PATH TO PROMISE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Announced by County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro in his 2017 State of the County address, the "Path-to-Promise" is a multi-year effort to ensure all young people in Dutchess County – from birth through age 19 – have the assets they need to achieve their full potential as they grow into young adults.

Working with Public Consulting Group (PCG), a community-led project team engaged in dialogues with youth, service providers, funders, and residents to analyze existing youth services, develop a universal asset framework and an implementation plan to build on what is working, resolve duplication of services, and close any gaps in services and supports. The following six domains were identified as the foundation of the Path to Promise framework:

Path-to-Promise Identified Domains	
Learning	Acquiring knowledge leading to the success of students in future college or career aspirations
Material Basics	Providing for the basic needs of youth and families, including housing support and food
Safety	The feeling of being protected from danger, risk, or injury
Family/Social Relationships	Having pro-social bonds with family, peers, and other adults providing opportunities for emotional and spiritual growth and support
Mental Health	Opportunities to develop or support positive psychological and emotional well-being, including enrichment and leadership, and pro-social growth opportunities
Physical Health	Ensuring access to quality health care, opportunities for positive body growth and development, and access to appropriate and quality responses to cases where children get sick or hurt

The framework was further developed to consider age specific visions to track youth developmental milestones in each of the domains and for each age group (0-3; 4-5; 6-12; 13-17 and 18-19 years old). In addition, performance indicators were developed for each domain, and data measurements identified for each age group within each domain. (See attached tables and illustrations)

Summary of Observations and Recommendations

Main Observations**:**

Dutchess County Government provides directly or through contracted services over 111 unique programs - both mandated and discretionary programs- serving individuals 0 to 19 years old. The County spends $4 million on discretionary youth programs.

Dutchess County has many physical assets, as demonstrated in the gap analysis and mapping of assets. However, there are differences between the regions, and in the cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon. The combination of Alice Households and exposure to trauma (ACE indicators) as measured by the incidents of Domestic Violence are factors to keep in mind when assessing the needs of Dutchess County youths.

In addition, several stakeholders articulated the need for more primary prevention programming across the county. For example, there are several services available to youth who are a JD offender or in PINS status, but far fewer services available to prevent them from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.

While Dutchess County offers several programs to keep youth with behavioral health disorders out of inpatient hospital beds, there are times when youth in the County do require hospitalization. Currently, the nearest inpatient mental health beds for youth are in Westchester County at Four Winds Hospital. Youth that require hospitalization are placed at Four Winds – a significant distance from their families and other support systems.

Regional variation played a minor role in influencing the perceptions of youth. Generally, they had similar perspectives regarding the value and rankings of the domains. All regions selected Material Basics as the most important domain, followed by Safety and Mental Health. When asked about the top three things they want addressed, youth expressed the need for 1) School improvements; 2) Increased mental health access and awareness; 3) Training opportunities for job readiness.

Substance abuse is a profound concern for both parents and caregivers, but less so for youth, who expressed more concerns about the existence of violence in their community. It should be noted that parents and youth both identified strong relationships with each other as a major component of feeling safe and supported.

Key Recommendations

1. Funding

The County needs to review its portfolio to align services and funding Dutchess County should examine funding streams and attempt to reallocate funding for prevention services; and the county should collaborate with foundations to develop a coordinated youth funding strategy.

2. Data Monitoring:

The County should set standards for the collection of data across departments to create a more cohesive tracking and monitoring of outcomes across the County.

3. Mental Health Services

The Department of Community and Behavioral Health, the Department of Probation, and Department of Community and Family Services should bring together service providers and create a task force to coordinate the approach to mental health diversion services.

4. Youth & Community Engagement

Adopting the concept of "Nothing about me without me," the County should continuously engage the community, particularly the youth and service providers.

5. C**apacity Building**

Paying attention to the quality of the services rendered, and focusing on the professional development of service providers' staff regarding competencies for positive youth development, asset building, and trauma informed care.

Proposed strategies (PCG):

- Strengthen the capacity of parents, families and caregivers to support youth.
- Strengthen the capacity of the community to provide opportunities for youth to learn, grow, and thrive.
- Prepare youth to engage and participate in the planning, development and implementation of positive programs and activities. Maintain "Nothing About Me Without Me," as the basic principle.
- Empower and encourage schools, colleges and youth-serving communities, and agencies to work together to offer aligned and coordinated programs and services.
- Improve information sharing among providers and funders for coordination of services.
- Realign public policy and resources to support the vision of the Path-to-Promise.
- Utilize grant funding by the public and private sector to increase the number and quality of accessible programs for youth of all ages and abilities.
- Evaluate youth programs and services to ensure desired outcomes are met and align with the vision of the Path-to-Promise.

2019-2020 ACTION PLAN

The PCG Path to Promise reports provide us with the framework and key strategies to develop our specific implementation steps for each sector of our county.

Our goal is to develop over the next six months an implementation plan in conjunction with the development of the 2020 budget to support the initiative.

Dutchess County Government

- Over the coming months, recognizing the interactive nature of the Path to Promise initiative, the County will implement an aggressive outreach effort to mobilize the community, encourage participation in positive youth development efforts, and continue to get feedback, staying current with the issues affecting our youth to feed the Path to Promise plan
- Budget for an Assistant to the DCFS Commissioner who will be responsible for the Implementation of Path to Promise by the Fall 2019
- Establish a "Path to Promise" Committee within the Youth Board Coordinating Council to provide a sustainable structure for effective implementation and continuous improvement practices
- Begin to develop Performance Measures, set benchmarks and monitoring mechanism. Consider ways to assess the multi-dimensional data gathered, and ways to "slice and dice" the data for a community within a particular domain and age group;
- Study the feasibility of developing a website that will provide the data and the resources for the community. Look at the Denver, Colorado model. https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/office-of-childrens-affairs.html
- Implement coordinated funding strategy – all county departments to adopt uniform grant application for youth services focusing on desired outcomes identified in the Path to Promise framework
- Fund/support, coordinate and offer professional development for service providers – imbedding trauma informed practice into training requirements and technical assistance to providers
- Focus preventive efforts on the 0-5 age groups; DCFS to look for ways to improve access to Quality Day Care and support the concept of "Day One" initiative
- DCBH to work with DCFS, Astor and other providers to develop "Project Launch" to address social, emotional, cognitive, physical and behavioral aspects of the development of children 0-8 years of age, and seek funding to implement
- Consider convening a forum to engage the schools and other partners for a "Cradle to Career" partnership approach
- Implement a first set of initiatives to include in 2019 the DCFS' Foster Care Mentoring program, and APG funds to expand Youth Employment programs beyond the summer time
- Identify partners to create facilities, using existing physical assets throughout the communities, where youth can access services, play and socialize, engage in the arts, learn skills, and explore careers – from farming to computer technology
- Hold an Annual Youth Summit to continuously engage youths
- Expand youth leadership programs/activities including opportunities for civic engagement – Incorporate and integrate Youth Engagement Continuum throughout Youth Council

Figure 1 Path to Promise Framework by age group

	0–3	4–5	6–12	13–17	18–19	Performance Indicators
Learning	All youth can access early learning resources that helps prepare them for school and with early development.	All youth have access to a quality pre-school program that helps prepare them for school.	All youth have access to a quality primary education institution in Dutchess County where they can learn in a positive environment.	All youth in Dutchess County have access to a quality middle school and high school education where they have access to resources that will help them graduate high school.	All youth in Dutchess County have access to resources that will help them prepare for their careers, including but not limited to: college, vocational programs, internships, apprenticeships, jobs, etc.	• Kindergarten readiness • High school graduation rates; High school equivalency completion rates • Post-Secondary enrollment, including Internship enrollment; technical program enrollment; college enrollment
Material Basics	Age appropriate basic needs met.	Age appropriate basic needs met.	Age appropriate basic needs met.	Age appropriate basic needs met.	Age appropriate basic needs met.	• Poverty level • Access to food and shelter/housing • Economic well-being
Mental Health	Families will understand needs of their infant and toddler and have the skills to enhance their social and emotional development.	All youth of all abilities will have foundational elements to develop empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.	All youth of all abilities develop self-esteem and place a high value on helping others.	All youth of all abilities develop positive peer relationships, skills to resist negative peer pressures and dangerous situations, and employ peaceful conflict resolution.	All youth of all abilities will embrace diversity, have sense of purpose, and will be optimistic about their personal future.	• Resiliency rate • Percent of youths enrolled for clinical services; percent of youths with mental health diagnosis
Physical Health	Maternal and youth quality health services will be accessible to all families.	Age appropriate quality health services will be accessible to all families and youth of all abilities will develop good health habits.	Age appropriate quality health services will be accessible to all families and youth of all abilities will develop good health habits.	Access age appropriate quality health services and practice healthy habits and skills to avoid risky behaviors.	Access age appropriate quality health services and practice healthy habits and skills to avoid risky behaviors while transitioning into adulthood.	• Birth outcomes, including infant mortality and prenatal care; percent of youth who have health insurance; immunization rates • Percent of youth who report participating in recreation programs and/or sports • Childhood obesity rates, usage of parks, enrollment in sport programs
Family/ Relationships	Encourage and support secure attachment relationships between youth and their primary caregivers.	Encourage and support a nurturing environment to develop positive relationships.	All youth of all abilities are surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate, and accept them.	All youth of all abilities continue to be surrounded by people who love, care for, appreciate and accept them, and experience positive connections in their community.	All youth of all abilities have the confidence to explore their place in the world with strong positive adult relationships.	• Percent of population involved in faith based programs • Percent of youth with at least one caring peer • Percent of youth with at least one caring adult caregiver
Safety	Parent, caregivers, teachers, neighbors and the community act to ensure youth safety.	Parent, caregivers, teachers, neighbors and the community act to ensure youth safety.	Parents and community adults ensure the child safety while keeping in mind the youth's independence.	All youth of all abilities feel safe at home, school or in their neighborhood.	All youth of all abilities feel safe at home, school or in their neighborhood.	• Number of justice-involved youth • Percent of youth who feel safe in school and who feel safe in their neighborhood • Rate of youth that experience abuse, neglect and maltreatment

Domain	Vision Statement	Impact Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Data Measurement Tools
Learning	All youth of all abilities in Dutchess County will have an opportunity to receive a quality education that allows for him or her to graduate high school and pursue a career.	Increase and improve learning readiness	Kindergarten readiness	Universal Pre-K Head Start enrollment; Kindergarten readiness assessment
		Increase educational success	High school graduation rates; High school equivalency completion rates	School district graduation and equivalency rate information; IEP data
		Increase career readiness	Post-Secondary enrollment, including Internship enrollment; technical program enrollment; college enrollment	BOCES program data; Dutchess Community College enrollment; Dutchess WIB data
Material Basics	All youth of all abilities and families in Dutchess County will have their basic needs met, including food, shelter and clothing.	Increase housing security	Poverty level	Homelessness statistics from Housing Information System (HIMS)
		Increase food security	Access to food and shelter/housing	Number of SNAP recipients; free/reduced lunch program participants
		Increase access to basic material needs	Economic well-being	Census poverty rate, Kids Count data center economic well-being indicators, including cost of living data and employment statistics
Safety	All youth of all abilities in Dutchess County will feel safe and protected in their home, school, and community.	Increase safe and supportive environment in the community	Number of justice-involved youth	Crime/Police statistics; Probation statistics
		Increase safe and supportive environment in the school	Percent of youth who feel safe in school and who feel safe in their neighborhood	School district statistics on attendance and discipline rates; CAPE Survey
		Increase safe and supportive environment in the home	Number of youths that experience abuse, neglect and maltreatment	CPS-hotline calls; CPS intake statistics; Domestic violence statistics

Domain	Vision Statement	Impact Outcomes	Performance Indicators	Data Measurement Tools
Family / Relationships	The social and interpersonal domain; all youth of all abilities in Dutchess County will experience positive relationships with a caring adult within their family and/or community.	Increase positive infant-caregiver attachment Increase positive family relationships	Percent of youth with at least one caring adult caregiver	Head Start - Infant attachment data; CAPE Survey; YASI probation assessment
		Increase opportunity for positive adult and peer relationships	Percent of youth with at least one caring peer; Percent of population involved in faith-based programs	Mentorship Program enrollment; CAPE survey; YASI probation assessment; Youth connection to faith-based or spirituality components in programming
Mental Health	Dutchess County will support all youth of all abilities to realize their psychological and emotional well-being.	Increase skills for coping, thriving and connecting in a healthy manner	Resiliency rate	ACE assessments / number of ACES; MAYSI probation assessment; CAPE Survey
		Increase access to appropriate clinical services for diagnosis and treatment	Percent of youths enrolled for clinical services; percent of youths with mental health diagnosis	Community Mental Health Center provider data on diagnoses & enrollment numbers
Physical Health	All youth of all abilities in Dutchess County will experience positive relationships with a caring adult within their family and/or community.	Increase access for healthcare services	Birth outcomes, including infant mortality and prenatal care; percent of youth who have health insurance; immunization rates	Pediatricians; Hospitals; WIC
		Increase opportunities for physical activity	Percent of youth who report participating in recreation programs and/or sports	CAPE Survey; Parks Dept. utilization statistics
		Increase healthy habits	Childhood obesity rates, usage of parks, enrollment in sport programs	Community Health Assessment and Status Reports; Dutchess County DBCH data

Path to Promise Framework Synopsis – 2 of 2