed renovation of the fourth floor at the County Office Building (COB) and successfully moved Finance Department and Comptroller's Office from 3rd floor COB to renovated 4th floor.
- Successfully moved Board of Elections from their former offices at 47 Cannon Street to their newly renovated space located in North Point Center on Delafield Street. Completed sale of 47 Cannon Street location.

- Completed renovation of the second floor of the DA’s building, removing the Grand Jury space and creating offices and conference rooms.
- Completed construction documents and solicited bids for a renovation project at the Public Transit Facility to improve the thermal envelope of the building.
- Completed construction drawings and solicited bids for the Dutchess Stadium Phase II project.
- Achieved substantial completion of DCC Educational Building project, and students began using the facility in Fall 2021.
- Hired the consultants and began working on building planning efforts for a new Youth Opportunity Union (YOU) building at the location of the former Poughkeepsie YMCA, 35 Montgomery Street. Began preparing demolition bid documents for the project.
- Completed construction drawings for the new Emergency Response Training Facility located at the Department of Emergency Response campus on Creek Road in Hyde Park.
- Continued to develop construction drawing for the 10 and 22 Market St HVAC renovation project.

Engineering Division:

- Completed the replacement of two bridges:
 - Bridge C-11 on Fiddler’s Bridge Road, Town of Clinton
 - Bridge PP-5 on Willow Vale Road, Town of Pine Plains
- Completed design for replacement of two bridges for the 2022 construction season:
 - Bridge R-8 on Mill Road, Town of Rhinebeck
 - Bridge F-3 on Washington Avenue, Town of Fishkill
- Advanced design for replacement of bridge C-29 on CR-14, Hollow Road, Town of Clinton. Construction anticipated late-2022 or 2023.
- Completed the construction of culverts N-22, N-23, and N-27 on CR-64, McGhee Hill Road, and CR-5, Smithfield Valley Road, in the Town of North East.
- Conducted public outreach and continued to advance design of the Dutchess Urban Trail Project - Phase 1 in the Town and City of Poughkeepsie. Construction is anticipated for 2022.
- Advanced design for Lake Walton Preserve Phase I – Loop Trail. Construction is anticipated for 2022.

- Advanced design for a large roadside retaining wall replacement on CR-14, Hollow Road, town of Clinton. Construction is anticipated for 2022.
- Began design for replacement of the following bridges:
 - Bridges S-39 and S-40 on CR-17, Salt Point Turnpike, Stanford
 - Bridge L-29 on CR-21, Noxon Road, Lagrange
 - Bridge W-21 on Stanford Road, Washington
 - Bridge D-66 on CR-6, Old Route 22, Dover
 - Bridge S-24 On CR-65, Hunns Lake Road, Stanford
- Completed intersection improvement project to add ADA compliant sidewalks at Henry Street and CR-69, Dutcher Avenue, in the Village of Pawling.
- Reached substantial completion of the Beekman Rd (CR-9) Federal Aid Project from Sylvan Lake Road to the Taconic State Parkway, Town of Beekman. Remainder of work is scheduled for completion in spring of 2022.
- Completed design and solicited bids for an intersection improvement project to increase safety at CR-21, Noxon Road, and Smith/Maloney Roads, Town of LaGrange. Construction is anticipated for 2022.
- Completed design and permitting for Fallkill Dam repair project, Hyde Park. Bids were received in 2021, but the only bid received exceeded the project budget. Anticipate re-bidding and construction during 2022.
- Completed construction of a new, large culvert H-11 and re-alignment of CR-16, North Quaker Lane, Hyde Park.
- Progressed design and began property acquisition for the replacement of Culvert U-7 on Camby Road (CR-90), Town of Union Vale. Anticipate bidding in 2022.
- Progressed design of a highway safety improvement project along CR-19, Slate Quarry Road, from Third Avenue to Bartles Landing, Town of Rhinebeck. Anticipate bidding during 2022.
- Completed design, bidding, and award of project improvements at Quiet Cove Riverfront Park, Town of Poughkeepsie. Construction began in November 2021 and is expected to be completed by summer of 2022.
- Continued monitoring and reporting at the closed balefill landfill at the Airport in accordance with DEC requirements.

- Began preliminary planning for future pedestrian/bicycle/safety improvements along CR 103, Annandale Road, from Route 9G to Kelly Rd, Town of Red Hook. This project is being designed in cooperation with Bard College.
- Initiated surveys for future reconstruction of culvert N-21 on CR-63, Boston Corners Road, and culvert N-46 on CR-83, Amenia-Pine Plains Road, Town of North East.
- Reached substantial completion of the reconstruction of Old Hopewell Road (CR-28) Federal Aid Project, including the intersection with CR-94 All Angels Hill Road, from All Angels Hill Road to NYS Rte 9, Town of Wappinger. Remainder of work is scheduled for completion in spring of 2022.
- Completed 36 mapping requests from private surveyors and/or engineers.
- Completed 57 county highway related right-of-way determinations.
- Completed New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) mandated work including administration of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS-4) system and performed 102 drainage system outfall inspections. Mapped 1,960 county-owned catch basins. This program also included:
 - a. Conducted county-wide Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) and MS4 inspections.
 - b. Reviewed Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) for various county projects.
 - c. Prepared, published, and submitted annual State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Phase II annual report to NYS DEC.
 - d. Secured and provided Fuel Spill Kits to various divisions under the commissioner of public works. Fuel Spill Kits secured through a MS4 grant by Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District (DCSWCD). Fuel Spill containment response & mitigation throughout the DPW will now be consistent.

Highway Construction & Maintenance Division

- Worked with Engineering Division on bridge and highway improvement projects to address bridge inspection flags and rights-of-way.
- Continued shared services intermunicipal agreements with six municipalities to provide snow and ice control on more than 61 miles of County highway.
- Provided tree removal services along County highways and at County Parks (including Rail Trails), and the Hudson Valley Regional Airport as needed.

- Completed over 19.5 miles of road surface improvements on the following County Roads:
 - Old Rte. 22 (CR-6)
 - Clinton Corners Rd. (CR-13)
 - Noxon Rd. (CR-21)
 - Milltown Rd. (CR-30)
 - Cream St. (CR-39)
 - Titusville Rd. (CR-49)
 - Old Post Rd./Spring Lake Rd. (CR-56)
 - Shunpike (CR-57)
 - Coleman Station Rd. (CR-58)
 - Hunns Lake Rd. (CR-65)
 - Harmony Hill Rd. (CR-69)
 - Camby Rd. (CR-90)
 - Chestnut Ridge Rd. (CR-24)
- Worked with Central Hudson to install 450 feet of new gas line to service the Hudson Valley Regional Airport Terminal Building and the new DCC Educational Hanger Building.
- Built and installed drainage and a pad for the new batting cages at Dutchess Stadium.

Parks Division:

Bowdoin Park

- Processed 362 facility rentals, including pavilions, athletic fields, and Maple Knoll Lodge and cabins.
- Hosted Sap Happy Maple Weekend with partners OFA, Farmers and Chefs (syrup featured in restaurant menu items), and Cornell Cooperative Extension in March.
- Hosted Earth Awakening Art Show and Weekend with partners River Winds Gallery, Arts Mid-Hudson, and Cornell Cooperative Extension in April including a rededication ceremony for the refurbished Historic Ellesdie Chapel.
- Hosted Chapel Days with recorded music piped from the historic Ellesdie Chapel from Northern Dutchess Symphony Orchestra, Hudson Valley Philharmonic and Strawberry Hill Fiddlers in May.
- Collaborated with Office for the Aging to host safe events for seniors, including drive-thru pancake breakfast, bingo and picnic as well as a falls prevention class and nature hike.

- Hosted ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness and Field Day in July for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities and their families.
- Hosted a writers' hike in collaboration with Poughkeepsie Public Library District and Hudson Valley Writing Project in July.
- Partnered with Arts Mid-Hudson to host the Dutchess County Gospel Festival in September
- 44th Year of Kevin McCurdy's Haunted Mansion (1,000+ attendees)
- 18th year of the Holiday Spirit Festival (1,500+ attendees)
- Hosted a Fireside Chat with Mental Health America's Vet-to-Vet program and Division of Veteran Services.
- Hosted Winter Prelude at Ellesdie Chapel, including holiday music piped from chapel
- Offered two Story Walks featuring **If You Give a Pig a Pancake**, by Laura Numeroff (Maple Weekend in March) and **Owl Babies** by Martin Waddell (Earth Awakening Weekend in April) in partnership with the Poughkeepsie Public Library
- Hosted a year end picnic with Dutchess County Youth Advisory Council in June
- Hosted Boots by the Bandshell Country Music Concert & Fireworks in October
- Hosted multiple cross country meets with thousands of athletes, coaches and spectators.
- Completed renovations and reorganization of maintenance building
- Completed tree removal, electric upgrades, and roof replacement at Oakhurst facility at Bowdoin Park (Haunted Mansion & Holiday Spirit Festival location).
- Continued design of new archery range, archery operations building, and accessible playground

Naturalist Initiatives

Number of individuals served was directly impacted due to the inability to provide programming to schools due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; all in person programming followed social distancing guidelines.

- Adult Survival I & II - 27 served
- Nature Eaglet Program - 74 served
- Homeschool Archery - 228 served
- Weekend Archery - 227 served
- Adventure Nerf programs - 88 served
- Survival and Adventure Summer camps - 146 served
- School Programs - 448 served
- Homeschool Nature/Survival – 1,003 served
- Scout Programs - 73 served
- Maple program - 79 served
- Youth Park Palette - 99
- Adult Park Palette - 27

Wilcox Park

- Processed 261 facility rentals, including camp sites and pavilions.
- Hosted Veteran’s Camping Weekend and Veteran Picnic in June.
- Hosted Drive-in Movie Night and Family Camping Weekend, including movie, in August.
- Partnered with Boy Scout Troop 50 to build a kiosk for new historical interpretative panels.
- Collaborated with Office for the Aging on the following outreach programs:
 - Senior Walks around the Lake 8/12 & 10/15
 - Senior Learn to Disc Golf 9/16
 - Senior Drive in Bingo 9/27
- Completed construction of two Accessible Camping Platforms.
- Completed roof replacement on the maintenance outbuilding.
- Completed improvements to the campground bathhouse including new ceiling, flooring, and exterior mural developed by Red Hook Library All Abilities Adults and Teens program.
- Hosted two certified Professional Disc Golf Association Tournaments B tier with approximately 200 players per tournament.
- Began design process for new Splash Pad, campground office/bath house and music play area.

Quiet Cove

- Processed 51 facility rentals, including Boathouse and open space rentals and one kayak slip rental.
- Hosted Vets on the Water with Hudson Valley Center for Veteran Reintegration & Division of Veteran Services with Fireside Chat and sleepover in October.
- Hosted a Writer's Hike with Poughkeepsie Public Library District and Hudson Valley Writer's Project in September.
- Hosted a Pop-up Library with Poughkeepsie Public Library from May through September.
- Completed installation of Dutchess County Sheriff's dock on north deck in August.
- Completed design and began construction of Phase Four improvements including access road improvements, new entrance configuration, expanded parking lot, new signage, and installation of sidewalk from upper entrance to parking area.

WRS Dutchess Rail Trail

- Hosted I Love My Park Day Cleanup Event in May.
- Completed Summer Invasive Species Identification and GPS mapping initiative through NY/NJ Trail Conference.
- Hosted Dutchess County Classic in September.
- Installed 8 benches along the trail as part of the Dutchess County Amenities Program.

Empire State Trail -Maybrook Line

- Hosted Police Unity Ride in May

Harlem Valley Rail Trail

- Hosted Ribbon Cutting event for the Phase IV expansion connecting the Village of Millerton in Dutchess County to Columbia County. The completion of this section provides 23 miles of continuous trail from the Wassaic Train Station in Amenia to the Copake Falls area of the Taconic State Park in Columbia County.

- Completed placement of Mile Markers along the new trail section.
- Installed 1 bench as part of the Dutchess County Amenities Program.

Dutchess Stadium

- Constructed new batting cage near clubhouse.
- Continued lease negotiations with Hudson Valley Renegades and land purchase with Beacon City School District.

Urban Trail

- Completed design of trail and presented to the Dutchess County Legislature with Engineering Division and Consultant.

Upper Landing Park

- Received approval by the Dutchess County Legislature to accept transfer of park ownership to the County following donation by The Dyson Foundation

Lake Walton Preserve

- Continued design of accessible loop trail including logo, branding, wayfinding signage.
- Completed DEC endangered species study and Invasive Species Survey with GPS mapping.

Outreach

- Created dedicated Parks Hotline for year-round use to provide residents with event and facility updates.
- Continued to grow Dutchess County Parks Facebook page with 2,000 new Page followers and 1,066 new likes, an increase of 154 percent since the Page's launch in 2020.

- Hosted three Facebook Live events with County Executive Molinaro at various park facilities to update residents on the pandemic and the upcoming events and programs at the parks as part of “Marc in the Parks” series.
- Began study to find a new reservation system for parks facilities.

Public Transit Division:

- Logged 530,500 passenger trips, as fixed route service operated with full service. This represents a 9 percent increase over 2020.
- Dial-A-Ride service has seen growth of 101 percent over 2020 with 12,000+ rides.
- Received \$4,428,000 in Section 5307 funds from the Mid-Hudson Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for facility repairs such as flood mitigation, additional parking areas, a new storage garage, renovation of mechanics restrooms and locker rooms, renovations of ADA restrooms and epoxy flooring for maintenance and bus storage areas.
- Used \$3,647,298 of Federal CARES Act funding from the FTA to help support Public Transit operating expenses and the installation of plexiglass safety barriers for drivers.
- Received a \$510,029 grant from the 2021 New York State Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP) for additional bus purchases and bus facility renovations.
- Used New York State Department of Transportation funding of \$1,587,829 for the purchase of nine demand-response paratransit vehicles.
- Purchased three new 35-foot heavy duty transit vehicles to the fleet.
- Successfully negotiated new contract with Teamsters Local 445.
- Completed FTA Triennial Review and New York State 5311 Audit.
- Completed a system-wide bus stop and bus shelter study to determine areas needing improvement and increase efficiency.
- Completed a comprehensive study of Public Transit’s fixed routes and demand response services.
- Continued partnership with Bard College, Hudson River Housing, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie City School District, and City of Beacon to offer transit services at no charge to their passengers.

- Continued a contractual partnership with Gateway Advertising to sell advertising on Public Transit vehicles.
- Continued a transit facility rehabilitation project, which includes:
 - The rehabilitation of the exterior windows and siding of the transit facility at 14 Commerce Street
 - Power washing of the front of the building
 - Renovation of the drivers' room to include new flooring, cabinetry, plumbing, ceiling tiles, air ducts and electrical outlets
 - Repair foundation cracks
- Participated in the City of Poughkeepsie Festival of Lights Parade and Town of Poughkeepsie Holiday Caravan.

Division of Water Resources/Water and Wastewater Authority

Throughout the year DCWWA continued to revise policies, procedures and practices in order to respond to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, and remain in compliance with all federal and state laws, regulations and Executive Orders related to the COVID-19 Pandemic State of Emergency, and to protect the health and safety of DCWWA officers, employees, customers and contractors, while continuing to meet all obligations related to the provision of essential water and sewer services.

- Successfully managed and operated thirty-one water and sewer systems, providing services to about 6,335 customer connections.
- Acquired and began operations of the Obercreek Farms Sewer System in the Town of Wappinger.
- Completed projects to replace the Village of Tivoli's antiquated water storage tank and to replace old and under-sized water mains.
- Progressed capital projects to construct improvements to the Tivoli Water System, Tivoli Sewer System, Greenfields Sewer System, Pinebrook Water System and Dalton Farms Sewer System.
- Entered into agreements to provide water to the USEF Tioranda (Amazon) fulfillment center on the former IBM property in the Town of East Fishkill.

- Entered into agreements to provide water on a temporary, emergency basis for two water systems in the Town of East Fishkill that have been impacted by PFOS and PFOA contamination.
- In a cooperative effort with the Towns of Poughkeepsie and Pleasant Valley, using Municipal Innovation Grant funds awarded to Poughkeepsie, awarded an engineering contract to evaluate the feasibility of constructing a shared water storage facility to benefit the three entities.
- Continued to work with the Village of Rhinebeck to conduct an engineering evaluation, funded by a County Municipal Innovation Grant, to evaluate the transfer of the Village's water and sewer systems to the DCWWA.
- In cooperation with the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), continued to advance a project to extend public water to the expanded BOCES campus and the County-owned Auto Center facility in the Town of Hyde Park.
- On December 24, 2021 commemorated the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority.