

2022  
Message to the Legislature



**Edwin J. Day**  
County Executive  
April 5, 2022

Good evening, Rockland.

Greetings to the members of the Legislature, elected officials, county Department Heads and Commissioners and everyone else joining us tonight to hear about the state of our county.

I also welcome everyone who is watching this live at home or on your mobile device.

As you may know, the County Charter requires me to update the Legislature once every year on the State of our County. I'm proud to hold this year's address here inside the Chambers of the County Legislature and a big thank you to our Legislators joining me here tonight.

I am honored to present the 2022 State of the County. I'm also incredibly proud to stand here before you in my third term as your County Executive to let you know the state of our beloved County is still growing strong. But it certainly didn't start out that way.

Our County's success is directly linked to our continued commitment to doing the right thing, day in and day out, since I was elected as your County Executive more than eight years ago.

While the road was bumpy at times, the people of Rockland and the Legislature stood united, made tough choices, and against all odds we worked together to put this county back on track.

If we have learned anything over the past few years, our work is far from over and tonight I'm excited to share some of our accomplishments and great things ahead.

Every year we are making incredible strides revitalizing Rockland's economy, a key driver of our success.

Our Department of Planning undertakes reviews of development applications and last year the number of reviews they completed were 25% higher than the five-year average. That is what I call progress.

Thanks to our commitment to responsible development, we have increased our total value of taxable real estate by \$7.4 billion in five years. That's a 21% increase. This growth ultimately brings good jobs to Rockland, stabilizes our tax base, and shields families from the double-digit tax increases of the past.

Public transportation is another vital component that every community and economy thrive from which is why we are constantly working on enhancing our transit system.

Despite COVID, I'm happy to report we managed to avoid service cuts and provided a full schedule of bus service that families and essential workers rely on.

Five new modified Dodge Grand Caravans were added to the TRIPS fleet last year, which transports residents with disabilities. Our transportation department is purchasing nearly two dozen new TRIPS buses this year and 20 clean-diesel TOR buses which will be in service by the end of this summer. The best part – they are being paid for with state and federal funding; Not a single cent coming from county tax dollars.

The department is now identifying locations for new bus shelters and launching a new Bus Shelter Solar Lighting campaign. Under that campaign, solar lights will be installed at bus stop shelters throughout the county, enhancing safety and transportation at night for riders.

I want to thank Acting Commissioner Doug Scheutz and his entire team at Planning and Transportation for constantly fighting to improve service for our commuters.

I'm proud to say everything we have accomplished is a result of our government, private sector, and supporting agencies working together.

One of those supporting agencies, the Rockland County Industrial Development Agency, received 17 applications for new projects last year, which is a record high. These projects involve every town in the County across a range of industries.

The investment from all these projects is estimated to be nearly \$1-billion and expected to generate 400 good paying jobs, not including the thousands of jobs in construction involved in the building and expansion process.

I want to thank Executive Director Steven Porath for his stewardship in these trying times.

All these new and expanding developments demonstrate the momentum we are building here in Rockland, is also reflected in Rockland's rebounding workforce.

Rockland's unemployment rate is down to 3.3% and, I'm happy to say, is among the lowest in the Hudson Valley. That number is vastly improved from the 13.3% unemployment rate during the worst of the pandemic in April 2020.

The County's Department of Economic Development and Tourism is continuing to increase Rockland's visibility and put our beautiful county on the map.

Despite the challenges the pandemic presented, the department managed to bring in \$958,000 in filming revenue last year from 32 productions on County property alone. This is just one of the ways your government is working to earn money for a brighter and more sustainable future in Rockland. Every dollar spent on filming provides additional boosts to local businesses and our entire county with productions utilizing hotels, buying gas, and patronizing local restaurants or caterers.

Productions we welcomed last year include FBI: Most Wanted, A Journal for Jordan and the Good Fight.

On that note, I'm happy to share we are celebrating our fifth year of distributing tourism grants to promote local events and destinations. If not for tourism generated sales and local taxes, the average household in Rockland would have to pay an additional \$422 in yearly taxes to maintain our current level of services.

This year alone, we awarded \$205,000 to 22 organizations to advertise upcoming events and help attract more visitors from outside Rockland. These County dollars come with a set of performance expectations, and we're confident the organizations receiving these funds will meet those standards and bring in visitors who keep coming back.

There's no question our businesses took a big hit from COVID, and I want to applaud every single business owner who fought throughout the pandemic to keep their doors open. The economic health of our community is directly linked to companies like yours staying committed to the people of Rockland. Thank you for sticking with us.

As we continue to recover from the effects of the pandemic, we pledge to support local businesses any way we can.

I want to acknowledge Lucy Redzeposki, Economic Development & Tourism director, for helping Rockland grow stronger.

Last year our Department of Community Development Rockland County received \$3.5 million in Federal Cares Act funding from HUD for the Community Development Block Program. The program awarded up to \$45,000 in relief to small businesses and non-profits to help them retain workers and stay open.

I want to acknowledge Director Alexandra Obremski for her tireless efforts in Community Development.

Even now, we are still building on these efforts. Last year we received \$63 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds and created a department tasked with maximizing every single federal dollar spent for the people of Rockland. I want to give a special shout out to Jenna Nazario who is leading that effort.

In January, her department announced the Reviving Rockland Restaurants Grant Program to provide financial relief to restaurants that encountered unexpected costs from COVID, like renovations to accommodate outdoor dining. Thanks to this grant they can get up to \$25,000 of those costs reimbursed.

Since the pandemic began, the demand on food pantries has grown significantly but our foodbanks and community-based organizations never turn anyone away. These groups stepped up in one of our darkest hours to increase donations, fill the growing need and help families put food on the table.

We are proud to announce another grant to provide some relief to these organizations. Our Food Security Grant Program will reimburse organizations that have been impacted, up to \$25,000 for qualifying expenses.

We also increased this year's budget for non-profit contract agencies by \$467,000. Money, we know such valued organizations desperately need to continue helping local families.

These organizations support our residents, and it is our duty to support them in return, however possible and I acknowledge the County Legislature for helping me make this happen.

In fact, more help from ARPA is on the way... following this address our County Legislature will be voting on the Urban Green Spaces Grant, widening our urban greenspaces and outdoor recreation options, and a Small Business Rescue Grant, to help reimburse small businesses for expenses incurred by COVID.

Here in Rockland, we're not only thinking about today, but we are also looking ahead to tomorrow. Which is why we are regularly investing in this county's future workforce.

Last year our Youth Bureau trained and employed more than 250 individuals ages 14 to 20 years of age who earned over 35,000 hours of priceless career experience.

Our Teen Employment Education Network also celebrated 30 youth graduates in their 4-week pre-employment summer training program.

Let's not forget, our Rockland Conservation and Service Corps also empowers young adults by involving them in public service. Last year our corps members contributed over 8,000 hours to environmental and conservation service.

A special shout out to Acting Director Gabriella Marano-Holahan for all her hard work, for the future generations of Rockland.

We are also dedicated to helping our older population of residents.

During the early rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines, our Office for the Aging received numerous calls from seniors unable to get an appointment. To address the need, that department, our Office of Fire and Emergency Services and 19 other County Departments came together to activate our Emergency Operations Center.

This all-hands-on deck operation resulted in over 31,000 answered calls and contributed to our extremely high vaccination rate amongst seniors, which stands at 95% of those 65+ receiving at least one vaccine dose.

The department's meal service program was another lifeline to residents during the pandemic. In 2019 we served about 47,000 meals to seniors; last year we delivered nearly triple that.

I want to recognize Acting Director Diana Herlihy for her relentless efforts to assist our seniors.

As we work tirelessly to help residents, we still face many challenges when it comes to illegal substances. Last year, Rockland saw an increase in overdose and Fentanyl related deaths.

I want the families of these victims to know we refuse to sit back and do nothing.

Our Rockland County District Attorney's Office is collaborating with Clarkstown Police and our Department of Mental Health to create plans and strategies in high overdose areas.

We all know we can't arrest our way out of the drug problem which is why the DA's office is also spearheading a pre-arraignment program called Project Connect. This program is currently active in the Orangetown and Ramapo Police Departments and refers low-level, non-violent, offenders with substance abuse issues to treatment. If these individuals commit to that treatment for 30 days, the charges are withdrawn.

Congratulations to District Attorney Tom Walsh for his efforts fighting the drug epidemic.

In addition, this year the Rockland County Department of Mental Health is increasing access to Narcan, offering Fentanyl test strips, and ensuring that tele-practice treatment options continue to be available.

Last year we surveyed residents and asked how the pandemic is impacting households. The overwhelming responses we received from families was an admission that mental health was being strained from isolation and anxiety due to COVID.

For this reason, as we transition to using "9-8-8" for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, "3-1-1" will soon become Rockland's lifeline for all behavioral health needs. This is part of our commitment to provide the people of this county with the help they need.

There's no doubt the pandemic has been especially difficult for children and young adults. The all-new set of circumstances they've been forced to adapt to have contributed to anxiety and depression rates doubling among our youth.

Help is available through the Children's Community Assistance, Response, and Engagement Team otherwise known as our CARE Team. This mobile unit helps individuals 21 and under, along with their family, work through behavioral or emotional challenges for up to eight weeks. Their goal is to stabilize the situation and provide referrals for additional help.

Best of all this service is FREE for families as it is grant funded at NO COST to local taxpayers.

Last year, the CARE team received 237 referrals and I'm happy to share many of these families elected to work with the Team for the full 8 weeks.

Please join me in applauding Acting Commissioner Susan Hoerter and her team of mental health professionals for their work improving lives in our community.

Our Department of Consumer Protection, led by Jim Elcik, is continuing to protect the people of Rockland by cracking down on unlicensed contractors. Last year this department investigated 406 complaints, resulting in 141 prosecutions and 507 violations, which I'm happy to point out have offset the operational expenses of the Department.

I'd like to highlight one of their recent victories. For the last 2 years, Consumer Protection received several complaints about a local company named Premier 1 Plumbing & Heating. The complaints were for poor and unfinished work that was paid for upfront, including jobs that were never started.

In each of these cases, the Office of Consumer Protection charged owner Michael Polloni for unlicensed plumbing, a Misdemeanor, but Polloni never appeared for any of his court appearances resulting in warrants issued for his arrest.

In February, this department received a tip this man was working in Piermont and, with the assistance of the Rockland County Sheriff's Office, had him arrested.

Let's give Jim and his entire team a round of applause for going above and beyond to protect the residents of Rockland.

As a former police commander, I appreciate all the work done by the Rockland County Sheriff's Office.

The communications division is working to deploy a new Mobile Field Communications Vehicle, which will serve as a mobile command center during emergencies. We all know it's better to be proactive than reactive. So, while our county-wide communication system for first responders is housed at our 911 center this new vehicle will serve as a backup communication system once launched.

The police division also completed a pilot body camera program last year, which was identified as a need during the Criminal Justice Reform Collaboration. The department is now working on proposals to get body cameras supplied to all patrol and corrections officers.

I want to acknowledge one of my great partners in protecting the people of Rockland, Sheriff Louis Falco.

Our Office of Fire and Emergency Services works hard to keep us safe and prepared to face any emergency. Led by Director Chris Kear, we recently completed a \$250,000 renovation of our Fire Safety Training building. We are also in the process of bidding out work for a new 3-story fire operations facility. This \$700,000 building will be a new home for first responders to do live burns, ladder work and search and rescue training.

The department also worked with Purchasing to buy a brand-new, half a million-dollar, fire engine and secure over \$400,000 in COVID related reimbursements. Our fire service is of the highest priority in my administration.

In early January, New York made federal funding available to update hazard mitigation plans and strengthen resiliency against natural disasters. The County is now gathering the required information and data to assist our towns and villages in the application process.

This funding will help Rockland be better prepared if, or when, disaster strikes.

Let's not forget, COVID gave the phrase risking lives a whole new meaning. Despite the major threat to their own health and wellbeing, these brave men and women continued to support and help our communities throughout the pandemic.

As a former first responder, I know that our frontline and emergency responders think that you are simply doing what you were trained to do but I am here to tell you that your efforts are heroic and have not gone unnoticed.

On behalf of the people of Rockland, I thank all of you for your service. Let's give our emergency responders the applause they deserve.

Speaking of heroes, our Veterans Service Agency, led by Director Susan Branam, a former US Army Captain and helicopter pilot, is going above and beyond for our veterans making sure they get the care and services they rightfully deserve.

Last fall, the family of a 92-year-old Marine Corps veteran suffering with Alzheimer's turned to us over an ongoing battle with the VA Hospital for a home health aide. While this veteran was entitled to a home health aide 3 days a week, the VA hospital was not living up to that promise even after Susan reached out directly, which was forcing the family to pay for these expenses out of pocket.

Our VSA, knowing this was unacceptable for someone who fought for our country, went another route. Branam helped this family apply and receive more financial support. As a result, they more than quadrupled this veteran's monthly assistance, offsetting the cost.

My office spoke with this family directly and I'm going to share what they said. The son says that Susan and her office were the only ones who got something done, despite reaching out to lawmakers from the federal down to the local level. In fact, this son said, and I quote, "Susan has been a godsend" and "her office deserves a lot of credit."

Now that's what I call a hero. As a military dad, I offer two simple words straight from the heart... Thank you. Let's applaud this department for their dedication to our service men and women.

On another positive note, thanks to the fiscal expertise of our Department of Budget and Finance, we have refinanced various capital serial bonds saving taxpayers nearly half a million dollars per year over the life of these bonds.



Through their efforts, the work of every one of our departments, and the County Legislature, we crafted a 2022 budget with NO property tax increase for our residents. An incredible accomplishment and testament to how far we've come these past 8 years. By staying the course, I can say with certainty, the best is yet to come.

I want to acknowledge Rockland Finance Commissioner Stephen DeGroat and Budget Director Steve Grogan for their tireless efforts to save taxpayer dollars.

Our improved financial situation has given us the ability to take on needed infrastructure improvements, including the completion of our new highway garage this July. Built on 24 acres, the facility will consist of 7 buildings totaling 113,000 square feet and thanks to its central location it will shorten response times countywide.

The facility includes a new maintenance repair building and indoor storage for our fleet.

It also has a large-vehicle wash facility which will increase the life expectancy of our vehicles by 20%, saving about \$190,000 a year. The best part – towns and villages will be able to access it as well increasing the lifespans of their highway fleets.

This new garage will be able to store 10,000 tons of salt, doubling our current capacity, and will be available for towns and villages to purchase as needed.

I thank those members of the Legislature who helped pass this bond resolution for the \$29.5 million needed for this construction.

Last year was very busy for the Highway Department led by Superintendent Skip Vezzetti. This department resurfaced 14 miles of County Roads and of the total amount spent, \$1.6 million was reimbursed through the New York State Capital Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).

We in the County of Rockland will always work hard to maximize the use of state and federal funds on our projects to keep local taxes as low as possible. We will not kick the can down the road for needed infrastructure work, saddling our kids and grandkids with the responsibility at 3, 4, or 5 times the cost.

We are matching this level of commitment when it comes to green energy as well. We have already transitioned to green electricity, utilizing 100% US generated wind power while saving taxpayer dollars. We are also dedicated to reaching New York State Climate Smart Communities Bronze status and will continue to consider climate smart initiatives for future county projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

One of the promises I made when you elected me as County Executive was to preserve open spaces. Last year our Division of Environmental Resources established an Agricultural & Farming Education center in the Town of Ramapo. The 24- acre farm was acquired by the County in 2002 as part of the Open Space Acquisition Program. This farm is now providing schools with tours and educational programs in agriculture, livestock, and beekeeping.

Through our Open Space Acquisition Program, we received \$10 million in funding this budget year to acquire new properties. After receiving 17 nominations for consideration there are 4 properties under consideration to be purchased.

Our beautiful new Pollinator Garden installed at Kakiat County Park is providing a pesticide-free food and habitat source for pollinating insects like bees and butterflies.

Our Water Conservation District is continuing to lead the annual Minisceongo Creek Watershed Cleanup. Last year's event removed 800 pounds of debris from the creek.

These efforts are just some of the ways we are working to maintain and protect the character of neighborhoods and Rockland's natural beauty. I want to thank Director Allan Beers and his Department for their dedication to maintaining and protecting open space.

In support of our frontline Departments, our Personnel Department settled 5 union contracts for over 1700 employees. In one month, these new contracts are fiscally and operationally sound and recognize the herculean efforts of our team during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Personnel has also spearheaded effective employee development programs, designed to help staff develop the skills to advance into management roles.

Thank you to Commissioner Lori Gruebel and her entire team for ensuring the team is up to the task.

Our Purchasing Division, which handles procurement for all departments, successfully sourced all the equipment and supplies for the Department of Health's vaccination clinics and as previously mentioned, successfully purchased a new Fire Pumper for the Office of Fire and Emergency Services.

Purchaser Richard Ryan also negotiated a \$67,000 reduction in the cost of a new Command Van for the Sheriff's Department, with the lowest responsible bidder, who was ultimately awarded the contract.

I love seeing our county departments effectively helping one another for the benefit of Rockland taxpayers.

I want to thank Director Paul Brennan for everything he does for the taxpayers of Rockland.

In another example of working together, our Probation Department is coordinating with agencies to streamline the Raise the Age program for 17-year-olds and successfully diverted 86% of youth from entering the Family Court system.

This year we aim to raise that diversion rate even higher, reduce the recidivism rate among juveniles, and maximizing the services we offer them.

I'd like to say best wishes to Kathi Tower-Bernstein on her retirement from Probation and congrats to Joseph DiCarlo who replaced her as the new Director of Probation.

This next achievement certainly deserves recognition. Our Insurance Department successfully negotiated two separate settlements, including one where we received \$1.7 million from the New York State Second Injury Fund to settle 16 compensation claims for former employees.

Just another example of how County Government is utilizing other funding sources to keep your taxes down.

I want to acknowledge Director Tom Torpey for that and so much more.

Our Board of Elections effectively implemented Early Voting last year with a nine-day early voting period. They additionally processed close to 20,000 registration forms, including 7,200 new registrations.

This year Rockland residents can look forward to additional voting centers opening along with expanded early and absentee voting.

Election Commissioners Patricia Giblin & Kathy Pietanza have done a remarkable job ensuring voting here is done quickly and efficiently.

The Department of Social Services did an outstanding job helping tenants impacted by the pandemic apply for Emergency Rental Assistance. In fact, our county has led the state with the percentage of allocated funds distributed. Over 2,000 applications have been submitted and over \$16 million has been committed or dispersed. The department also processed over \$2.2 million in utility assistance for Rockland residents effected by COVID.

Thanks to our DSS team, we expanded families receiving childcare subsidies by over \$1 million utilizing additional grant funding and COVID waivers.

As I've said repeatedly, we will do everything we can to support our community's recovery from the pandemic.

Thank you, Commissioner Joan Sylvestri, and your incredibly hardworking team.

Our Human Rights Commission helped write a new page in our history book, unveiling the Rockland County Thurgood Marshall Human Rights Monument in New City last fall.

This Monument pays tribute to a man who played a direct role in Rockland County, and American, history. After founding the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1940, Thurgood Marshall fought tirelessly to end "separate but equal" doctrines for white and black people across our country.

Long before he argued the well-known Brown v. Board of Education case in 1952 and 1953, Thurgood Marshall was working right here in Rockland, attempting to integrate the Hillburn School system.

Justice Marshall will long be remembered nationally for his leadership and his protection of civil rights as a Supreme Court Justice. Here in Rockland however, he will be

remembered for bringing an end to one of the last formally segregated schools in New York.

These last few weeks the Department of Homeland Security warned U.S. organizations at all levels to be wary of cyber-attacks from the Russian government, and its supporters, in retaliation to sanctions imposed on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine.

This County does not take these types of threats lightly. Our Information and Technology Services Department led by Director Frank Calise, supported by our County Legislature, have been regularly upgrading our IT Infrastructure. I'm confident this department is doing everything possible to shield us from any breach or cyber-attack.

Our ITS Department also installed a new county-wide phone system and upgraded our entire network infrastructure to increase our networking speed. These upgrades bring County Government into this century while providing significant savings and better service to our residents.

Our Public Defender's Office is also working tirelessly to enter the digital era. The department is streamlining their filing system and aim to have each of Rockland's 22 justice courts paperless by the end of the year.

I want to recognize Public Defender James D. Licata for this, and all he does.

Without question, each one of our departments works hard to support our community but our Health Department deserves special mention.

Since the start of the pandemic, they've been ahead of the constantly changing guidelines and leading the way with COVID vaccinations.

The Department of Health has administered over 57,000 covid vaccine doses and provided over 32,000 doses to local providers to administer.

The Department of Health also collaborated with Director Jackie Scott of our Office for People with Disabilities to vaccinate about 3,000 people with disabilities.

Thanks to your hard work 79% of ages 5 and up received at least one dose and we are now down to roughly 500 active COVID cases in Rockland.

This pandemic is now going into its third year, and I have no doubt this Department is doing everything humanly possible to keep the numbers down and get Rockland back to normal.

I want to recognize Commissioner of Health Dr. Patricia Ruppert, Patient Care Services Director Julie Krauchuk and Communicable Disease Coordinator Maria Souto, who all played a critical role in managing this pandemic along with their entire staff.

Even as they battled the pandemic, our Health Department's food safety staff conducted over 1,600 inspections of establishments, leading to over 600 violations identified and

corrected.

I'm proud to share that our Healthy Neighborhoods Program continues to have great success helping families identify health and safety risks in their homes.

During home visits, program staff review a wide variety of potential hazards including carbon monoxide safety, smoke detectors, radon testing, and even asthma concerns. Last year, the program visited over 400 homes, installed nearly 700 Smoke Alarms and 127 Carbon Monoxide Alarms. Best of all, this program is free for low to moderate income families and seniors.

Our Rockland Codes Investigations Unit, formerly the Rockland Codes Initiative or RCI, is also going strong. Last year these inspectors issued more than 200,000 in fines, so far this year about \$50,000, and since launching six years ago we issued more than \$2 million in fines.

But the fees and fines are not the goal of these programs, they are merely a tool to ensure compliance with the health and sanitary codes of this county. More importantly, they ensure the health and safety of the people within it along with our first responders.

I want to acknowledge our entire Department of Health for their hard work and commitment to public health in Rockland County.

I am proud to stand before you today and celebrate another impossible milestone we achieved. In only three months, Rockland launched a brand-new County Office of Buildings and Codes.

My administration was ordered by the New York State Department of State to assume the functions and responsibilities of the Spring Valley Building Department and only 90 days to do so. Despite it being a near-insurmountable mission, we did it, marking a major step forward in protecting the people of Spring Valley.

I want to give a special thanks to our Law Department led by County Attorney Tom Humbach, along with Assistant County Attorney Kim Von Ronn. This unparalleled move by New York State came with a host of legal hurdles that they helped us navigate, alongside 10 other county departments who assisted in this effort.

As a former first responder, I will not tolerate illegal development at the expense of lives. I pledged to the people of Rockland that my top goal in fulfilling this order from New York State is to protect the health and safety of village residents, visitors and first responders.

To date, the new Office of Buildings and Codes has conducted more than 400 inspections and is committed to doing whatever necessary to bring property owners up to compliance.

The tenet of this administration is clear and unequivocal: People come before profit, plain and simple. We will not only remember Spring Valley Fire Lieutenant Jared Lloyd, but we will dedicate every working hour in his memory.

I want to acknowledge Director Ed Markunas for his amazing work getting this effort up and running.

I've spoken a lot this evening about what we are doing to improve the lives our residents and I am so proud of all the progress we are making throughout this amazing County of ours.

But as far as we have come, there is still much more work to be done.

As for my part, I promise to continue to do everything within my power to lead us further down the path of success. I will not sit back and allow anyone to jeopardize anything our County has worked so hard to accomplish - but I cannot do it alone. Together with the legislature we can continue to accomplish great things for all the people of Rockland.

Also luckily, I'm humbled knowing we can count on our dedicated governmental employees and department heads to rise to the occasion. Why? Because they already have.

But I need your help, we need your help.

The people of Rockland, every one of you are the key to continuing our progress. You have that power and my challenge to you is to use it.

We must continue to work together to keep the future of Rockland as bright as it can be.

Get involved, be an active member of this County and through our collective efforts there is nothing we cannot accomplish. Let us prove to everyone what I already know: that Rockland is the greatest county in the State of New York.

I conclude tonight with a prayer for those serving in the United States armed forces, especially those potentially in harm's way protecting our freedoms because of the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. It is they, and their comrades before them, who protect us and secure our wonderful democracy.

May God bless you; God bless Rockland, and may God bless America. Thank you!

**###**

# OFFICE FOR THE AGING

Diana Herlihy, Acting Director

## **2021 Achievements**

### COVID Pandemic

- Seniors were self-isolating and were fearful to be out in the public. Seniors inundated the Office for the Aging inquiring about the potential availability of vaccines and how they would be able to obtain an appointment. From the onset of the pandemic, the Office for the Aging, along with many others in County Government had done everything possible to support senior residents.
- Created the Shopping for Seniors Program in 2020– staff delivered food and necessary supplies to those who were unable or afraid to go shopping, to handing out PPE and emergency supplies.
- Announced the creation of our Senior COVID Vaccination Call Center to help seniors navigate the vaccine appointment process and sign them up when vaccines became available. The Office for the Aging became inundated with seniors in need of assistance and it became their primary focus, day in and day out, to sign seniors up to the wait list and search for appointments. To aid these efforts, worked to open the Emergency Operations Center, trained staff from all the County Departments who are assisting and continued our mission of getting seniors registered for vaccination. County Government was successfully able to get seniors vaccinated through the multidisciplinary approach.

### Home Delivered Meal Services Tripled

- In March 2020, “Matilda’s Law” came into effect to protect older adults, and those with chronic conditions and compromised immune systems. Rockland County Office for the Aging and the aging network responded. Meal providers immediately adjusted the balance in the home-delivered and congregate meal delivery systems toward pandemic safety. Volunteers came out in droves to assist. At the same time, the demand for meals dramatically increased. Many older adults isolated at home to stay safe, and for them, home-delivered meals, grab & go meals, and help with grocery delivery were a lifeline. During the month of March 2021, NY State Office for the Aging highlighted Rockland’s Office for the Aging during the annual March for Meals celebration. Rockland responded to the seniors nutritional needs during throughout the pandemic. Going from serving providing 47,339 meals in 2019 to 169,843 meals in 2020 and continuing to serve more than triple the meals from 2019 in 2021. The importance of nutrition, in maintaining and improving health, the critical role volunteers play in preparing and delivering meals, and the important partnerships state agencies and community organizations play are key components of Rockland’s efforts to support aging in place and make Rockland the healthiest county in the state. These programs were a lifeline for many.

### 2021 New Program Development

- OFA Animatronics Program: providing companionship and relief to older individuals with their “lifelike” and realistic design. Utilizing specific motions and sounds, the animatronics mimic biological pets. They have been especially helpful as calming therapies for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and various forms of dementia.
- Virtual Platforms: Aging Mastery Program, Get Set Up and Virtual Senior Center - allowing seniors to remain safely in their home providing hundreds of live online classes to keep seniors mentally, physically and socially active. Classes are interactive, easy to join, offered day and night and free for our community.
- TeleHealth for Seniors Program: created to address the ongoing need for medical treatment during this time of physical distancing. This program allows physicians and other healthcare providers to furnish services to their patients at remote locations, including in their homes, providing a comprehensive system of care.
- TeleHHCAP for Seniors: allowed for seniors to obtain a virtual counseling during the annual Medicare Open Enrollment period.
- Public Education & Outreach: OFA hosted a number of in-person inclusive of Conversation and Coffee, Senior of the Year Event, the Annual Senior Picnic, Senior Zumba, Caregiver Symposium, and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program Appreciation lunch.
- OFA Fall Prevention program – the RCOFA, teamed up with 4 neighboring counties, and was awarded a fall prevention grant. Falls are the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries for people 65 years of age and older. Every 14 seconds, an older adult is seen in an emergency department for a fall-related injury (Administration for Community Living). The purpose of the ACL Falls Prevention program is to bring to scale and sustain evidence-based falls prevention programs that have been proven to reduce falls, fear of falling, and fall related injuries in older adults. RCOFA hosted a number of events providing exercise, education and training to combat and prevent falls. New programs such as virtual Bingocize – an evidence-based program combining Bingo, exercise and health education will be launched in January 2022.

## **2022 Goals**

- RCOFA will be launching a new Go and Dine congregate meal program. Go and Dine will allow seniors to eat a well-balanced senior-centric meal subsidized by the Office for the Aging at a participating location, while at the same time supporting local businesses.
- With grant funding obtained through the NYSOFA in conjunction with the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, the Office for the Aging will implement programs and services focusing on intergenerational program for intellectual and developmental disabilities. The first stage of the grant allows to fund ASL training for Rockland County Office for the Aging staff and to create a Hard of Hearing/Deaf Club where individuals of all ages can come together in a common setting, focusing on social determinants of health.
- Continue to focus on our caregivers launching a new program under the Caregiver Resource Center called “CareNet.” Carenet will provide a network of support and services for caregivers of older adults in Rockland County.



- Focus will continue on health and wellness throughout the year. Being chosen to participate in a pilot program, Office for the Aging will provide the PALS Program – Physical Activity for Lifelong Success. PALS is a behavior change program to engage sedentary older adults with physical activity. Participants set short-term and long term goals and strategies to stay motivated to identify and address barriers and more. The program's goals are to target aerobic, strength, flexibility and balance.

## **AUDIT DEPARTMENT**

Linda Hill, Auditor

### **2021 Achievements**

- Completed a review and audit of employee benefits charged to Rockland Community College.
- Reviewed the employee benefits processes and recommended improvements and efficiencies. Staff was then trained to implement the new processes.
- In conjunction with the Law Department, developed and instituted new components of the DCE-100 process.
- Prepared and issued annual financial statements for the Rockland County Deferred Compensation Plan.
- Performed procurement card reviews.
- Provided training on electronic vouchers.
- Provided training on subrecipient monitoring.
- Initiated drawdown of \$31 million in ARPA funds.
- Provided assistance, guidance and training to the ARPA unit.

### **2022 Goals**

- Develop one central repository for all post award documents required of the contract agencies. Federal requirements demand that the various County departments review audited financials, Single Audit, and any findings. Monitoring of the agencies may need to be modified based on findings. Very often the County employees who have access to the current CBPO portal used for the application process, are not the same employees who are making evaluations and/or site visits. In addition, agencies who have multiple contracts across different County departments are receiving multiple requests for the same documentation.
- Develop training documentation geared toward department heads covering their fiscal responsibilities.
- Continue to prepare for the financial statements for the Rockland County Deferred Compensation Plan.

- Continue to provide guidance to the ARPA unit.
- Continue to review the procurement card usage.
- Continue to provide training and assistance to various departments for their various financial needs and outside audits.

## **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Kathleen Pietanza, Commissioner

Patricia Giblin, Commissioner

### **2021 Achievements**

#### **Outreach**

- Registration Forms Straight Distribution - Public Offices Towns, Villages 1,500.
- Post Offices 725; Community Groups 5,890.
- Registration Forms – Schools: Forms: 1,420. School visited:
- 8 Districts visited, and 2,220 students registered
- Community Group Outreach – NAACP, Spring Valley Collaborative, Haverstraw Collaborative, AAUW, etc.
- 

#### **Registration**

- Processed 19,884 registrations forms.
- Breakdown: 7,254 new registrations; 1,577 pre-registrations (16 and 17-year-old individuals); 7,915 moves within the county; 4,111 moves outside of the county; 2,867 enrollment changes; 52 name changes; and 6,024 duplicate registration forms. Note: some forms fit multiple categories i.e. change of enrollment and address, change of address and name change. Some changes come through National Change of Address (NCOA) and Mail Check and do not use the registration form. Thus, the subcategories total is larger than the total forms processed.

#### **Ballot Access**

- Processed 148 Designating Petitions. We also processed 4 Independent Nominating Petition and 1 Certificate of Nominations. Opportunity to Ballot petitions were suspended.
- Prepared for 2 court actions.

#### **Primary Election**

- Turnout in Person: 6,155 voters.
- Absentees: 2,867 requested and 1,780 returned.
- Affidavits: 23 Affidavit Ballots processed.

- Total Votes Cast: 39,899 votes. 26.60% of total eligible voters enrolled in the parties at the time of the election cut-off.

### **General Election**

- Turnout in Person: 116,492 voters. 56.53% of total registered voter at the time of the election cut-off.
- Absentees: 40,670 requested and 34,244 returned.
- Affidavits: 793 Affidavit Ballots processed.
- Total Votes Cast: 53,324 votes. 26.05% of total registered voters at the time of the election cut-off.

### **Early Voting**

- Successfully implemented early voting election with a nine day early voting period. Interest in early voting was drastically reduced from 2020. With new legislation we will be adding additional voting centers. Processed 5,407 or 2.6% of voter turnout.

### **2022 Goals**

- Continue to Implement Early Voting, Election Day Voting, and expanded absentee access due to the new election law requirements.
- Early Voting – We have four Early Voting sites from four to seven and expand hours for both weekends from five to eight hours.
  - State/Local Primary June 28, 2022. Early Voting June 18 – 26, 2022.
  - General Election November 8, 2022. Early Voting October 29 – November 26, 2022.
  - Reviewing poll site safety and equipment by utilizing remaining grant money.
  - Revise our training to create a more interactive experience and explore on-line training options moving forward.
  - Working with area schools to ensure they meet new requirements in Education Law and offer voter registration information to 16 and 17-year-old students revamping our outreach efforts to include virtual offerings.
  - Implementing rules and procedures based on new legislation to open absentee ballots prior Election Day.
  - Continue to modify operations based on new legislation including "Cure" absentee ballots.
  - Explore a tracking system for absentee ballots.
  - Implementing a regional election result database collection system.
  - Using new technology to expedite election results.

# DEPARTMENTS OF BUDGET & FINANCE

Stephen DeGroat, Commissioner

## **2021 Achievements**

- Achieved an upgrade from: Standard & Poor's from A+ to AA.
- Achieved an upgrade from Moody's Investor Services from A1 to Aa2.
- Worked successfully with NY State Office of the Comptroller for the 2021 & 2022 Budget Review.
- No Revenue Anticipation Notes were issued.
- Successfully refinanced various capital serial bonds saving taxpayer's nearly (\$4.4 million) or \$440,000 per year.
- Successfully submitted quarterly reports to the NY State Office of the Comptroller.
- Successfully submitted multi-year report to the NY State Office of the Comptroller.
- Successfully sold a negotiated Tax Anticipation Note (TAN) with an interest rate of 0.13%.
- Successfully sold a Capital serial bond for an interest rate of 1.64%
- Receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- County made full payment of pension bill without having to borrow from New York State.
- Successfully remained under the NYS Tax Cap for the 2021 and 2022 Budgets.
- Projecting to save another surplus for the General Fund in 2021.

## **2022 Goals**

- Receive the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award (CAFR) by the Government Finance Officers Association.
- Continue working with credit rating agencies for an upgrade.
- We do not plan on issuing a Revenue Anticipation Note (RAN) or Tax Anticipation Notes (TAN).
- Collaborate with the five towns on a county-wide property tax software system.
- Attempt to remain under the NYS Tax Cap for the 2021 Budget.

# COUNTY CLERK

Donna Silberman, County Clerk

## **2021 Achievements**

- Provided a safer environment for our staff through partial installation of bullet-proof glass in a customer service area.
- Expanded use of paperless procedures throughout operations, including transferring, filing, and recording documents in many of our functional areas.
- Within the evolution of the COVID pandemic, continually adjusted procedures/protocols and customer policies to best serve the public.
- Decreased volume of in-person services through increased utilization of virtual and electronic-based services.
- Given absence of security in our office, placed employee “greeter” at front entrance to screen visitors and better assist public.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue to provide services to the public while assuring that the public and staff remain safe.
- Upgrade website [www.rocklandcountyclerk.com](http://www.rocklandcountyclerk.com) to integrate online appointment scheduling and additional services.
- Complete a reconfiguration of the office to provide a safer environment for the public and staff. This will include bullet proof glass and an electronic queuing system.

# OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Alexandra Obremski, Director

## **2021 Achievements**

- Submitted the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and 2021 Action Plan to HUD. Accepted HUD grant funding for the 2020 and 2021 Program Years totaling \$3,998,057 in CDBG funds and \$1,639,784 in HOME funds. For the first time in at least 5 years, Grant Agreements were signed and funding in place by November.
- Developed a multilevel approach to the \$3,550,162 in CDBG-CV CARES Grant funding received by the County to prepare for, to prevent and respond to COVID-19. Created three separate grant programs, intended to support small businesses, non-profits, and residents:
  - Small Business Grant Relief Program - Maximum of \$45,000 per business, based upon need. Minimum request is \$5,000
  - Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Public Services Program
  - COVID-19 Rent Relief Grant Program - funds up to 6 months past due rent and up to 6 months past due utility bills for eligible renters
- The application period for these programs is ongoing. Applications are being received and reviewed and eligible projects funded.
- Throughout the pandemic, the Office of Community Development has remained open and responsive to the needs of the communities and the people that we serve.

## **2022 Goals**

- To determine a plan for the \$3,359,161 in HOME-ARP funding received from HUD.
- To update the Community Development website to allow for greater transparency and community engagement.
- To evaluate the internal policies and processes of the department to determine how they can be improved to better address the needs of the County.
- To continue to support the needs of Rockland's residents by promoting appropriate community development initiatives within our County.

# CONSUMER PROTECTION

James Elcik, Director

## **2021 Achievements**

- Worked with the Rockland County Home Improvement Licensing Board to streamline license classifications for Swimming Pool Installation Contractors and Solar Panel Installers. Since each of these industries require a variety of specialties in order to complete their respective projects and to further protect the consumer, it was determined that the language in the license classifications needed to be redefined in order to accommodate the affected trades. After a public hearing and vote, the Board approved the following amendments to the Rules & Regulations of the Home Improvement Licensing Law:
  - The language for Classification 25, Swimming Pool Installation Contractors, is now inground and permanently installed aboveground spas, hot tubs and water features greater than 24 inches deep; includes service, barriers, drainage, decks, retaining walls and filter systems; may employ licensed sub-contractors restricted to swimming pool construction only.
  - The language for Classification 40, Solar Panel Installer, is now Installation of Solar Panels; may employ licensed sub-contractors restricted to solar panel installation and includes the precertification of the condition and life expectancy of the roof.
- Worked with the Rockland County Plumbing, Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Sheet Metal Board to amend the requirements for continuing education throughout the industries. With the availability of on-line courses, the Board determined that the requirements should be changed to provide an easier avenue for the tradespeople to obtain their continuing education as required by law. The language for Rule 9 of the Rules and Regulations of the Rockland County Plumbing Law now reads:
  - Every individual to whom one or more licenses have been issued before the effective date of this rule or which shall have been issued after the effective date of this rule, regardless of whether such license or licenses have been or shall have been shelved, shall, within the two-year period following the issuance of such license or licenses and within each subsequent two-year period complete, at his or her own expense, 5 hours of continuing education per two-year period in a program approved in advance by the Board and provide proof satisfactory to the Board of the completion of such continuing education. The hours of continuing education may cover any one or more of the business, technical, or code aspects of any one or more of the disciplines in which the individual holds a license. Failure to comply with this rule shall constitute grounds to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew, shelve, or reactivate any one or more licenses issued pursuant to Chapter 319 of the Laws of Rockland County. The requirement for the 5 hours of continuing education is on a biennial basis. Holders of a Master Plumber License will alternate obtaining their continuing education credit on a biennial basis with the Holders of a Heating Contractor License, Air-Conditioning-Refrigeration Contractor License, Refrigeration Contractor License and/or Sheet Metal Contractor License. No

License Holder shall be required to obtain greater than 10 credits of continuing education in any two-year period.

- Worked with the Rockland County Board of Electrical Examiners to amend the current electrical law. A draft version of the improved law is currently in the public hearing stage before the Board and is expected to be approved by vote in short order. After passing before the Board, it will be presented to the Rockland County Legislature for approval by vote. It will subsequently be presented to New York State for adoption.
- Continued its public awareness endeavor in a number of ways. The department has maintained its Facebook page where information is posted to inform and alert Rockland County citizens about frauds, scams and best consumer practices as well as highlight the great work of the department. The goal has been and will continue to be the education of the Rockland County public as to the consumer services that the department provides. It also provides education to those contractors who remain unlicensed and provide information about performing work legally. We continue our partnership with the Office of the Aging in submitting Consumer Protection content for their bi-monthly newsletter "Moving Forward."
- Successful with investigating 406 complaints which led to 141 prosecutions for unlicensed contracting and the issuance of 507 violations for infractions of Rockland County licensing laws as well as New York State Agriculture and Markets laws. All of these numbers are an increase from the 2020 statistics and all complaints, violations and prosecution have a financial penalty attached. The financial penalties, along with licensing fees, offset the operational expenses of the Department.
- Through our consumer complaint process, we have successfully mitigated cases in favor of homeowners who have been taken advantage of by both licensed and unlicensed contractors. Cases are reviewed and investigated by bringing all parties into negotiations based upon a number of factors to include contract violations, below industry standard work and unlicensed activity. The restitution revenue that we were able to return to homeowners in 2021 was \$49,943 which is from a combination of imposed through the court process and those negotiated through our office via consumer complaints.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continued partnership with the Rockland County District Attorney with the Department prosecutions for unlicensed contracting. We have jointly developed an avenue to exchange information creating an efficient and timely workflow between the offices. The department will develop additional protocols and procedures to ensure that all prosecutions and discovery information are completed and forwarded to the DA's office for the court action. Additionally, and because of many court proceedings involving the prosecution of Department cases, the Department will endeavor to provide personnel to all affiliated court matters to streamline the prosecution process and maintain the goals of the Department in combatting illegal and itinerant contractors.
- Continue the partnership with the Planning Department in the development of a multi-agency software application. This software and related programming will increase our efficiencies across our licensing and enforcement spectrums. It will create on-line formatting for license applications and complaints and track statuses for both the



department and the licensee. This will drastically improve our internal processes and workflow, reduce time frames and enable a mobile application for all parties.

- Continue our enhanced enforcement of all laws to which the Department has jurisdiction. This office has experienced an uptick in the number of complaints from home improvement, electrical and plumbing contractors indicating that there are a number of who illegally use their license by using their licensed business information on building department permits and then selling the work to non-licensed entities. This continues to be a systemic issue and we will continue to launch a number of interdiction endeavors to put a stop to this illegal behavior. This will be facilitated by using our source information to organize sweeps and sting operations.
- Increase the public awareness of the department to educate and empower Rockland County consumers. This will be accomplished through social media platforms/video conferences and media outlets as well as in person interactions post pandemic.
- Work with the Rockland County Legislative Chairperson to develop and implement a local law pertaining to the licensing of taxis and for-hire vehicles, drivers and base stations in the County of Rockland for the purpose of protecting consumers, including provisions to protect the public from unsafe, underinsured and uninsured drivers of taxi and for-hire vehicles.
- Create and impanel a Board of Towing to compliment the recently updated Rockland County Towing Law. The Board will oversee the practice of non-consensual towing throughout the county to provide relief to members of the industry as well as protect consumers who require the services of a non-consensual tow of their vehicle.
- Continue the partnership with the Rockland County Sheriff's Office to share information consistent with Rockland County Contracting laws. Provide a 24/7 response to complaints of unlicensed contractor operations and continue to provide a deterrent by applying the impound authority of the contracting laws.

# **DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**

Tom Walsh, District Attorney

## **2021 Achievements**

- Assisted with the investigations and handling the prosecution of 6 homicides throughout Rockland County in 2021.
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program named "Project Connect" was piloted at the Clarkstown Police and now has been rolled out to the Orangetown and Ramapo Police Departments. This is a pre-arraignment program for low-level nonviolent offenders with substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Participants work with peers, are assessed and referred for treatment. If they engage for 30 days, the charges are withdrawn.
- The Rockland County District Attorney's Office, led by the Drug Task Force, continued to be a regional leader in efforts to bring community and state resources together to fight the scourge of opioid and heroin use and abuse, as well to promote better treatment and recovery services for addicted persons.
- Addition of a Ramapo Police Sergeant to the Rockland Crime Analysis Center. The RCAC provides real-time analysis, criminal intelligence and other important information to enhance the capacity of law enforcement within Rockland County.
- Continued to establish a more diverse office by recruiting and hiring new employees, bringing our office more in line with the diverse population of Rockland County.
- Partnered with local police departments and elected officials on the state and local level to hold "Drug Take Back" events.
- Created a Labor Hotline. In a continuing effort to protect the rights of workers, the Hotline will provide direct access for potential victims to report their situations to the District Attorney's Office.
- The Special Victims Unit "Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) unit worked collaboratively with local, state, and federal agencies to combat child pornography.
- Continuing to respond to the sweeping changes enacted by the recent Criminal Justice Reform legislation, the office has hired a Public Information Officer, a Senior Assistant District Attorney, an Assistant District Attorney, and a Paralegal for discovery.
- Held informational meetings for members of the public to learn about the Rockland County District Attorney's Office.

## **2022 Goals**

- Seek justice for the victims of crimes in Rockland County, while protecting the rights of the accused.
- Continue to work and build relationships with our law enforcement partners on the federal, state, and local level.
- Work in collaboration with the Rockland County Department of Health to hold Narcan trainings for the public.

- Increase the Alternatives to Incarceration Programs, such as LEAD, FDC, DTAP, and MHATI.
- Expand Project Connect (LEAD program) into the remaining municipalities in the County of Rockland.
- Use social media communication to maintain transparency and provide information to the public in a timely manner.
- Protect Rockland County taxpayers from waste, fraud, and abuse by prosecuting Crimes Against Revenue (CARP).

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

Lucy Redzeposki, Director

### **2021 Achievements**

#### **Tourism**

- 2021 Tourism Grants were awarded to 18 organizations totaling \$175,691. The goal of Rockland County's Tourism funds program is to provide funding to market to destinations outside of the county and increase visitor spending. This included print, social media (Instagram, Facebook), posters on NYC subway stations, YouTube video, and much more.
- The Rockland County Tourism Guide for 2022 has been developed and is available digitally. It will be printed and distributed in rest stops and other tourism centers throughout the tri state area in 2022.
- A new departmental website is under development and will debut in early 2022. This will include a section on economic development and filming as well as tourism.
- A co-op advertising campaign with Visit Nyack was developed and implemented for the Holidays.
- Actively re-engaged Rockland with the Hudson Valley Tourism group activities and assumed the Vice President role for this tourism group.
- Three new social media brand logos were launched – Reel Rockland, Rockland Commerce, Destination Rockland, Make It Rockland.
- Numerous advertising campaigns were developed and promoted using various marketing mediums including social media, print, digital and audio.
- Worked with New NY Bridge staff to promote Rockland County at the Rockland Landing by adding a display case with tourism guides.
- Promoted county tourism related programs throughout the county to increase tourist participation via Facebook, Instagram and other social media platforms.

## **Economic Development**

- Worked with the Mid-Hudson Empire State Development office promoting Rockland County. Provided potential site options in Rockland to meet the query of numerous companies seeking to relocate in the area.
- Met with the five town Supervisors to discuss economic development projects and introduced companies seeking to relocate and/or moving to Rockland.
- Met with various restaurants to discuss funding options and issues related to COVID 19.
- Presented at the Small Business Grants Seminar presented by Finkelstein Library via Zoom in partnership with the SBA on October 19, 2021.
- Introduced Rockland County to various organizations interested in relocating and continuously promoted the area as business opportunities arose.
- Re engaged the Economic Development Advisory Board and began plans for activity in 2022.
- Received a \$25k CFA grant to develop a comprehensive strategic economic development plan for the county.

## **Filming**

- Filming revenue for 2021 totaled \$958k with a total of 32 productions and 110 days of filming activity – solely on County property. The revenue does not include the permit fees and overtime for the Sheriff's staff. Productions included FBI: Most Wanted, A Journal for Jordan, The Good Fight, Life & Beth as well as Spoiler Alert. It is important to note that the filming promotion of the county supports all the filming activity that occurs in the area.
- Reinstated the county wide filming opportunities distribution program working with the five towns and their municipalities.
- Reinstated a concierge filming service for the NYS film productions serving as a One Stop Film Office representing the county.
- Reinforced relationship with the NYS Film Office advocating for more productions in Rockland County.

## **CFA - Consolidated Funding Applications**

- Applied for a grant to develop a Strategic Economic Development Action Plan (SEDAP – CFA for the County and the county was awarded.
- Participated in all ESD CFA meetings advocating for Rockland Projects which culminated in Haverstraw obtaining a grant for \$10M and Clarkstown being awarded \$1,250,000.
- Provided various support letters for CFA projects such as:
  - West Nyack Revitalization Project - Town of Clarkstown
  - Nyack Walking Tour Project
  - The NY/NJ Trail Conference
  - Phoenix Theater Ensemble – Nyack Performing Arts
  - New York State Tourism Industry Association (NYSTIA)

## **ARPA Project**

- Served on the counties' American Rescue Plan Committee to strategize and implement programs using the \$63M allocated to Rockland County.
- Identified business needs to implement two Small Business Grant Programs in 2022 that will use departmental funds and ARP funds.
- \$800 M Stimulus Webinar – served as moderator with participants Ed Day, Al Samuels, Tom Morley and ESD rep.
- Worked on applications to be used for the restaurant and small business grant program to debut in 2022.
- Identified the need to connect the walking/biking trails along the river border of Rockland County to connect the county with the Empire State Trail. A feasibility study will be developed to assist with this effort.

## **2022 Goals**

- Implement the 2022 Tourism Grant Awards to provide funding to promote Rockland's events/destinations outside of the county to increase visitor spending.
- Develop and implement a small business grant program to assist restaurants, retail shops and other mom and pop shops that were adversely affected by COVID 19 and need financial assistance.
- Generate a minimum of \$500k in filming revenue using county property while promoting the county as a filming destination.
- Print and distribute a 2022 Rockland County Tourism Travel Guide at rest stops, attractions, and other tourism locations to promote the county.
- Develop and promote a new interactive website for the dept. that includes Tourism, Economic Development and Filming for the county.
- Develop a comprehensive economic development strategic plan for the county with input from the Economic Development Advisory board and CFA funding in the amount of \$25k.
- Work to promote a walking/biking trail that connects Rockland County to the Empire State Trail and continues along the eastern border of the county.
- Develop a filming concierge program with the filming industry and the filming contacts throughout Rockland County.
- Serve as Vice President of the Hudson Valley Tourism Group promoting Rockland County as a destination in the Hudson Valley in partnership with the neighboring counties.
- Participate in the Travel and Adventure show at Jacob Javits Center, NY and Washington, DC to promote Rockland County as a tourism destination.
- Work with the IDA, Rockland Works, the Rockland County Workforce Development Board, and other stakeholders to attract, retain and expand new and existing businesses by promoting programs and incentives that create a climate in which companies of all sizes can grow and prosper.
- Participate in all Empire State Development activities including the CFA process and site selection program to ensure Rockland is well represented.

- Using the ILOVENY grant funds, promote attractions and events throughout Rockland County.
- Ensure Rockland County's tourism, economic development and filming assets are included in all NYS initiatives pertaining to these three areas so that Rockland's participation benefits the county.

## **DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES**

R. Allan Beers, Coordinator

### **2021 Achievements**

- Established an Agricultural & Farming Education Center - In partnership with the not-for-profit Rockland Agricultural and Farming Center Inc. at the Pete Erickson Farm in the Town of Ramapo. The 24- acre farm was acquired by the County in 2002 as part of the Open Space Acquisition Program. The purpose of the acquisition was to preserve the last remaining farm in the Town of Ramapo. The County's partnership with the Rockland Agricultural and Farming Center Inc. has been another success for farming in Rockland County. The first phase of the partnership involved 12-acres and included establishing farming plots and farm animals. The Public and private schools have been invited to the farm for tours and educational programs in agriculture, animal husbandry and beekeeping.
- Open Space Acquisition Program – The County has committed \$10,000,000 towards the acquisitions of open space properties. Throughout 2020 and 2021, a total of 17 nominations were submitted for consideration. Of the 17 nominations, 8 owners were interested in selling their property for preservation. The Open Space Committee met with the owners and conducted an inspection to determine the amount of environmental attributes on their property. Each property was rated in accordance with the Open Space Guidelines created in 2000. After the final evaluation, a total of 4 properties remain under consideration by the County to be purchased.
- Developed a Closure Plan for the County Parks in the event of another state or national emergency - The COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented challenge for the Parks Department. After receiving direction from the County Executive to close all county parks to the public, we were faced with limitations of supplies, materials and staffing to close every entry point in the 28-park, 3,170-acre system.  
The Closure Plan will be in addition to the information we developed and submitted into the Rockland Forward Plan. We detailed all access points into each park and list the material and staff required for closure at each location.
- The Parks Dept. assisted and guided the RCSWCD with the installation of a Pollinator Garden at Kakiat Park to educate the public as well as be included in school education programs that are conducted at the park. Information from this project has already been shared with other organizations to help increase the pollinators in the County.
- The DER hosted numerous ceremonies and events in the County Parks during 2021 including the County Executive's Outstanding Environmental Volunteer Award Ceremony, Office of the Aging picnic, Human Rights Memorial Dedication, September 11<sup>th</sup> Ceremony,

Gold Star Family Ceremony, and Renaming of the Paul Piperato Haverstraw Bay County Park.

- Environmental Education & Community Science: 1,391 youths and adults educated during *49 programs* including WQCC presentations, RPLUS, board presentations, RCSC trainings, ADITL, Conservation Field Days, Wrap Up Events, Earth Day Events, Rockland Planning and Land Use Symposium and more. This also included continued collaboration with the Environmental Educators of Rockland County Working Group, which worked from August- December on a concept paper for the new American Rescue Plan, addressing climate equity and healthy communities. The Environmental Educators Working Group is comprised of staff from Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District, Rockland County Youth Bureau and Rockland Conservation & Service Corps, Keep Rockland Beautiful, Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland County. The Environmental Management Council hosted its 30th annual Earth Day Creative Arts Contest with 95 entries received across eight schools. A total of 50 youths and adults attended the ceremony at Haverstraw Bay County Park this summer. EMC members and staff also attended the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions virtual conference to share educational resources. 187 volunteers participated in our seasonal community science initiatives. Seven projects were coordinated between March and December. The American eel project at Minisceongo Creek and Sparkill Creek is our most popular initiative, with a combined total of 80 volunteers participating between the two projects in 2021. Volunteers helped relocate ~1,500 glass eels and elvers above their nearest barrier while gaining hands on experiential learning experience in their local stream. A new community science project began at Kakiat County Park, known as the Pollinator Pathway Garden. This garden is made up of different native plants that attract and provide food for pollinating insects like bees and butterflies. The garden will be maintained by SWCD staff and volunteers in an effort to provide more wildlife corridors and pilot a new learning station for our seasonal Conservation Field Day events.
- Water Resources: Continued to lead the Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance into its fourth year coordinating a 16-member watershed group that submitted public comments for the NYS DEC HREP DRAFT Action Agenda. The 3d annual Cleanup had 66 participants remove 800lbs of debris from the Minisceongo Creek watershed and 40 individuals participated in environmental education programs prior to the cleanup event. A water level sensor was installed in the Minisceongo Creek to measure real time water levels and post them to the public for tracking:  
<https://temboo.com/share/rockland/2e3a4666-26db-11ec-9911-5acbbecac28a>.
- This was a pilot study with a new technology partner, TEMBOO. Assessed 96 road-stream crossing structures in the Town of Ramapo. Participated in the NYS Flood and Ice Jam Initiative across six watersheds in Rockland County. The NYS Flood Study program completed its assessment of the Minisceongo Creek watershed after hosting community and government input meetings. Highlights from that report include recommendations for culvert replacements, floodplain benching, dam removal, relocating residential developments outside of the floodplain, and installation of a permanent stream gauge. Funding support was provided to the Sparkill Creek Watershed Alliance, sister watershed group, for a second round of Microbial Source Tracking research along the Sparkill Creek watershed.

- The DER closed out the FEMA reimbursements for damage to the County parks from Hurricane Sandy which totaled \$1,010,815.73.
- Online Permits - Working with the Planning Dept. and Tyler Technologies, an online permit process for the County Parks has been being developed. The process has slowly been progressing and is scheduled to go live in the Spring of 2022.
- Replaced deteriorated footbridges at Kakiat Park with culverts using connectivity concepts. This project was completed using members of the Rockland Conservation and Service Corps.

## **2022 Goals**

- Recommend Open Space property acquisitions to the County Executive and start the acquisition process.
- Hire approved staffing for the Parks unit including Park Ranger 1, Senior Groundworker and Groundworker.
- Selecting a Sustainability Consultant to work with the Division to develop a Climate Smart Community Program.
- Develop Phase II of the Pete Erickson Farm Agricultural and Education Center.
- Online Permits – Complete the development and go live with online permits in the Spring of 2022. This will allow for the streamlined availability of Park Permits which will now be able to accept credit cards and a centralized process with other County Departments.
- PWCs at Haverstraw Bay Park – Due to popular demand, a pilot program for the launching of Personal Watercrafts will be tested at Haverstraw Bay Park. Rules will be established, signage installed, and staff trained in the rules and laws governing PWCs. If successful, the program will increase revenue for the DER.
- The Parks Dept. is being reorganized to be more efficient and responsive to the needs of the public and the safety of the County Parks. This will include establishing a chain of command in order to streamline the maintenance and security in the County Parks. As part of a two-year process supported by the County Executive, this will be the first year of implementing the new organization of the Parks Dept.
- Our SWCD team will host or partner on a series of environmental education programs to educate 750 youths and adults by the end of the calendar year. Methods to reach this goal include completing virtual or in-person (COVID compliant) lessons, partnering on annual statewide events such as A Day in the Life of the Hudson River Estuary, circulating existing video content and resources on our environmental education platform, and assisting with the Rockland Planning & Land Use Symposium. • Staff will continue to serve as the environmental representative for the newly formed Rockland County American Rescue Plan Act leadership team. DER staff will work with the County's new ARPA department to address climate equity and healthy community concerns. This will take place via attendance at monthly department meetings, collaboration, and coordination with the Environmental Educators Working Group, and more.
- Our SWCD team will continue to organize community science programs for community members to participate in experiential learning and gain a sense of place in their local natural environment. Seasonal science research projects will be hosted starting in March and run through December. These projects and programs include: American eel Citizen



Science Project at Minisceongo Creek and Sparkill Creek, Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators, Storm Drain Marking Program, Pollinator Pathway Garden, Guided Bird Walk, and Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance Annual Waterway Cleanup. Our newest project is the Pollinator Pathway Garden at Kakiat Park where we plan to recruit volunteers to monitor pollinators. The garden will also double as a learning station for future Conservation Field Day events. Collaboration is key to ensure the sustainability of these initiatives. Our team will continue to work closely with state agencies such as the NYS DEC HREP as well as local nonprofits to provide these programs and recruit volunteers.

## **OFFICE OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Chris Kear, Director

### **2021 Achievements**

- Demolition of 40-year-old burn and tower buildings.
- Successfully facilitated the Line of Duty Death of Spring Valley Firefighter Jared Llyod.
- Completed the \$250,000 renovation of our Fire Safety Training Building  
\$100,000 upgrade of the audio-visual system in FTC Auditorium.
- Secured over \$100,000 in Technical Rescue and Hazardous Materials Team equipment.
- Facilitated two large scale emergency planning exercises.
- Worked with Purchasing Dept to secure over \$450,000 in FEMA COVID related reimbursements.
- Worked with New York State government agencies to secure and facilitate distribution of COVID test kits and additional PPE.
- Successful activation of our Emergency Operations Center for the COVID pandemic.
- Worked hand in hand and secured several Hurricane IDA FEMA and SBA assistance sites throughout Rockland to assist homeowners and business on their losses. Resulting in more than \$3.5 million in SBA Disaster Recovery Loans being approved for homeowners.

### **2022 Goals**

- Demolition of 40-year-old burn and tower building in preparation for future replacements.
- Construction of a new live burn training building for fire service.
- Facilitation of a Lone of Duty Death of Spring Valley Firefighter Jared Llyod.
- To date; responsible for over \$300,000 in Covid-19 FEMA related reimbursements (more to come).
- Purchase a new Flashover training simulator to replace the current 17-year-old unit.
- Develop a 'virtual' fire training program.

## **DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**

**Facilities Management**  
**Robert Gruffi, Director**

### **2021 Achievements**

- RCC GOSR Grant Project - RCC Fieldhouse Emergency Generator - Completed Project in September 2021. Emergency Generator is operational.
- Capital Project 1870 – FTC Site Improvements – Fire Safety Building. Completed renovation of the building in October 2021.

### **2022 Goals**

- Capital Project 1483 – New Animal Shelter. Award project for construction, start construction in later part of the year.
- Capital Project 4466 – Utility Plant Renovation. Receive Bids, award project for construction, start construction in later part of the year.
- Capital Project 2104 – Bldg. D Health Department Upgrades. Complete design, bid project, award project for construction, start construction in later part of the year.
- Capital Project 1870 – FTC Site Improvements – Fire Operations Building. Complete design and bid project for construction, award project for construction.
- Capital Project 2110 – Building F Improvements. Start and complete renovation of Building F interior spaces.

**Information Technology Services**  
**Frank Calise, Director**

### **2021 Achievements**

#### **Installation of a New County-wide Telephone System**

- Installed a new state-of-the-art voice over IP telephone system. This new phone system integrates with our data network and will provide us with much needed flexibility and advanced features for the future. Some of these features include voicemail to email transcription, interactive automated attendants, ability to receive calls through web apps and the capability to create on demand flexible call centers. All this will allow departments

to handle incoming calls and requests from our clients and constituents more effectively and efficiently.

- At the same time of this cutover ITS also upgraded our entire network infrastructure replacing all core and edge switches and UPS's bringing them up to higher network standards for VoIP, Quality of Service (QoS) and networking speed. This project also replaced 2,000+ end user telephone sets and provided enterprise-wide incoming and outgoing Caller ID and detailed call recording for efficiency and management purposes. This new VoIP system will also provide significant savings over the previous Centrex system for years to come.

#### Network Upgrade & Virtualization

- We continued to virtualize our network and provide a more reliable back up of critical applications. In 2021 the ITS department finalized secondary remote sites and we now replicate our network files and folders consistent with industry standards.

#### Document Management System Implementations

- After the County-wide Document Management System Capital Project 1493 was funded in June 2019 ITS has actively moved nearly 100 internal and external forms to the OnBase platform and continues to proactively implement solutions. Some of these solutions include County Executive Office requests for Schools and Conferences, Use of County Vehicles and nearly all forms required for the Department of Personnel to onboard and hire new employees.
- In 2021 ITS also worked with outside vendors to scan and index hundreds of boxes of old paper records. This has allowed the County Clerk's Office, Finance, Purchasing and the Department of Probation to remove the paper records and more efficiently and effectively store and retrieve vital records. In 2022 we will begin to expand our scanning abilities and applications to tier two departments and agencies.

#### Support for the Growing Remote Workforce

- ITS continued to expand our ability to support the ever-growing remote workforce. Because of Covid 19 we now must support not only County facility desktops but have had to support employees off campus throughout Rockland County as they work from home. This included procuring, imaging, securing and installing additional software on hundreds of new Dell laptops.

### **2022 Goals**

#### Wi-Fi & High Speed Internet Access

- In order to become more flexible, ITS will be installing and implementing Wi-Fi throughout nearly all County facilities. This will allow us to both provide high speed Internet access for web-based applications as well as provide free high speed Internet access to vendors and constituents that enter our facilities. While this project is dependent on funding of the capital project we will implement and plan wherever possible.

#### Document Management System Expansion

- In 2022 ITS plans on expanding solutions within our new Document Management System. ITS has already built, tested and implemented a solution for contract management including the processes for DCE-100 and DCE-200. We plan on expanding workflow analysis and digital signature for both internal and external applications in the next year.

#### Utilization of Network Security Capital Project

- After funding is provided into this Capital Project ITS will implement a Network Security Plan that will include the purchase of software, hardware, and advanced internal and external testing.

#### Creation of a New Helpdesk & Ticketing System

- ITS will be redesigning and implementing a new helpdesk ticketing system. This new system will allow us to include our new applications such as OnBase document management and our new VoIP telephone system. A new state-of-the-art system will also allow management to track repairs by category, communicate more efficiently with end users, determine root causes of chronic issues, and manage our IT Staff time and production.

#### Peoplesoft Back Up and Recovery

- As part of our virtualization projects in 2022 we plan on finalizing our secondary site for our critical PeopleSoft application. This will allow us the flexibility of replicating our data between multiple sites and most importantly provide a better level of disaster recovery/business continuity.

**Purchasing Division  
Paul Brennan, Director**

#### **2021 Achievements**

- Successfully sourced all the needed equipment and supplies for the Department of Health's vaccination clinics.
- Sourced and purchased a new Fire Pumper for the Office of Fire and Emergency Services.
- Sourced and awarded contract for 550 Grave Markers to be installed at the County's Indigent Cemetery.
- Sourced and awarded contract for a Grants Management Software Application.
- Implemented automatic email notification, through PeopleSoft, to Vendors with expiring Insurance Certificates. Accomplished with IT Department using in-house custom configuration of unused data fields. Achieving a 50% response rate within the first 30 days. This process significantly reduces the time spent on manual follow-up with Vendors regarding their insurance.
- Continued distribution of PPE supplies to county departments on a bi-weekly basis.
- Achieved \$74,589 in savings on Dell Servers, Storage and Power Supplies through the sourcing process. Contract awarded to local Rockland County firm.
- Procurement Staff (Sabrina Samuels, Michele Phillips, Raheela Akhter) completed a two-week training course on the Foundations of Strategy and Policy from the Institute for Public Procurement.

- Introduced Dell Member Purchase Program to County employees that offers exclusive savings to County employees based on the County's relationship with Dell as a primary IT Supplier.
- Richard Ryan, Purchaser II, negotiated a \$67,000 reduction in the cost of a new Command Van for the Sheriff's Department, with the lowest responsible bidder, who was awarded the contract.
- Three Purchasing Division employees (Richard Ryan, Sabrina Samuels, and Michele Phillips completed training in Technology Specialization through the Institute of Public Procurement-NIGP with 21 hours of training on technology procurements.
- Purchasing Division Employees (Sabrina Samuels, Michele Phillips, Raheela Akhter) completed three days of training in the Foundations of Planning and Analysis through the Institute for Public Procurement – NIGP.
- Participated in meetings with Omnia Partners National Cooperative regarding becoming a "Lead Agency" for one of their National Cooperative Contracts. Becoming a "Lead Agency" can result in a revenue stream for the Purchasing Division.
- Selected a replacement contractor to operate the Café in Building A, on the Pomona Campus. Bridges will open a second "Independence Café" like the one they operate in the Courthouse.

## **2022 Goals**

- Increase Minority and Women Owned and Local supplier participation in the contracting process.
- Increase Sustainable Procurement Activities, taking the following factors into consideration during the procurement process:
  - Pollutant releases
  - Toxicity
  - Waste generation
  - Greenhouse gas emissions
  - Energy Consumption
  - Depletion of natural resources
  - Human Health Impacts
- Build Supply Chain Resilience – Avoid disruptions in the County's supply chain by diversifying the supplier pool and identifying new bidders.
- Implement a new eSourcing and Contract Management Software Platform that is accessible at no charge to all businesses.
- Provide training opportunities to Purchasing Division Staff to continue to develop tactical/operational expertise, analytical skills, strategic thinking, and innovation skills. Encourage all Purchasing Division staff to strive to obtain professional certification in Public Procurement.

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Dr. Patricia Schnabel Ruppert, Commissioner

## **2021 Achievements**

### **Administrative**

#### **COVID**

- Activated ICS and Call Center, ensured all staff were contact tracing trained and assisted in facilitating best practices for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Actively engaged with each DOH Staff member; gained insight and understanding of DOH Program operations as they transitioned to accommodate COVID-19. (Took photographs of each and built the RC DOH Wall of Fame.).
- Acted as liaison with CE Office, Purchasing, Facilities, Law, Personnel, Sheriffs, DSS to meet demands of COVID-19, including but not limited to supplies, staffing needs, case investigations, PODS.
- Represented RC DOH on NYS Governor's Task Force to handle COVID-19 complaints.
- Recruited and hired Director of Emergency Preparedness.
- Recruited and hired 2 Supervising Nurse Practitioners to support the staff in the Centers for Community Health and Disease Prevention and Control.
- Promoted Supervising Nurse Practitioner to Director of Patient Services to coordinate Department efforts in COVID-19 response. Commenced review and revision of Policy Manuals.
- Continued to seek improvement of Department morale by maintaining a safe and healthy physical work environment in the offices and clinics complete with COVID-19 precautions.
- Recruited and hired an additional Hearing Officer for administrative enforcement.
- Reassigned the role of Corporate Compliance Officer to Theresa Sullivan.
- Advanced the interconnection between all DOH Centers and Programs to meet the demands of COVID-19 while maintaining services to the community.

#### **Staffing**

- Hired Physician as Director of the Center for Disease Prevention and Control and Medical Director.
- Hired Assistant Director of Emergency Preparedness.
- Recruited (Hired 1-18-2022) Coordinator of Program Services (RCI).
- Filled 7 budgeted positions.

#### **Programs**

- Resumed all Program duties to provide services to the county, while continuing to assist in COVID-19 PODs and associated tasks.
- Began review and revision of Policy Manuals.

#### **Special Project**

- Commenced development of Building D renovation plans with RC Facilities and outside Architect (May 2021); reviewed draft design plan with same (December 2021).
- Become more involved in Statewide issues related to NYS counties as a NYSACHO Board Member

#### Personnel

- Expanded Time & Effort Reporting across the department, which resulted in maximum reimbursement from Department of Health grants (COVID-19 specific).
- Implemented contract with McGuinness software, to ensure that the Department of Health receives maximum Medicaid reimbursement from eligible pre-school students.
- Recommendation form for employee increments
- Review of attendance to determine if patterns exist
- Conversion to Onbase
- POD Staffing

#### Fiscal

- Collected \$380,000 in Covid administration costs
- Successful HRI & WIC Fiscal Grant Audit, completed December 2021
- Reduced PreK voucher processing time, resulting in improved turnaround for voucher payment to PreK providers
- Assumed responsibility for financial oversight and claims coordination for new Covid-19 grants

#### **Center for Environmental Health**

- The water supply team has been working diligently to ensure compliance with the new drinking water rule that regulates perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) in public water systems. Two larger systems in Rockland, Suez Water New York and the Village of Nyack, have detected levels above the new regulatory requirement and are working toward compliance under a NYSDOH deferral and compliance schedule. These systems have made progress toward the design and eventual installation of improvements to their treatment plants and RCDOH staff will continue to coordinate with NYSDOH and ensure systems meet their compliance deadlines. In addition, there are 5 small public water systems that detected levels above standards and RCDOH is working with operators to provide guidance. Although private wells are not subject to the new regulations RCDOH has collaborated and coordinated with the Office of the County Executive and the Rockland County Planning Department to inform residents of potential risks of PFOS/PFOA in groundwater and developed a GIS application to help residents determine if they are in an area where contaminations were detected.
- Over 23,000 public and 13,700 private water test results were reviewed in 2019 to ensure the safety of Rockland's drinking water.
- In 2021, 730 mosquito pools (sample batches) were submitted for testing, 128 were positive for West Nile Virus. Staff treated over 16,600 catch basins and 2,200 breeding sites this past season.
- The Center for Environmental Health has been working closely with the Department of Planning and other county agencies to improve processes related to approvals and

permitting for land use projects. Several staff have been putting significant time into the user acceptance testing and configuration of the Energov software system which will modernize the county's plan and permit submission, review, and approval process. The system is being configured to provide an online interface for applicants that will allow online submission and payments. In additions, the system will allow Departments to coordinate reviews and share information in a more efficient and effective manner.

- Engineering staff reviewed 539 engineering plans for compliance with designs standards for realty subdivisions, sewer, and water treatment facilities/infrastructure to ensure adequacy and safety. This number is up considerably from 401 in 2020 and 432 (previous high) in 2019.
- Food safety staff have conducted over 1,600 inspections of establishments throughout the county and over 623 critical violations have been identified and corrected. These efforts were hampered in 2020 and part of 2021 due to the COVID Pandemic and the need to support response efforts with staff from these and other programs. Staff have resumed focus on food program activities and have been working diligently to get compliance activities back on track. More challenges have been encountered due to the reduction in regulatory presence in the prior year and staffing shortages the restaurants are currently dealing with.
- Last summer 102 children's camp inspections were conducted to ensure the safety of over 20,000 campers at permitted facilities in Rockland County. 4 public health hazards were identified and corrected. COVID made this a particularly challenging camp season as most of the camps were open this year (as opposed to 2020) and all were dealing with cases and response to camp exposures. 89 camp cases were reported by camp operators and RCDOH staff worked with them to determine the extent of exposure and required follow-up.
- Staff conducted 444 inspections of permitted public swimming pools to ensure the safety of the tens of thousands of residents and visitors of Rockland County that utilize these facilities. 72 Public Health Hazards were identified and corrected last year.
- In collaboration with the Rockland County Solid Waste Authority, the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Pomona served 27,333 customers in 2021. Residents are encouraged to remove unneeded hazardous waste from their homes and dispose of them properly.
- Collaborating DOH and RC Sheriff staff conducted 1,213 observations of waste hauler pickups to enforce the County Flow Control law and ensure waste is being disposed of properly. In addition, DOH has been working with the Solid Waste Authority to further focus on other aspects of code enforcement in 2021. Specifically, waste being brought into County facilities is being more closely monitored for compliance with requirements for separation of recyclable materials. This effort has identified issues and prompted corrective action with larger waste generators and has resulted in improvements to recycling in Rockland.
- In Rabies response and prevention efforts, staff responded to 400 animal bite reports, submitted 69 animal specimens for testing (2 of which were positive), ensured 55 bite victims received post-exposure vaccination, and vaccinated 646 pets at weekend clinics.



## **Center for Rockland Codes Investigations**

### COVID

- RCI Manager scheduled RCI and other county personnel to work with law enforcement and building departments to patrol “hot zones” pursuant to NYS Governor’s Task Force.
- Enforced Commissioner’s Orders regarding face masks in schools through February of 2021.
- Managed and significantly staffed vaccination PODs.
- Conducted case investigations and contact tracing.
- Received and responded to 400 COVID complaints within the first half of 2021.
- Managed staff efforts to educate businesses re: the Governor’s mask mandate that went into effect December 13, 2021.

### General

- Restructured staff pursuant to 2021 Retirement and Budget positions.
- Welcomed and fully trained Charles Harten (PH Tech I), Devon Boyko (Sr PH Aid) and Jeniece Jimenez (Clerk).
- Interviewed (2021) and hired (1-2022) Evan Wilson (Coordinator of PH Services).
- Celebrated 6-year anniversary.
- Revised both the RCI website and brochure.
- Continued to expand operations to include all new COVID related duties.
- Updated the Policy and Procedures for all RCI Programs.
- Staffed field teams for the final Indian Point FEMA Drill.
- Worked with Planning and Environmental Health on the Tyler Software Project

### Housing

- Complaints: 1,567
- Inspections: 5,871
- MDRR’s: 52 properties registered. \$22,700 collected.
- TR’s: 30 inspections conducted.
- MHP: 17 inspections conducted.
- Rooming Houses: renewal mailing completed (83 RH’s), 199 inspections conducted.
- Continued coordination with DSS APS and CPS to ensure safe and sanitary conditions for occupancy.
- Resumed Orders to Vacate: 6 cases brought to law in 2021.

### Lead

- Purchased a second XRF machine.
- Cases received – 56
- Open cases – 54
- Closed cases – 45
- Formal Hearing/Stipulations – 2
- Attended the lead conference via Teams meeting on 6/9/2021
- Incorporated the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Screening Questionnaire via Mobi task into inspections.

## ATUPA

- Resumed ATUPA compliance checks as pandemic slowed.
- Conducted 22 adult checks, verified each facility has proper licenses for Tobacco and Vape Products.
- Hired and trained 1 16-year-old who completed 15 underage compliance checks before COVID-19 cases spiked (again) and inspections were suspended.

## CIAA

- Continued enforcement of Multiple Dwelling Smoking Policy Law.
- Received 47 smoking policies.

## Body Art

- Trained all staff re: conducting body art establishment inspections.
- Completed 11 inspections; provided permits to establishments and practitioners.

## HNP

- Awarded 5-Year New York State Rockland County Healthy Neighborhoods Grant, to Start 04/01/2022 to 03/31/2027 at \$275,000.00 a year, for a total of \$1,375,000.00
- Provided 437 initial home visits.
- Provided 59 revisits, a marked improvement from previous years.
- Provided 699 smoke alarms (3 hearing impaired).
- Provided 127 Carbon Monoxide alarms.
- Conducted 41 radon tests.
- Provided COVID-19 masks kits, hand sanitizer, cleaning supplies and emergency food bags and multi-language vaccine clinic information flyers.
- Featured speaker during National Fire Safety Month - 2021, NAACP Spring Valley and Nyack, zoom virtual fire safety presentation in memory of fallen Fire Fighter, Jared Lloyd - Spring Valley.
- Participated in Faith-based community yard sale in Spring Valley promoting HNP and COVID vaccine awareness.

## **Center for Community Health**

### Family Planning Services

- The Family Planning Program was able to continue to provide services to a high risk population throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This included at times the use of telehealth and medication pick up. COVID-19 education has been incorporated into all visits and assisting patients to connect with other vital services including food. With domestic abuse on the rise as well, staff has worked with the Center for Safety and Change & DSS to connect clients with life changing resources. The Family Planning clinic is a safe haven to receive medical care during times of uncertainty.

## Nursing

- The Nursing department has been a vital part of the Covid19 response. From assisting with investigations, providing education and of course providing COVID19 vaccines while maintaining regular clinic operations. No matter the different challenges faced over the past year the nursing team worked together with support staff to ensure clinical services would be provided. The RCDOH nursing team stepped up when needed to serve the residents of Rockland and continues to do so.

### LEAD

- With the Challenges of COVID-19 pandemic the Lead team found ways to conduct outreach and inspections. Case investigations and education done remote via tele health methods when needed. Continuing to provide a vital service to the Rockland County Community.

### Women, Infant and Children Program

- Provided remote issuance for all WIC appointments during 2021.
- 12% increase in participation.
- December 2020 issued benefits for 12,267.
- December 2021 issued benefits for 13,984.
- As of December 2021, we are at 110% of target caseload.
- Issued 100% WIC Farmers' Market checks for 2021 season.

### **Health Promotion**

#### Breastfeeding

- Assisted two sites in achieving breastfeeding friendly status by creating breastfeeding-friendly environments, polices, staff trainings, and lactation spaces.
- Dozens of women and their families served through the Rockland Baby Cafes.
- Held a healthcare provider training on breastfeeding and substance use that attracted over 50 professionals.
- Held a 20-hour lactation education course for the community and professionals with 20 people attending.
- Held 4 Rockland Breastfeeding Coalition meetings with over 20 agencies/businesses engaged as active members/partners.

#### Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

- 12 program assessments were completed for families inquiring about assistance.
- Conducted research, and assisted families with accessing resources for available program.
- Recruited 2 organizations who work with children and youth with special health care needs to help distribute program information to parents and caregivers. (Regional Partnership Center of Northern Westchester and The Children's Health Home of Upstate New York (CHHUNY).

#### Chronic Disease Prevention/Evidence-Based Programs

- Alana Boutelle and Melissa Jacobson received recertification for Tai Chi for Health Instructor.

- Alana Boutelle and Nancy Haggerty completed Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) content update training.
- Carrie Steindorff became certified as a Tai Chi for Health Instructor by completing a 16-hour virtual training.
- Alana Boutelle recertified as a Tobacco Treatment Specialist.
- Alana Boutelle was trained as A Matter of Balance Virtual Master Trainer. Alana Boutelle, Nancy Haggerty, and Carrie Steindorff were trained as coaches to conduct virtual A Matter of Balance classes.
- 8 new A Matter of Balance Coaches were trained.
- Conducted 1 DSMP class.
- Assisted 1 person successfully quit smoking and helped 3 others with quitting smoking.

#### Governor Traffic Safety Committee HS-1 (GTSC) - Complete Streets

- Posted 12 Facebook messages reaching 1,225 people and 9 twitter messages reaching approximately 253 people. Drafted 4 press releases.
- Bus Shelter PSA: Replaced damaged or missing posters on 17 bus shelters throughout Rockland County.
- Created Road Safety signs for schools with messages to educate drivers, pedestrians and cyclists about V&T Laws. The signs were placed outside all schools in the East Ramapo school district, outside an elementary school of the North Rockland school district and outside an elementary school in the Village of Suffern (22 signs made in total).
- Attended the Suffern Street Fair in September to raise awareness about pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- Across the street safety messaging banners were posted in Nyack, South Nyack, Suffern, and Piermont.
- Conducted 1 presentation reaching 8 people.

#### Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC)

- Awarded the 5-year CHSC funding from NYSDOH. Timeframe is June 1, 2021 – May 31, 2026. Total award is \$1,525,000 to work in the North Rockland catchment area to help increase access to physical activity and healthy nutrition.
- Established indoor and outdoor walking trails in all NRCSD schools for use by students, staff, and families.
- Produced the Renewing Wellness Professional Learning Series for educators in collaboration with the Rockland County School Health and Wellness Coalition consisting of five 2-hour sessions on wellness, mental health, physical activity, and nutrition. Sessions were held weekly between October – December 2021, included 10 presenters, and attracted 81 educators from area schools.
- Made contact with three municipal partners to review the scope of the grant, identify liaisons, and schedule subsequent follow-up planning meetings.

#### Nutrition

- Conducted 8 nutrition and 1 summer safety presentations (which incorporated food safety) to date reaching approximately 165 people (including two girl scout troops). Five of them were through virtual platforms.

- Continue to be a resource for Rockland County farmers' markets and gardens through advertisements, social media, and press releases.
- Assisted Piermont Farmers' Market with application and allowance to accept Farmers Market Nutrition Program checks. In addition, worked with the Veterans Association to distribute \$640 in Health Bucks for use during the 2021 Farmers' Market season.
- Worked together with the Rockland Community Against Hunger to distribute 439,435 pounds of food in 2021.

#### Opioids

- Over 2,300 fentanyl test strips have been distributed to four agencies in Rockland County: CANDLE, Department of Probation, Lexington Center for Recovery (all 3 locations), and Samaritan Daytop.
- Six agencies (ADAC, RCADD, Independent Living, Montefiore-Nyack & Good Samaritan Hospitals, and Hope Not Handcuffs) have become part of the PeerRx network in Rockland County to deploy peers (virtually for now) to hospitals in response to any overdose diagnosis in the ER. PeerRx Subscription Plan is a network that, like Uber, calls for a service when needed. It is an efficient tool that connects overdose cases with a peer quickly.

#### Press Releases/Looking Forward

- Drafted, wrote, posted, and released 47 press releases.
- Drafted articles for Office for the Aging Looking Forward publication 6 times a year.

#### Sodium Reduction in Communities

- Success story highlighting work with Jawonio is currently part of the CDC website - <https://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/programs/srcp-ss-rockland-2021.htm>
- Completed five-year grant work with eight Early Childcare sites in Rockland County to educate, support, establish and implement food service guidelines that have direct language that address sodium reduction in the foods brought in and served to the children. Four of the eight childcare programs have guidelines that include sodium as part of their guidelines and the four others have broader nutrition guidelines.

#### COVID-19

- Participated as a panel speaker for Dominican College's Healthcare Symposium, Obesity and Weight Gain During the Pandemic" on February 23.
- Partner with food pantries on vaccine education.
- Conduct a series of outreach and educational activities at a variety of sites in Rockland County including Palisades Center, Finkelstein Library, People to People, Food Fair, and more.
- We facilitated hundreds of essential workers to get vaccinated during the initial roll out of the vaccine by speaking to store owners and developing relationships with them.
- Our staff was able to assist with scheduling appointments for those who would have had difficulty using the online system.
- Produced a webinar in June 2021 on COVID-19 vaccination for local physicians in collaboration with Good Samaritan Hospital and Montefiore Nyack Hospital.

- Created numerous educational community flyers on COVID-19 prevention and vaccination.
- Established a community workgroup on vaccinating vulnerable residents in the zip code 10977.
- 702 Social Media Messages posted
- COVID-19 Call Center: 17,862 calls recorded.
- Maintained oversight on call center staff and daily functions. Effectively managed call center staff in a sometime complex and high stress environment.
- Ensured that accurate and up to date COVID-19 information was provided to the public.
- Ensured that daily tally was collected and recorded. Evaluated program activities to determine effectiveness and to ensure achievement of objectives.
- Contributed ideas and efforts in developing long-range goals to facilitate COVID-19 call center responsibilities. Recommended changes in policies, procedures and protocols concerning the call center tasks.
- Remained up to date on the latest information and COVID-19 guidance.
- Maintained adequate staffing and monitored call-center staff and ensure a professional and friendly service was provided.
- Worked with other DOH staff to ensure information on county link is accurate and up to date.

## **Children's Services Program**

### Early Intervention

- As of January 1<sup>st</sup>, prescriptions for all evaluations are provided and uploaded into NYEIS with the MDE by the evaluating agency
- As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, all IFSPs include Outcomes as determined by the family and team with appropriate short-term outcomes
- The Child Program Coordinator and Preschool Provider are addressing the "issue" of children who continue to receive EI services and are not meeting EI on-going eligibility as evident by their CPSE evaluations via specific emails sent to the agency/program director
- Transition is discussed at all IFSP meetings at or after the child's second birthday and families and the difference between the two programs, if not it is being addressed as part of our weekly Q and A (The preschool coordinator reviews a random number of cases, NYEIS identifies as needing IFSP meetings scheduled)
- EIODs and EISs are monitoring cases to ensure that families who are not referring their children to CPSE have a transition of services plan, if not it is being addressed as part of our Weekly Q and A

### Preschool

- Education Evaluations as part of the Initial Evaluation have been reduced, where appropriate with parental consent EI documentation is being used
- Updated and distributed Preschool Manual
- As of July 1<sup>st</sup> – all outstanding vouchers were processed – the billing process has been streamlined
- Prior to September 2021, the Child Program Coordinator was reviewing all vouchers, as of September 2021 only the center-based program vouchers
- As of September 1<sup>st</sup>– McGuinness was secured for Full-Service Billing Medicaid Billing

- As of November 1<sup>st</sup>– RCDOH transitioned to eSTACs – the process is all electronic at this time

#### Transportation

- As of January, the Monthly billing reconciliation process between Student Bus and VMC has improved
- Student Bus is sending VMC, the attendance on a weekly basis
- VMC is providing the monthly grid to Student Bus for review prior to sending the monthly bill

#### EI

- The EIODs continue to work toward making the OSCs more accountable during IFSP meeting as well as their required activities as per regulations
- EIODs and EISs are monitoring cases to ensure that families who are not referring their children to CPSE have a transition of services plan – this is monitored through our weekly Q and A

#### Emergency Preparedness

- Utilized the County's emergency mass dispensing model to help support and supervise over 150 COVID vaccination events that resulted in approximately 54,000 vaccinations at RCDOH and other sites in the County such as houses of worship, schools, businesses, and community centers.
- Collaborated with the County's Fire and Emergency Services to receive and assist with the distribution of thousands of masks and COVID home testing kits to the County's five towns.

#### Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- We have continued to provide all of classes using additional sterilization and cleaning and practices. We supported the EMS agencies throughout the pandemic.
- We responded safely to numerous structure fires and large accidents.
- We brought in 6 new deputy EMS coordinators.
- We saw the EMS memorial through its development and buildout.

#### Center for Disease Prevention & Control

- Large focus on COVID management, COVID case calls and contact tracing
- By the end of the year developed self-service portals for the community to offload COVID related work of DOH
- Worked with schools on implementation of appropriate isolation, quarantine, and test-to-stay procedures
- Continued reportable disease case investigations
- Vaccination PODs and messaging to increase community vaccination
- Redistribution of COVID vaccines to various community partners
- Grant proposal work for COVID and other vaccinations confidence building (CVDVAX Grant)
- Continuation of Adult and Child immunization clinics
- Distribution of Flu Vaccine to community partners
- Continuation of Tuberculosis clinics
- Revision of TB screening policies for county employees
- Continuation of STI clinics, with expansion of expedited partner therapy (EPT) to include not only Chlamydia but also Gonorrhea and Trichomonas

- Received \$4,000 award from state for sexual health education and EPT performance and reporting online
- Closed all 2021 cases of STI's and general communicable diseases

#### Center for Forensic Medicine

##### COVID-related tasks:

- Maintenance of COVID death statistics database which is shared with DOH and posted on the County COVID dashboard

##### Personnel/Staff:

- Created/established a less-than-full-time 4<sup>th</sup> Medical Investigator position which was filled by an active Relief Medical Investigator
- Hired a Relief Forensic Pathologist to assist with coverage for Chief Medical Examiner
- Hired several Relief Medical Investigator Assistants primarily for decedent mortuary transport

### **2022 Goals**

#### **Administrative**

##### COVID

- Order and receive Mobile Vaccination Unit and Drive-Thru Vaccination Tent and confirm storage location.
- Prepare as best as possible for any new COVID variant(s) based on lessons learned.
- Continue Vaccination PODs.

##### Staffing

- Underfill Community Health Physician position with Dr. Velez; Relief to LTFT.
- Fill remaining 5 vacant positions.

##### Programs

- Meet with all Program Managers individually to assess status and future; assess needs moving forward.
- Ensure all Health Department public health services remain available to the extent possible during the ongoing pandemic.
- Continue to liaison with other Rockland County Departments to facilitate meeting the public health needs of all Rockland County residents.
- Ensure all DOH Program Managers complete review and revision of all Policy Manuals.
- Resume Program Manager monthly meetings and Quarterly Staff meetings.
- Commence preparation for the 2023 budget with emphasis on securing the resources necessary to attain the public health paradigm required for the continued and future success of the RCDOH.

##### Special Project

- Complete Building D renovation design process, go out to bid with construction to follow.

##### Personnel



- To update Annual Employee Health Assessment Process
- Continue to update specs with special requirements
- Enter all license and special requirement info in PeopleSoft

#### Fiscal

- Establish a monthly monitoring system (Finance & Personnel) to closely monitor time sheet entries for employees assigned to work under a grant.
- Begin development of a write off policy and improved management/understanding of outstanding open accounts receivable balances
- Profession development, including cross training of staff on State Aid filing, Accounts Receivable, and Pre-School
- Implementation of EHUB for EI students
- Transition to Tyler Energov payment system allowing credit card payment of certain fees
- Manage 2022 budget within existing fiscal constraints

#### Special Project

- Increase remote work opportunities for RCDOH employees

#### Center for Environmental Health

- Continue work on configuration and launch of the Energov system for permitting and plans review of RCDOH processes (see 2021 accomplishment for more detail on project status).
- Explore and pilot ways to utilize technology resources to switch over to paperless records retention in environmental health programs. Some will be able to utilize Energov but other will need to use other means.
- PFOS/PFOA:
- Continue to ensure large and small public water systems comply with new regulations and treatment standards.
- Continue to provide guidance and support private well owners. Ensure GIS application is maintained and updated with new data as it becomes available. Explore the availability of resources available to help with testing and treatment. Consider advocating for private water regulations.
- To implement more data and trend analysis into environmental programs.
- Implement system to better track and monitor trends in epidemiological data that relate to environmental programs (i.e. waterborne illness, foodborne illness, vector borne diseases; potential wastewater surveillance).
- Better track and evaluate mosquito population, and potential species population, trends.
- Where meaningful, implement systems for monitoring compliance trends in regulatory programs.
- Continue to utilize staff to focus on environmental programs that had significant staffing resources diverted COVID response in 2020 and part of 2021. Those that are still in catchup should be caught up by year end.
- Continue to fill critical vacancies and adapt to the higher level of staff turnover we experienced in 2020 and anticipate in 2021. Evaluate workload trends and staffing needs to ensure sufficient resources for operation. Vacancies and loss of experienced technical staff has presented significant challenges.

## **Center for Rockland Codes Investigations**

### COVID

- Continue to assist with PODs, etc. as needed.

### General

- Transition daily oversight of RCI from Deputy Commissioner to Coordinator.
- Resume regular duties related to all RCI Programs.
- In preparation of impending retirement, PH Sanitarian, restructure and transition staff to manage affected Programs (ATUPA, CIAA, Body Art).
- Create and implement new roles/duties and responsibilities for each staff member.
- Program Managers will conduct regular meetings with staff.
- Continue to maintain and update databases for all RCI Programs.
- Transition from old Housing database to new Tyler software program.
- Continue to update the website to best serve Rockland residents (Note: January 2022 added "Fire Safety" following deadly Bronx fire; 19 dead [9 children].)
- Serve as liaison for special projects as needed (Note: January 2022 commenced twice daily Hi-Tor Animal Shelter inspections.)

### Housing

- Meet and/or exceed the number of inspections conducted by at least 5% by year end.
- Instruct all staff re: proper formal hearing compilations.
- Ensure inspectors review case documents for accuracy.
- Continue to streamline enforcement process from initial inspection through Board of Health.
- Train Inspectors re: writing violations using specific details.
- Emphasize case load organization among inspections as a top priority.
- Contact Building Departments to obtain copies of their rental registries for comparison with RCI's MDRR.
- Anticipated February 2022, develop cooperative relationship with RC Spring Valley Building Department.

### Lead

- Lead Team to take the Lead Inspector Initial and Lead Risk Assessor Initial Courses.
- Train new Inspectors in accord with the transition of staff.
- Set up a regular schedule for leak tests and XRF machine resourcing.
- Improve time between initial inspection and conclusion of cases.
- Collaborate with Healthy Neighborhoods to provide outreach and education.
- Study feasibility of incorporating RCI Lead database with new Tyler Software Program.
- Determine a more secure location for XRF machines.
- Integrate Lead statistics into "Palm Tree"/RCI Statistic Database.

### ATUPA

#### Education:

- Amend NYS Certified Tobacco Training manual and test to reflect recent changes to the Public Health Law
- Resume NYS Certified Tobacco Training class.
- Provide educational materials to all retail tobacco facilities.
- Hire three 18–20-year-olds to complete underage compliance checks due to the increase in legal age to 21.
- Inspect all facilities for compliance with flavored vaping bans.
- Resume underage compliance checks once COVID infections decrease.
- Train new program manager in preparation for Nancy Brennan's retirement.

#### CIAA

- Inspect all properties registered with the MDRR for smoking policy posting compliance.
- Instruct all Supervisors, Inspectors and Clerical re: entering CIAA inspections in ehps.
- Train new program manager in preparation for Nancy Brennan's retirement.

#### Body Art

- Conduct 1 unannounced inspection at each permitted establishment in addition to regularly scheduled annual permit inspections.
- Train new program manager in preparation for Nancy Brennan's retirement.

#### HNP

- Meet and or exceeded initial home visits by at least 5% by end of grant year adapting to evolving and changing COVID-19 environment
- Increase revisits by at least 5% by end of grant year adapting to evolving and changing COVID-19 environment
- Ensure that 100% of all homes visited have working smoke alarms
- Ensure 100% of all homes visited have working carbon monoxide alarms
- Provide outreach, education, and products as needed, to eliminate environmental asthma trigger in the home. Reduce dust mites and other home environmental asthma triggers to prevent hospital admittance, loss of school days, job loss, and promote wellness.
- Reduce and eliminate roaches and rodents in home environment
- Provide outreach and education, offer and provide radon testing
- Provide outreach and education to prevent injuries in the home
- Promote National Fire Safety Week using social media, and other re-imagined community participation
- Promote Lead Poison Awareness in our communities using social media, and other re-imagined community participation
- Work with our Lead Programs to ensure all home environments visited are lead safe
- Work in partnership with our CRCI Housing Center, providing education, environmental home inspections and product as needed to ensure that Rockland County residents are living in safe home environments
- Work with community partners to increase awareness of programs and services offered attending virtual zoom collaboratives and meetings.

- Increase education by attending webinars to improve and educate staff and our communities as needs and complications evolve during COVID-19.

## **Center for Community Health**

### Family Planning Services

- To provide health education in community settings, to promote reproductive health, to prevent unintended pregnancy and promote access to reproductive and preventive health services.
- Continue to provide a safe and welcoming environment for all clients to receive medical care and connection to vital resources.

### Nursing

- To continue providing safe and welcoming clinical services. Promote preventive health education and continuing Covid19 vaccination and education.

### Lead

- Find and reduce sources of lead before they can harm children
- Promote lead testing for children and the importance of regularly scheduled well visits
- Teach the public, healthcare providers and others about Lead

### Women, Infant and Children Program

- Submit WIC RFA with necessary documents by due date.
- Reopening to participants, as of now the date is for mid-July.
- Management of increase in caseload.
- Issue 100% WIC Farmers' Market checks for 2022 season.

## **Health Promotion**

### Breastfeeding

- Increase the rate of babies who are exclusively breastfed and duration rates of breastfeeding in Rockland County.
- Strengthen Rockland County's Breastfeeding Coalition by hosting 4 contractor meetings, 4 coalition meetings, and maintaining sustainability by keeping at least 10 organizations engaged.
- Work to provide 1 group breastfeeding training for obstetric, family medicine, and pediatric practices serving Medicaid-eligible women and their children.
- Recruit an additional 5 childcare centers and day care homes serving families to achieve Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Designation.
- At least 4 worksites will achieve Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite recognition.
- Continue to provide at least 10 events at the virtual Baby Cafés®.
- Hold a 20-hour lactation education course for the community and professionals.

## COVID-19

- Meet monthly with the 10977 workgroup and assist in developing at least one vaccination strategy in each of the following three sectors: schools, churches and food pantries.
- Continue to work with community organizations and collaboratives to promote COVID-19 prevention strategies including vaccination.
- Continue to provide guidance to call center staff and provide up-to-date information to staff and residents.
- Perform Call Center operational tasks to assure program service level and goals are met.
- Continue to develop and create press releases, social media messages, and educational materials to support public health efforts to combat COVID-19.

## Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

- Goal: To reach families and caregivers of children and youth with special health care needs throughout Rockland County and offer assistance to reduce barriers in accessing services by providing support.
- Recruit an additional 4 organizations focusing children and youth with special health care needs to help distribute program information to parents and caregivers.
- Conduct a program assessment and provide counseling, culturally competent, referrals and appropriate access to resources to at least 1 family per month.
- Attend mandatory trainings and comply with all state mandates in operating the CYSHCN Program.

## Chronic Disease Prevention/Evidence-Based Programs

- Conduct as least 2 programs from the following programs that staff are trained to offer: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP), A Matter of Balance (MOB) or Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP).
- Conduct as least 1 Tai Chi Program.
- Assist at least 3 people to quit tobacco use through our Put It Out Rockland (PIOR) program.

## Nutrition

- Promote and improve the food quality, nutrition policies or systems of Emergency Food Programs in the County of Rockland.
- Increase access to healthier foods at emergency food programs in Rockland County by providing technical assistance, training, and support.
- Serve as a continual resource to community committees including Professional Development Meetings and Trainings, Hunger Task Forces, Farmers Markets, Food Recovery, and others to coordinate local, regional, and statewide nutrition resources, messages, procurement, and food security information that focuses on collaboration, integration, and promotion of services.

## Governor Traffic Safety Committee HS-1 (GTSC) – Complete Streets

- Deliver at least 5 educational sessions focused on pedestrian and bicycle safety laws and share at least 10 online educational videos, quizzes, online resources and supplemental

printed materials with local groups and schools to educate seniors, the business community, and students.

- Create a webpage dedicated to safe and respectful use of streets in Rockland, with interactive educational materials including a digital safety brochure, videos explaining V&T L, and information about best safety practices in the traffic environment, as pedestrians, as bicyclists, and as motor vehicle passengers.
- Work with at least 2 communities in RC to post pedestrian and bicycle safety banners/signs with at least four safety messages around the community.
- Create and post at least 10 pedestrian, bicyclist, and driver safety messages/press releases using at least 3 media outlets including the county's website, Facebook, and Twitter.

#### Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC)

- Form wellness teams in each of the 8 NRCSD schools and have them conduct a base assessment of wellness policy implementation.
- Host three CHSC Collaborative meetings among subcontractor/partners.
- Help the school district secure their order of new mountain bikes.
- Increase the number of worksites and community settings that implement food service guidelines by 10.
- Increase the number of childcare providers that improve policies, practices, and environments for physical activity and nutrition by 5.
- Increase the number of municipalities that adopt and implement community planning and active transportation interventions to increase safe and accessible physical activity by 3.
- Increase the number of schools that improve policies, practices, and environments for physical activity and nutrition by 9.
- Increase the number of communication and sustainability activities to support community and school strategies by 8.

#### Opioids

- Respond to any training needs assessments, and participate in webinars, regional conference calls, 1:1 calls with Region Lead, and attend in-person meetings/trainings.
- Submit at least one success story to NYSDOH.
- Continue to fund Peer Recovery Coach(es) that work to fill in gaps during nights and weekends. This will help to connect individuals and families to peer support services.
- RCADD will provide a variety of training(s), including harm reduction training, for substance use disorder (SUD) staff, partners, peers, etc. to enhance skills and knowledge.
- Purchase PeerRx [Annual Subscription] for up to 5 provider agencies (plus one free subscription). This service will continue to allow peers working in our county to connect individuals and families to peer support services.
- Partner with OASAS licensed outpatient providers (treatment) and peer agencies to reach people who overdose or who test positive for fentanyl during intake or during course of treatment. Education about fentanyl test strips will be provided along with test strip(s) as a harm reduction tool.

## **Children's Services Program**

### Early Intervention

- The Preschool Coordinator will continue to make the Child Program Coordinator aware of all children who are receiving services in EI but do not meet eligibility for CPSE or on-going eligibility in EI for each case the CPC will address the entire team (provider, OSC, EIOD and EIS) as well as the program/agency director. (in the past we only sent an email to the agency/program director).
- Work on moving the focus of EI services from a direct therapy to a family training model as per regulations during the initial and subsequent IFSP meetings.
- For children seen at Daycare or in playgroups – a monthly session in-person session will be included in the IFSP.
- Review re-referrals prior to re-opening the case to determine if the case meets the criteria for re-opening.
- Monitor the newly approved program, Mommy Teacher Daycare, Inc for compliance.
- EIODs will cancel IFSP meetings, when the reports are not received 5 days in advance.
- Due to COVID, ensure that all late MDEs, IFSP meetings and services are correctly coded.

### Preschool

- Medicaid Reimbursement – work with McGuinness to maximize the counties reimbursement for evaluations and services.
- Obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for transportation as appropriate.
- Host monthly meetings for the CPSE chairs with the NYSED Regional Associates.
- Eliminate documentation by using the IEP document repository where available or email.
- Monitor center-based attendance and address issues and concerns, monthly.
- Work with the agencies to hire more related service providers – speech and physical therapy.

### Transportation

- Due to COVID – all buses are still socially distance for the children
- Work with VMC to monitor the student's attendance and address concerns
- VMCs contract is due for renewal in October – update the RFP with Finance for redistribution based upon the counties current needs.

### EI

- EISs will hold monthly meetings with their teams.
- NYEIS will be transitioning to EI HUB in May – the team will attend required and appropriate trainings as recommended by BEI in preparation for the change over.
- The EISs and EIODs will receive the technology they need to attend and schedule Microsoft Team Meetings.

### Emergency Preparedness

- Work with Rockland County FTC to improve and create relationships with external community partners (hospitals, nonprofits, pharmacies, etc.) to enhance the Departments emergency response plans.
- Increase number of various exercises with internal and external County partners to enhance the Departments emergency preparedness plans.

#### Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Increase retention in agencies. Will create a leadership academy for current and future EMS agency leaders.
- Increase the ability to share information, plans, and response objectives – Will train all EMS agencies in the use of the county DLAN system. Will use it for all large EMS responses as well as us it with our EMS Coordinators.
- Provide Continuing education opportunities for our EMS Providers – will set up a schedule of CME sessions and use our networking contacts to bring in guest speakers.

#### Center for Disease Prevention & Control

- Complete the PHAB Annual Report (Year 3) by March 31st to maintain the department's Public Health Accreditation status.
- In 2022 we also aim to revive the various internal Accreditation Committees by seeking new membership (most of our original members have left) and initiating regular meeting schedules again.
- Conduct a broad community health assessment survey by August, in conjunction with the other 6 MARO counties, as the first step in drafting the next iteration of the Regional Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the associated local Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The final CHA and CHIP plans are to be completed and submitted to NYSDOH by December 31st.
- Develop wastewater surveillance for COVID and variants in partnership with the state and engineering departments.
- Our final goal is to minimize the impact of COVID on all aspects of our operations however possible.

#### Tuberculosis Division

- Revisit Policies and procedures in keeping with rapid developments in the field of TB
- Training of new DOT officers that have been newly hired.
- Community reach out for active LTBI case finding (if COVID situation allows)
- Immunization Division.
- Resume visiting clinics of providers to improve childhood vaccination rates which have been low, to get closer to NYS goals.
- Acquire high dose influenza vaccine to increase uptake of elderly as they have verbalized this preference.
- Modernize clinic front desk work using kiosks to allow smoother workflow and walk-ins
- Start offering Shingrix vaccine this year.
- Utilize the CVDVAX grant for high risk and underserved population to implement vaccine confidence for both COVID and routine vaccinations.

#### STI Division



- Revisit clinic workflow and responsibilities of each staff to ensure smoother day to day functioning.
- Offload clinic work of Disease investigation officers (DIS) as recommended by state so they can focus on community reach out and contact tracing.
- Transition from our current 2nd generation HIV testing to 4th generation testing
- Increase STI awareness through social media.

#### Center for Forensic Medicine

- Successful installation of SmartVue Thermofischer Wi-Fi-based alarm system for RCMEO morgue refrigerators and freezers to ensure proper preservation and storage of decedents and biological samples.
- Acquisition of new Chevy Suburban livery transport vehicle via grant funds.
- Continued compilation of suicide statistics for purposes of reporting/collaboration with Mental Health Suicide Prevention Committee.
- Continued compilation of drug/opioid death statistics for purposes of reporting/collaboration with HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Assessment) and various County Drug Task Forces.

## **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Charles Skip Vezzetti, Superintendent

### 2021 Achievements

- In the last year of a three-year Road Resurfacing Program (Capital Project 3409 - \$6,000,000 total) resurfaced 3.8 miles of chipseal surface, 4.9 miles of microseal surface, 4.4 miles of asphalt surface for a total of 13.2 miles of County roads. Of the total amount spent on the resurfacing \$1,600,000 was reimbursed through the NYS Capital Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS).
- Oversaw the resurfacing and restriping 41,000 sy of commuter parking lots located at Lot J, Palisades Center. We also oversaw the repaving of the 15,000 sy of parking lot located at the Fire Training Center.
- Road Resurfacing program over the past 20 years has steadily increased the useful life of pavements as follows:
  - Chipseal Surface from a 7-year average to a 9-1/2 average
  - Microseal Surface from a 10-year average to a 12 year average
  - Asphalt Overlay from a 10-year average to a 14-year average
- Awarded bid for the construction of Capital Project 3414 – New Highway Facility to Worth Construction of Bethel Ct. This award is in the amount of \$35,547,000. Construction started in July of 2020.
- Continued progressing to final design of three large culverts (\$1,711,000 total) and one Bridge Reconstruction project (\$1,921,000) from the Bridge NY program. This Federally and State aided (95% Fed and State – 5% local) program will allow for the replacement of

culverts located in Town Line Road, Hungry Hollow Road and Calls Hollow Road to current standards and extended life spans. Additionally, the Minisceongo Bridge (located near the Haverstraw Marina) will be replaced with a new structure also to current standards.

- Completed the installation of County Wide Truck Route signage. Approximately 600 signs were installed with County forces along County and State routes. Working with the five towns and the NYSDOT, Rockland County Highway developed and engineered the plan for the placement of signs establishing through trucking routes to direct trucks onto state roads for this purpose.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue updating our fleet of vehicles thanks to the Equipment replacement Bond (Capital Project 3421 - \$6,000,000) over three years.
- Continue Road Resurfacing program to maintain the useful life of pavement surfaces at a 10-year life expectancy or greater. This goal also dovetails with reducing or stabilizing maintenance costs for future years.
- Complete construction of the New Highway Facility by May of 2022. Built on 24 acres, centrally located, this facility will include 7 buildings totaling 113,000 square feet. The construction of a new maintenance repair building to properly service our fleet coupled with the indoor storage of all equipment will extend the useful life of the equipment as well as reduce overall maintenance costs. A 10,000-ton salt storage building will also be constructed. Total cost of construction will be \$41,500,000 with \$2,900,000 being reimbursed from the Capital Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) for the New 10,000-ton salt shed.
- Continue construction of River Road. This Federally aided project will reconstruct River Road by adding new curbs, sidewalks, drainage and pavement the entire length of 1.7 miles (wholly within the Village of Grandview-on-Hudson).
- Solicit bids and begin construction of the Minisceongo Bridge (located on Beach Road next to the Haverstraw Marina. This project is funded by Bridge New York in the amount of \$1,921,000.
- Solicit bids and begin construction of the Townline Road, Hungry Hollow Road and Calls Hollow Road Culverts (located in the Towns of Clarkstown, Orangetown, Ramapo and Haverstraw). This project is funded by Bridge New York in the amount of \$1,230,000.
- Begin design of the Germonds Road and Little Tor Road intersection improvement project. This Federally and State aided (95% Fed and State – 5% local) project will analyze and reconfigure the intersection of Germonds Road and Little Tor Road to decrease congestion during the AM and PM traffic peaks.
- Begin design of the North Main Street and Old Route 304 intersection improvement project. This Federally and State aided (95% Fed and State – 5% local) project will analyze and reconfigure the intersection to decrease congestion during the AM and PM traffic peaks.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## **2021 Achievements**

- Unveiled the Rockland County Thurgood Marshall Human Rights Monument in New City in the fall. This Monument was many years in the making and pays tribute to a man who played a direct role during Rockland County and American history. After founding the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1940, Marshall fought tirelessly to end “separate but equal” structures for white and black people across our country. Here in Rockland he will be remembered for bringing an end to one of the last formally segregated schools in New York.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue to re-construct the Rockland County Human Rights Commission i.e., hire two Human Rights Specialists to process cases re: discrimination in housing/employment in the County. The purpose: to build a team to address all Human Rights concerns.
- To re-purpose the Rockland County Human Rights Commission members and adhere to the Commission Bylaws and Term limits in 2022. Encourage direct engagement with the community.
- To conduct the 2021 ‘Hall of Fame Celebration’ in the Spring, via ZOOM, and the 2022 ‘Hall of Fame Celebration’ in the Fall of 2022.
- To fill two vacancies re: Human Rights Specialists by implementing a review of candidates (resumes), interviews conducted by a committee, and a presentation of a slate of candidates to the CE for his consideration and approval.
- To develop a brochure i.e., Rockland County Guide to African American History in Rockland County that includes but is not limited to the following:
  - ✓ A message from the County Executive
  - ✓ Comments from the Commissioner of Human Rights
  - ✓ Annual Celebrations: Juneteenth
  - ✓ Acknowledgements
  - ✓ The Culture of Rockland County of Rockland
  - ✓ Not-for-profits: i.e., Jamcaar, HAAC
- To continue to collaborate with the Haverstraw African American Connection i.e., Day of Giving, Better Together, Juneteenth, etc.
- To continue to collaborate with NYS Commission re: Human Rights i.e., the Buddy System.
- To conduct a Human Rights Commission “Advance” in an effort to develop a closer working relationship between Commission members.
- To continue to support the Human Rights Commission members monthly outreach in 2022.

# **INSURANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT**

Thomas Torpey, Director

## **2021 Achievements**

- We completed the RFP process for insurance brokers, and we added three new insurance agencies to the qualified bidders list.
- We provided two days of personal protective equipment training for the Sewer Department; snowplow driver training and chain saw safety for the Highway Department, slip and fall safety training for the Office of the Aging. This training was provided by our workers compensation claims administrator at no cost to the County.
- Got a local orthopedic group to agree to revise their billing which will save us money on the fees for adjusting the bills.
- Created a flood emergency plan for the sewer department that saved \$5,000 in our property insurance
- Negotiated a settlement with the New York State Second Injury Fund. The County received \$1,700,000 in funding to be used to settle 16 old workers compensation claims. The County can keep whatever money is left over after the claims are settled.
- Instituted a new practice of calling all injured workers within 48 hours of receiving the notice of the claim. The practice has been well received by the injured workers, it makes them aware someone cares and wants them to come back to work.
- Negotiated a claim settlement for voting machines that were water damaged netting over \$10,000
- Took one liability claim to trial and received a verdict for the defense and zero paid to the claimant.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue to provide loss control services for the departments that can benefit from safety education.
- The five-year contract with our Third Party Administrator is due in 2022, we will have to complete the RFP process for a new contract.

## DEPARTMENT OF LAW

Thomas Humbach, County Attorney

### **2021 Achievements**

#### **Critical Partner in the County's COVID-19 Response**

- After helping the Health Department navigate the County's measles crisis in 2019, our Law Department has been instrumental in the County's response, both internally and externally, to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Led by County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta, our Law Department has spent countless hours guiding not only the Health Department (RCDOH) but the entire County with responding to this international health crisis. From interpreting Executive Orders issued by the Governor, regulations and guidance issued by the New York State Health Department (NYSDOH), guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and federal and state court cases to drafting local Executive Orders, Commissioner of Health orders and internal County policies to assisting RCDOH with enforcement of Health orders to negotiating contracts regarding vaccine administration and distribution to assisting County Departments with responding to their own employees' infections and exposures to assisting with contact tracing to developing telecommuting and leave policies to responding to questions from the public, our Law Department has been a critical partner and a key player in the County's response to the Pandemic. The County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney were recognized by the NYS DOH for their work as part of the Rockland County Measles Response Team, and they were named as members of the *2020 Public Health Works!* Honor Roll. Managed all legal matters related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tracked and interpreted the many State Executive Orders. The County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney were in the office daily, from the beginning in March 2020, to provide support to all departments, and monitor and take action with respect to the legal aspects of the crisis.
- In light of their efforts and expertise in dealing with both of these health crises, both the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney have been recognized at the federal and state level. County Attorney Thomas Humbach was asked to be a director of the County Attorneys' Association of the State of New York (CAASNY), where he has lectured on the measles crisis. In recent years, he also was a presenter at the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) on the topic of executive orders.
- Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta was invited to join the CDC's Public Health Law Program's STLT Public Health Attorney Institute as well as the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Local Public Health Law Workgroup. She also was asked to serve as a faculty presenter by the CDC and has lectured regarding attorneys' roles during the COVID-19 Pandemic and in public health preparedness.

#### **IT Infrastructure Improvements That Will Modernize County Processes, Expedite County Contracting & Allow for Greater Transparency**

- Our Law Department has been diligently working to improve the County's IT infrastructure in an effort to modernize the County's contracting and resolution processes, expedite County contracting and allow for greater transparency.
- County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta along with Assistant County Attorney Kimberly Von Ronn, in conjunction with Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Purchasing Division, spearheaded the implementation of a new, modernized, web-based contract, resolution and local law request and approval (i.e., "DCE") process. The new system has built-in features to assist County Departments in entering the DCE request data, alerts to ensure necessary and accurate supporting documentation is uploaded before it is submitted for review and approval, a trackable workflow, electronic transmission of documents and information and electronic checkoff by the various Departments. The hallmark of the program is the simultaneous review of the DCE requests by the Departments of Purchasing, Budget/Finance, and Law, which has not only sped up the entire DCE and drafting process but has provided transparency by allowing the requesting Departments real-time access and updates on the status of their requests. The new streamlined electronic process has brought a slow, elusive and redundant procedure into the 21st Century. The projects were originally envisioned by Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta, along with the County Executive's Office, the Purchasing Division and the Office for the Aging, at the Rochester Institute of Technology Lean Six Sigma training and New York State LEAN Office LEAN Boot Camp in 2018.
- County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta, with the assistance of Mercedes Felix, Confidential Assistant to the County Attorney, Deborah Capezzuto, former Paralegal II, and Mindy Elkins, Paralegal II, completed the migration from the Law Department's previous, outdated document management system to Salesforce, a modern cloud-based software. This new system can be accessed remotely, has a Google-like search engine and contains a billing component that enables the Law Department to track the time it spends on County matters. It also has features like customer portals which ultimately will enable the Law Department, County Departments and vendors that contract with the County to view the status of and to sign their contracts electronically via the software. This software also will expedite the contract process and allow for greater transparency.

### **Litigation Wins**

- Our Law Department's Litigation Team, which is headed by County Attorney Thomas Humbach and includes Assistant County Attorneys Lorraine Feiden and Patrick Fischer and Paralegal IIs Mindy Elkins and Jean Marc Michel, has been actively working on several high-profile litigation cases and made some impressive wins in 2021.
- For example, the Litigation Team had 2 major wins in connection with the litigation that ensued when the County closed the nursing home. First, in *Braunstein, et al. v. County of Rockland, et al.*, the Appellate Division upheld the Supreme Court's decision granting summary judgment in favor of the County and Health Facilities, thereby entitling the County to retain the down payment and extension fees. The amount in escrow is approximately \$3.8 million dollars, comprised of the initial \$2.8 million deposit, \$900,000 in extension fees and interest. Second, in *Braunstein v. Day*, a defamation case, the Court of Appeals denied plaintiff's leave to appeal the County's summary judgment win, which has finally ended this 5-year case.

- Similarly, in *County of Rockland v. NAC Maintenance, Inc.*, a case in which civil penalties were imposed against defendants for illegal dumping on certain parcels in Hillburn, NY, which are located within the floodplain of the Ramapo River, the County obtained two judgments against defendants totaling in excess of \$3 million dollars.
- Further, the County's summary judgment motions in 11 actions for improperly made payments to Sewer District Commissioners were granted. In a recent Decision and Order, the Appellate Division held that the County demonstrated its prima facie entitlement to judgment as a matter of law by presenting undisputed evidence that defendants received compensation in violation of the Rockland County Code.
- Lastly, in *W.D v. County of Rockland*, a case that stemmed from the measles outbreak of 2019 where parents of the Green Meadow Waldorf School opposed the Commissioner of Health's school exclusion orders, the Court granted the County's motion for summary judgment and dismissed the parents' case.

### **Active Involvement in the Setup of the Office of Buildings & Codes and the ARPA Program**

- The Law Department also has been actively involved in setting up 1 new Department and 1 new program for the County.
- County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Assistant County Attorney Kimberly Von Ronn have been working diligently with the County Executive's Office, the Legislature, numerous other County Departments and the State for several months to create the new Office of Buildings & Codes, which has assumed the administration and enforcement of the State fire, building and energy conservation codes within the Village of Spring Valley. Our Law Department has been integrally involved not only with creating the new Department but with establishing the code enforcement program.
- Our Law Department also been actively involved with setting up the new ARPA program in the County Executive's Office. County Attorney Thomas Humbach, former Assistant County Attorney Alexandra Obremski and Assistant County Attorney William Hartnagel worked with representatives of the County Executive's Office for several months to draft resolutions accepting federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, creating positions and purchasing a grant software program. They further advised on the ARPA Task Force and the ARPA Interim Final Rule. More recently, they worked with the Program to set up the ARPA Reviving Rockland Restaurant Grant and the Rockland Food Security Grant, which will help restaurants and food pantries offset the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### **Projects That Generate Revenue for the County**

- Assistant County Attorney Charlotte Ramsey continues to work with the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to negotiate film contracts which generate significant revenue for the County. In 2021, they negotiated and finalized contracts for 32 projects totaling \$957,500.

### **Police Reform**

- Assistant County Attorney Jeanne Gilberg assisted the Sheriff's Office with complying with the Governor's Executive Order for Police Reform and with helping to organize the Police Reform Initiatives and Collaboration Report for the County Executive and the Legislature.

### **Assistance With Time Sensitive Personnel Resolutions**

- Working within a very narrow time frame, Assistant County Attorney Venita Whidbee-Jordan and Paralegal I Deborah Silverstein, worked collaboratively with County Attorney Thomas Humbach, the Personnel Department and Budget & Finance to get the resolutions ratifying the settled union contracts as well as the lump sum payment and merit increases for non-union management and non-union non-management submitted to the Legislature.

### **2022 Goals**

#### **IT Infrastructure Improvements That Will Modernize County Processes, Expedite County Contracting & Allow for Greater Transparency**

- County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta along with Assistant County Attorney Eugene Bondar have launched the implementation of a new contract for services that includes new standard contract terms to be used Countywide in contracting for services. The new contract template is user-friendly and written in language that laypersons will understand to make contracting with the County more accessible and efficient. The anticipated rollout of the new contract is in the second quarter of 2022.

#### **Efforts to Become a New York State Accredited CLE Provider**

- Led by Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta and Assistant County Attorney Venita Whidbee-Jordan, our Law Department has been working towards becoming a New York State Accredited Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Provider. Since 2020, all Law Department attorneys have begun researching and presenting their own CLE programs on a wide range of topics of interest for the County such as use of emergency directives, COVID litigation, election reform, etc. If accepted, our Law Department would become the only County Attorney's Office in the State to be on the CLE Board's current list of providers.

#### **Responses to FOIL Requests Received from the Public and the Media**

- County Attorney Thomas Humbach and Deputy County Attorney Brigitte Botta, along with former Assistant County Attorney Kate Fine and Assistant County Attorney Sheela George, have continued to assist the County's Records Access Officers with responding to Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests from the public and the media. This year, the County has received a multitude of FOIL requests ranging from the COVID-19 Pandemic to more standard requests regarding civil service exams. Currently, the Law Department has a unique FOIL request from the New York Times regarding 911 information that is pending an opinion before the New York State Committee on Open Government.



# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Susan Hoerter, Acting Commissioner

## **2021 Achievements**

- Worked with the Office of Mental Health to reallocate state aid to help provider agencies Implemented an “Enhanced Monitoring” track to improve oversight of programs and contracts to ensure community needs are being met and resources utilized most efficiently.
- Implemented quarterly financial reporting and year-end forecasting with contract agencies to improve fiscal oversight and maximize utilization of state aid so that services are optimized.
- Provided training and technical assistance to agency fiscal leads regarding state aid and CFR reporting as well as training on the new DMH financial reporting requirements.
- Increased community awareness of behavioral health issues and supports by tripling the number of posts submitted for County social media posting.
- Applied for and received OMH approval to reallocate state-aid to continue funding the Children’s CARE Team for ongoing support to youth and families.
- Increased Children’s SPOA to a full time, bilingual position, thereby increasing availability of the service to Rockland’s residents.
- Received an OMH block grant to strengthen Rockland’s Children System of Care by including youth and families as well as creating an online resource guide for providers and families to increase accessibility.
- Identified need for corrective action within crisis response system and implemented a corrective action plan.
- After 14 years of Westchester DMH training Rockland’s police recruits, Rockland DMH and community providers are now trainers for Rockland’s police recruits at RCPA.
- Implemented the Behavioral Health/Law Enforcement Interaction tool which identifies individuals involved in both systems so they can be referred to behavioral health treatment.
- Applied for and received state approval to implement the Mobile Access Program which will link police officers with the Behavioral Health Response Team for remote assessments over telemedicine.
- Initiated Mental Health and Police collaborative meetings to identify and serve individuals with cross-system involvement.

## **Substance Use Disorders**

- In 2021 there was an increase in Overdose Deaths in Rockland County with a large increase in Fentanyl related deaths. RCDMH focused on harm reduction techniques including increasing access to Narcan, offering Fentanyl test strips and ensuring that tele-practice treatment options continue throughout the SUD system of care.

- Partnered closely with the Rockland County District Attorney's Office, Clarkstown PD and the Crime Analysis Center to jointly analyze overdose information, create follow up plans and implement strategies to prevent further overdoses in high OD locations.
- Partnered with local peer agencies to follow up on all overdoses within the county.
- Worked closely with RCDOH to contract with PeerRX and local peer agencies to offer peer services within the emergency department at Montefiore Nyack Hospital.
- Partnered with the DEA, local police, peer, prevention and recovery agencies, and treatment providers for Drug Take Back Days.

## **2022 Goals**

- Implement a single-point-of-contact phone number (311) for all Rockland residents in need of behavioral health services, as recommended in the Behavioral Health Commission report.
- Develop an adolescent Partial Hospital Program in collaboration with Rockland BOCES and Astor services for children.
- Implement the Mobile Access Program which will link police officers with the Behavioral Health Response Team for remote assessments over telemedicine, thereby decreasing the need to transport individuals to the Emergency Department.
- Develop adolescent Intensive Outpatient Programs by collaborating with OMH and local providers.
- Link the new National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988) to local crisis resources so callers have a seamless, supportive experience.
- Commit staff resources to identify and address disparities in the behavioral health system.
- Respond to community concerns about emergency department and inpatient experiences by meeting regularly with hospital staff and collaborating on change, adding peers to the crisis response system.
- Utilize data to identify periods of greatest community need and increase children's CARE team coverage accordingly.
- Organize and implement workflow for a county-wide child/adolescent trauma response team.
- Increase clinic capacity for Rockland residents who are commercially-insured.
- Increase access to DBT Skills Groups.
- Implement training for the judicial system on the competency-to-stand-trial process and possible alternatives that may better address an individual's mental health needs.
- Expand utilization of the Behavioral Health/Law Enforcement Interaction tool.
- Work with the Sheriff's department to utilize State Aid to support the implementation of Medication Assisted Therapy at RC Jail.
- Work with local leaders to address behavioral health workforce issues.
- Introduce INSET program to support AOT or AOT eligible individuals.

## **Substance Use Disorders**

- Expand PeerRX to include both Rockland County hospitals to support and engage with substance use disorder patients.

- Continue to expand overdose responses and prevention by partnering with local law enforcement, treatment providers, peer agencies, prevention agencies and paramedics to prevent further overdoses.
- Expand SBIRT training to primary care, pediatrician, and hospital settings to identify problematic alcohol use or substance use.
- Implement a single point of contact to locate treatment, prevention counseling, peers, support groups and other aspects of the SUD system of care.

## **OFFICE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Jacki Scott, Director

### **2021 Achievements**

- Worked on an Office for People with Disabilities County website. Website pages were completed and sent to Rockland County's IT department. The website is now live and includes the homepage and transportation pages. Other pages will follow.
- Worked with the United Way Transportation Committee on a NY State grant to better coordinate transportation services in Rockland County, including seniors, our impoverished population and individual with disabilities. The grant was approved and I, along with another committee member, designed a survey to send out to providers as a first step in ascertaining needs of participants. All members, including myself, are in the process of contacting agencies and organizations to send the survey out. Once completed, a needs assessment can be completed so that next steps can be implemented.
- Meetings held with Director of Economic Development and Tourism Lucy Redzeposki and Matt Castelluccio, the Director of Independent Living at Bridges, regarding addressing the needs of people with disabilities in this area. We developed and completed a brochure for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism to use going forward that will address accessibility needs while meeting the goals of economic development and tourism for Rockland County.
- Formed a Resilience Steering Committee, consisting of representatives from the Probation Department, the County Executive's office, the Haverstraw Center, the Nyack Central School District, and the Ramapo Central Library System. Three trainings were held, as well as two additional Webinar trainings. We are in the process of purchasing 2 copies of the film. I had first formed the coalition pre-covid after arranging for a viewing and panel discussion of the documentary "Resilience." Future trainings and events resulting from that showing, including the formation of a Resilience Coalition, were put on hold when Covid closed down the County. We are in the midst of a revival and expansion presently.
- The Office for People with Disabilities was an integral part of the Rockland County Transition Fair planning committee. After having to cancel the event in 2020 due to the

pandemic, the Transition Fair took place, for the first time virtually this year on April 29, 2021. According to participant feedback to a follow-up survey that went out to the presenters, and participants, it was very successful. It ran smoothly and participants could easily access information, ask questions, and get feedback to their concerns from all the presenters. There were 212 registrants consisting of families and student with disabilities. Those familiar with doing virtual events thought this to be an excellent number of participants for a first virtual endeavor of this kind.

- From the time the vaccination process started at the Health Department, I worked closely with them to vaccinate Rockland County residents with disabilities. In speaking with the Department of Health, they estimate that between 2500 and 3000 people with disabilities were vaccinated due to our coordination. Along with the Department of Health, I also worked with Office for the Aging and other community-based agencies and schools in the County to ascertain the necessary information for Good Samaritan Hospital to vaccinate the homebound. Currently I am responding to calls and questions regarding boosters as well as additional homebound individuals who have not yet had their first Covid-19 vaccinations.

It is an ongoing effort. Since no service in Rockland has been willing to continue vaccines to homebound individuals, I located a retired anesthesiologist who is willing to provide the service. I gave the Department of Health her contact information. They met with the volunteer and sent her information to Human Resources for background checks, and final approval. Once that is finalized, the collaboration can begin and the vaccination process for individuals at home can proceed again.

- The Board of Elections Commissioners and I worked together to design standing signs to be placed at polling sites to alert voters with disabilities of that accommodations are available at each site. These signs will be made and used for subsequent elections.
- Metro-North Railroad Accessibility division convened a task force of which I was asked to participate. We held quarterly meetings at which there were presentations of crew training, station ambassadors and customer service coordination updates. In between the full committee members' meetings, a special meeting was called because of concerns I had brought up at previous meetings that directly concerned Rockland County railway stations with regards to travelers with disabilities. Other individuals that I brought into this meeting included Susan Meyer of the RC Transportation office and Matt Castellucio, Director of Independent Living at Bridges. We discussed the fact that accessibility issues continue to be an ongoing problem at our railway stations. A feasibility study is presently being conducted by Metro-North at the Pearl River train station on whether a high-level platform can be installed. When the study is complete, Metro-North will report back to us. They did not give a timeline. They did share a PowerPoint on their ADA training for all Metro-North personnel. Meetings will continue into 2022.
- I have been working with the newly opened Holocaust Museum at RCC to make it accessible to all. I invited specialists in fields such as the visually impaired, hearing impaired, those who work with emotional and learning challenges, as well as those who help the physical challenged, to make recommendations for accommodations for all who may visit or wish to participate in their educational programs. The Executive Director and Education Director have been very open to all accessibility needs. Changes are in the process of being implemented. We also developed a brochure to alert residents of the accessibility at the Museum and it is currently being revised and printed. When completed, I will send it out to all the Community-based agencies in the County and to school districts so that they, in turn, can send it to their participants. Changes in the Museum are ongoing, and all work should be completed by January 2022.

- Continued to work with Community Development and the Office of Human Rights, as well as with the African American Connection to distribute PPE and other essential items to individuals and agencies who, in turn, passed out needed items to their participants and those with disabilities who are in need. The goal of this collaboration was to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 and to help those in community in need. All our constituents are included in these endeavors, and we especially seek to include individuals with disabilities and the elderly, as they are an important part of the Rockland community, as are people of color and across religions. We also held backpack and school supply giveaways at the Haverstraw Center and the HAAC park and supplied free food. Both events were very successful with over 200 people taking part in the event at the park. Additionally, I was able to answer questions concerning disabilities that people had and could promote the Office for People with Disabilities.

## **2022 Goals**

- Expand the Resilience Coalition to include additional Rockland County representatives who wish to be part of this evidence-based solution to trauma. Within that expansion, we will hold “train the trainer” sessions and develop trainings for the public, agencies and schools with film showings, debriefing sessions, and the development of action plans.
- Finalize accessibility for all at the RCC Holocaust Center.
- Work will continue with Community Development, the Office for Human Rights, and the Haverstraw African American Connection as needs are assessed within the Rockland Community.
- Outreach and support will continue in order to get the homebound vaccinated, whether for the first time or for booster shots.
- Work within my office and my Challenge Collaborative and all providers and schools to address the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families in the effort to maximize access to equitable health, well-being, education and employment resources in Rockland County.
- Redesign the Election Guide and Tips for Voters with Disabilities currently available at the Board of Elections to make it more user friendly for those with accessibility needs.
- Continue work with the Metro North Taskforce to make accessibility much needed improvements to our rail stations and continue work with the United Way Transportation Committee to improve out transportation needs in the County.

# PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Lori Gruebel, Commissioner

## 2021 Achievements

### Labor Relations

- Settled 5 union contracts covering over 1700 employees including COVID pay, paid Juneteenth holiday, salary table reductions, increase of insurance for new hires operational changes. All of which were completed in two weeks with fiscally responsible provisions and operational changes that will impact the short- and long-term financials and performance for the County of Rockland.
- Handled over 50 disciplinary cases, grievances, arbitration.
- Handled hundreds of contract interpretation, discipline guidance and settlement provisions covering all 28 departments in the County of Rockland.

### Exams and Local Municipalities

- Police exam- held Police exam during COVID for approx. 3000 candidates. Reviewed and processed over 5k applications. Executed Police exam in one day with two 1500 applicant holdings.
- Agility- processed and held agility for approx. 1000 candidates covering Police and Corrections across the County including all Police and Sheriff Departments.
- Team restructure-staffing changes and process automation across all exams
- Application automation.
- Payroll process changes LMS- automated and updated the payroll process for over 10k clients covering local municipalities, libraries and schools. Saving the County and LMS clients hundreds of hours of work and manual intervention.
- Totals of work handled.
- Handled thousands of transactions, classifications, payroll certifications, new hire and other transactions impacting employment, payroll entries for longevity, merit increases and other changes impacting pay status for the entire County, Towns/Villages, Schools, Police departments and libraries.

### Human Resources and Payroll

- Negotiated a 6K savings on a contract with Qualtrics to provide online analytics of the annual employee engagement survey. The streamlined reporting of data has saved our department over 300 hours of manual entries to produce final results. The system is more efficient and provides better analytics to departments allowing for the implementation of targeted action plans.
- EEO Training and Automation- over 1,200 employees have completed the on-line EEO and WPV training. 300 employees without access to email have been trained in the classroom.

- In 1Q the Online learning library was created for the professional development of employees and supervisors. A total of 60 courses were added to the library, 30 for all employees and 30 additional courses for supervisors. To date approximately 220 employees have utilized the platform and the course content has been viewed and utilized approximately 775 times.
- First half of 2021 worked with departments to conduct virtual onboarding. In July, reinstituted in-person centralized onboarding for all departments. Updated all program materials.
- We have successfully migrated the manual process of Edge applications to OnBase and automated as well as coordinated the process with RCC.
- Worked with IT on migrating the payroll records on microfiche into onBase saving hundreds of hours of time when processing salary and service requests from NYSLRS.
- Included our unit on the termination form in OnBase saving County Ops from having to manually notify our unit of the terminal leave pay necessary for processing SAPs.

#### ePerformance

- ePerformance training classes were held for new supervisors in January on writing SMART goals, in June for the mid-year evaluation and in October to prepare for the year-end evaluation.
- Over 90% of supervisors utilize and complete ePerformance objectives to manage employee performance.

#### Unemployment

- First half of 2021 processed approximately 100 fraudulent unemployment claims and processed over 100 additional unemployment claims.
- In 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter we moved to on-line unemployment reporting, Sides E-Response. This eliminates the paper notification and allows us to respond electronically and on a timelier basis.
- Recommended and insured the County received a DOL UI refund of 262K.

In addition, our office continues to implement and process:

- Retirements- 97 employees have filed for retirement this year so far. Held a virtual retirement seminar with 120 attendees.
- FMLA/ESL-processed 83 new claims, not including renewals and extensions.
- EEO Complaints-15 EEO Cases.
- ADA Accommodations – 18 requests.
- 2021 EEO-4 Report.
- Process World Trade Center Sick Leave Reimbursements.

#### Engagement Survey Results

- Satisfaction rate over 80%.
- Year over year improvement in every category.
- 100% participation rate.

## **2022 Goals**

- Complete outstanding labor agreements with three unions.
- Create and execute further training for staff development (i.e. managerial, diversity, process improvement).
- Physical agility, medicals and psychological evaluations for the Police list including the Sheriff and all Police departments in Rockland County (over 2,000 candidates).
- Further automation and process improvement covering over 95% of the transactions and processes handled in Personnel.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

Douglas Schuetz, Acting Commissioner

## **2021 Achievements**

### Land Use

- Completed 741 General Municipal Law (GML) development applications for municipalities within Rockland County, a record high. The previous record for number of GML reviews was 689 in 2018. The number of reviews completed in 2021 exceeded the 2016-2020 Five Year Average of 593.8 by approximately 25%. These 741 total applications included the review of 2,466 acres, 4,128 proposed dwelling units, 379 new lots, and 3,099,528 sq. ft. of additional space. Of these, the Rockland County Planning Board reviewed and offered guidance on 20 GML referrals in 2021. Of the 741 reviews, 34 included development proposals that entailed the construction of 25,000 square feet or greater; four with 10 or more new lots; 23 included development plans for 50 or more new dwelling units; and four encompassed the review of a municipality's comprehensive plan. Among the reviews were 42 subdivisions, 202 site plans, 348 variances, 41 special permits and 11 zone changes.
- Reviewed several large-scale projects, including Vanderbilt Grande, Pascack Ridge, Squadron Development and Admiral's Cove. Several GMLs involved zoning map amendments and zoning ordinance reviews including the complete revision of the Upper Nyack zoning code. In addition to the 741 GML reviews, the land use planning staff also reviewed eight draft or final environmental impact statements for large scale project proposals, including the Watchtower Audio/Video Production Center and Buckley Farms, as well as Comprehensive Plans for the Town of Clarkstown, Village of Chestnut Ridge, Village of Haverstraw, and the Town of Ramapo's Northeast Development Plan.
- Planned, coordinated, and oversaw all functions of the Rockland Municipal Planning Federation (RMPF). This included planning online educational sessions and helping to advertise educational sessions sponsored by other agencies so that planning board and zoning board of appeals members could continue to attain the State-mandated training hours. With assistance from other non-County agencies to host the webinar events, the land use staff and Planning Federation were able to provide these critical educational trainings via webinars in 2021. The Planning Federation directly offered nine educational



sessions (18 training hours) for more than 450 board members in 2021. In total, the Federation sponsored or promoted 41 educational sessions in 2021 for a total of 72 hours of training. Training credit hours were awarded 1,070 times. While the majority of training has been provided remotely, we were able to offer two educational canoe outings at Iona Island during the summer months. Educational sessions sponsored by the Planning Federation included topics that covered overviews of the role of land use boards, current trends in retail and residential developments, issues regarding non-conforming uses, and updates on relevant case law.

- Through the SEQRA process, reviewed two Scoping documents, five Draft Environmental Impact Statements and three Final Environmental Impact Statements for major proposed projects.
- Drafted and finalized the Six-Year 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan for all departments in the County.
- Reviewed and prepared 12 SEQRA determinations for County capital projects, which included preparation of Notes to File for Type II Actions.
- Assisted the Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources with field inspections of potential acquisitions under the County's Open Space Acquisition program and created land use briefs for each property.
- Staff provided assistance and guidance, as needed, to other County departments related to the SEQRA process.
- Planning Department staff researched and provided comments on proposed State legislation that would mandate the permitting of accessory dwelling units in all residential districts.
- Continued the process of implementing a new multi-department centralized Rockland County land use records management system.
- Staff planned, coordinated and were liaison to the Rockland County Planning Board, Historic Preservation Board, and the Rockland Riverfront Communities Council. Each board meets monthly and staff are responsible for setting the agenda, compiling minutes, and ensuring that the boards remain active so that they can provide relevant feedback regarding issues associated with their expertise.
- Continued cross-training efforts of staff so that responsibilities and duties can be successfully completed by others. This was important as three staff members retired. Staff also attended many training sessions that focused on not only land use issues and daily tasks, but also on office protocols and management information.

## GIS

- Maintained the Rockland County COVID-19 dashboards, which provide metrics by zip code in either tabular or graphical format indicating total Rockland residents tested, reported cases, confirmed cases, active cases, deaths and hospitalization data.
- Continued the process of implementing a new centralized Rockland County land use records management system.
- Continued to update and maintain mission critical street, address point and various other emergency response layers for multiple dispatch systems including 44-Control (NewWorld), Rockland County Sheriff's office (Spillman) and the Town of Clarkstown (NewWorld).

- Completed mandated tax map maintenance of more the 90,000 parcels countywide. Updated and delivered the 2021 tax maps to Towns and Villages.
- Continued to satisfy map and data requests from other County departments and personnel.
- Successfully cross-trained staff with various specific projects and datasets and participated in numerous training opportunities.
- Development of a GIS application, referred to as the Rockland County PFOA/PFOS Lookup Application for private well owners to determine if their well is near a point where PFOA or PFOS has been detected. This tool will identify whether your property is within ¼ mile of a location where either contaminant has been detected and whether those detections exceed MCLs associated with NYS drinking water standards.
- Continued to update GIS Portal – Interactive Mapping Applications, Data and Maps for the general public to access.
- Development of a field application to assist DSS with Homeless Outreach.
- Development of an Interactive Mapping application for the Office of Mental Health.
- As project manager, continued to lead the implementation of the new Rockland County land use records management system. Continue to monitor timeline and project milestones. This multi-departmental project will enable land use development-related records to be centralized and will streamline the process, along with incorporating the County GIS. The net result is an improved digital process, internally between the involved County departments, as well as improved communication between the organizations. Additionally, it improves the infrastructure and process workflow between the County and our customers, especially local government. This project will improve transparency public access.

## **2022 Goals**

### **Land Use**

- Continue to review the GML development applications referred by towns and villages, and work on the Complete Streets initiative.
- With the RMPF, coordinate and plan educational sessions for municipal planning and zoning board of appeals members, including sessions already in the planning phase.
- Review and prepare State Environmental Quality Review Act determinations for County capital projects for all departments.
- Review DEIS, FEIS, Scoping documents and other SEQRA-related documents for large-scale development proposals and planned municipal comprehensive plan updates.
- Continue to lead the implementation of the new Rockland County land use records management system, monitoring timeline and project milestones.
- Work with the Budget Department to create the six-year Capital Improvement Budget for 2023-2028.
- Continue to staff, plan and coordinate the three boards/councils that focus on land-use related issues (Hudson River, development applications, historic preservation).
- Continue training and cross-training efforts for all staff so that seamless transition can continue to occur and new employees can obtain necessary insight into office protocols, management guidance and policies.

- Develop and issue an RFP, to begin the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan.

## GIS

- Maintain the COVID-19 dashboards with regular data updates. Prepare map and analytical products as requested. Continue to develop new products as needed, including but not limited to economic development, vaccine distribution, etc.
- Launch the new shared services Rockland County multi-departmental land use records management system, enabling applicants to monitor land use applications, apply for permits and inspections online, and more.
- Maintain and improve the quality of the GIS data products, which contribute to or serve as the digital foundation for various mission critical systems such as the Rockland County GIS Portal, the 911 computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system, the Board of Election voter database system among others. Create new GIS data layers where necessary. Find a way to obtain updated aerial imagery to incorporate into our GIS applications.
- Continue to improve the functionality and appearance of the Rockland County GIS Portal. This effort will provide greater flexibility in updating data more frequently, launching new topic-specific applications faster and making other technological improvements.
- Continue to educate and train municipal employees and Planning Federation members, zoning boards, planning boards, clerks, engineers and others about the existing online GIS applications (Municipal Map) and GIS data (parcels, flood zones, wetlands, etc.) available through the GIS portal. These applications and GIS data are very useful for subdivision and site plan review, environmental analysis and code enforcement.
- Work with the Town Assessors and the Real Property Director to resolve new and outstanding tax mapping issues as they arise. Use the analytical tools of GIS to quality control the source information (owner, address, type, etc.) against other administrative data. Continue to address tax map issues & train Town Assessors to use the Issue Tracker to resolve issues.
- Look at improving the current methods of field data collection for emergency service applications such as the road obstruction application. Work with Emergency Services and their software vendor to identify how using new concurrent web-based data entry methods in combination with smart phone applications would improve data collection and incorporate those into a web-based application that will be able to provide real time or near real time emergency situational awareness.
- Work with appropriate County partners, to create new election, legislative and voting district maps based on the 2020 Census.
- Implement an aerial photography program, to obtain annual imagery updates a part of a shared services initiative.
- Develop the appropriate GIS related products, to assist and enable the Sheriff's office to implement a new software for emergency response for 44-Control.

# PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Joseph DiCarlo, Director

## **2021 Achievements**

- Probation continues to work with our partner agencies Police, Courts, Sheriff, DA, PD and County Attorney to streamline our processes with raise the age implementation for 17-year-olds.
- Probation was successful in diverting 86% of youth ages 17 and under from entering the Family Court system. A powerful step in helping these youth reach their full potential.
- Probation Officers utilize a new rapid risk indicator tool to assess for suicidal ideation and human trafficking within our Juvenile population.
- The monitoring of IIDs. There seems to be a lot of interest in the device from a public safety perspective and it makes sense that we get the recognition we deserve for monitoring all these cases.
- DWI- Completed intakes and currently monitoring 112 IID CD clients.
- Three joint probation/police operations (2 Give, 1 RCSO Halloween) throughout the year
- PO Puelles completed three weeks of training to become an Offender Workforce Development Specialist. She graduated her first READY SET WORK class in November 2021.
- Began seeing juvenile population and their families in the Kurtz center in Spring Valley, fostering neighborhood relations.
- Probation continues to train our staff and implement cognitive interventions (Interactive Journaling), for our juvenile population especially useful during COVID.
- Collected and disbursed over \$ 225,000.00 in fines, fees and restitution for the County and distributed \$97,000 in restitution to approximately three hundred (300) victims of crime.
- Probation serviced 436 Family Offense petitions for victims of Domestic Violence and over 597 Custody and visitation petitions for the citizens of Rockland County.

## **2022 Goals**

- To partner with local Police and continue to utilize the YPI (Youth Police Initiative) program.
- To decrease recidivism in our juvenile population.
- We look to maximize the use of the Kurtz center and offer evidenced based services for our juvenile population.

- Probation will continue to work with our partner agencies Police, Courts, Sheriff, DA, PD and County Attorney to protect our communities and streamline our processes with raise the age implementation for 17-year-olds.
- Probation looks to increase our diversion rates above 86% of youth ages 17 and under from entering the Family Court system.
- We look to develop and enhance in house/regional training capacity for our department and look to have up to four Officers certified as NYS Instructors. Once accredited, develop a departmental training unit, implementing in person, “core” course training for the Department and region.
- Fully train our adult supervision officers in cognitive behavioral interventions and identify and implement services for those we supervise.
- Probation will continue to work with Spring Valley Police under NYS Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE). GIVE provides state funding to local law enforcement agencies for equipment, overtime, personnel, as well as focused training and technical assistance. GIVE is a key component of New York State's shooting and homicide reduction strategy.
- We look to Provide Pre-Trial Supervision services to the county's courts when/if court appearances return to some semblance of normalcy.

## **PUBLIC DEFENDER**

James Licata, Public Defender

### **2021 Achievements**

- Completed revamping of interview, bail and discovery procedures to accommodate January 1, 2020 changes in law. This included involvement with IT regarding service of discovery materials by the District Attorney.
- Worked with Assigned Counsel (18-b) for coverage on conflict arraignments.
- Coordinated with Rockland County Bar Association/Assigned Counsel (18-b) with CLE's and training on significant changes to discovery and bail statues that took effect January 1, 2020.
- Revamped interview process for non-contact as per COVID restrictions.
- Transitioned to paperless files. Presently two (2) of twenty-two (22) Justice Courts are paperless.
- Worked with case management sponsor to create new system to allow attorneys access to our Case Management System from court.
- Provided information and access to clients for virtual appearances.

### **2022 Goals**

- Continue transition to paperless files so that all twenty-two (22) Justice Courts are paperless.
- Continue plan with Assigned Counsel (18-b) for coverage on arraignments.
- Implement procedure to scan and shred all old and archived files to make them searchable and accessible to our attorneys.
- Finalize non-contact interview space to accomplish client interviews once COVID restrictions are relaxed, including better use of office space. County architect preparing plan.
- Continue coordination with Rockland County Bar Association/Assigned Counsel (18-b) to work with CLE's and trainings regarding new laws.

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Douglas Schuetz, Acting Commissioner

### **2021 Achievements**

- Continued to provide a full level of TRIPS and TOR bus service, with no service cuts, to ensure public transit options remain available for essential workers and for residents who have essential travel needs.
- Continued to sustain expanded cleaning and sanitizing procedures and methods for both the TRIPS and TOR bus systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Continued with back-door boarding procedures and waiving fare collection to help limit personal contact.
- Continued to provide all Departmental services, including customer services, and met all Federal and State mandates and requirements during the year.
- Continued to administer the CARES Act grant funding awarded to the Department in December 2020 for COVID-19 related expenses, including emergency relief operating assistance, PPE, cleaning, sanitizing, maintaining and managing the TOR and TRIPS bus systems and facilities. The 5307 - Urbanized Area Formula Grants (CARES Act) grant of approximately \$18.5 M is 100% federal funds with no local match required.
- In November, NYMTC approved the region's distribution of Federal transit funding from both the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with Rockland County being allocated a combined total of approximately \$24.5M to cover increased operating costs of public transit for both TOR and TRIPS during the ongoing public health emergency, including the purchase of personal protective equipment and continued emergency relief operating assistance.
- In February, placed four new 26' low-floor cutaway buses, made by ARBOC Specialty Vehicles, into the TOR bus service fleet. These four buses were 100% funded by NYS DOT.

- Exercised an existing contract option to purchase 20 Gillig buses for TOR, which are expected to begin production in March 2022. In line with TOR's bus replacement schedule, these buses should enter the TOR fleet by the end of summer 2022.
- Added five new modified Dodge Grand Caravans to the TRIPS fleet which replaced the five retiring MV-1 vehicles. These smaller TRIPS vehicles provide greater flexibility in reaching and assisting Rockland County residents with disabilities who depend on TRIPS for public transportation. The smaller vehicles can access locations that the larger buses cannot and enable TRIPS to serve more residents more efficiently. These five vehicles were 100% funded by NYS DOT.
- Continued to make all bus purchases with State, Federal and local dedicated transportation funding. No County tax dollars are used.
- Continuing Rockland's role in regional transportation planning, County Executive Ed Day completed his term as Co-Chair of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) during the NYMTC Annual Council Meeting, held virtually on February 25<sup>th</sup>. A resolution was passed acknowledging his service. County Executive Day's opening remarks at the meeting included the following: "Increasing transit access must continue to be a vital goal, along with increasing transit service in under-served communities. In our current climate, restoring transit service lost during the pandemic must also be a top priority. Our communities and our economies depend on it. As businesses and venues reopen in the city and the region, our workers and residents need ways to get there – especially from places like Rockland County that already had limited transit options to the region's core." During this meeting, NYMTC members also voted to approve the 2021-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which includes funds for a Palisades Interstate Parkway Shared Use Path Feasibility Study and the Clarkstown Safety and Sustainability Study for Routes 303 & 304.
- As a voting member of NYMTC, Rockland County continued to work with its regional partners on NYMTC's next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for New York City, the Lower Hudson Valley and Long Island. The Plan was adopted during a NYMTC Council meeting on September 9th.
- During the September NYMTC Council meeting, the Federal Infrastructure bill was discussed, and it was indicated that County Executive Day looks forward to working with FTA and the NYMTC membership to prioritize FTA's Capital Investment Program and set-aside funds from the Infrastructure bill for the Gateway project - a project of tremendous importance, not only for Rockland County but for the entire region, in terms of both regional mobility and economic health.
- Through the Department's Bus Shelter Program, made repairs and replaced panels as needed throughout the County and installed solar lighting kits on seven bus shelters. Over the summer, a double shelter was placed on Smith Street in Nanuet to serve commuters at the Smith Street Park & Ride facility.
- Secured funding in the amount of nearly \$4.9M through the NYS DOT Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP) for transit capital projects including bus purchases, Park & Rides and bus shelters.
- Continued Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition **for the West Shore Railroad Safety Improvement & Quiet Zone project**. Worked extensively with CSX Railroad and NYS DOT towards agreement on a gate plan and signal configurations. Continued adhering to the specific FHWA procedures required of this Locally-Administered Federal Aid Project.
- Continued to prepare ADA Transition Plan Program for public review.

- Completed the mandated NY State Transportation Operating Assisting (STOA) Audit with Marks Paneth, Single Day Federal Audit and 17-a Annual Financial and Performance Review reporting.
- In coordination with NYMTC, continued ongoing review of programmatic and analytical elements of regional emission analyses and transportation conformity determinations.
- Completed mandates and needs of CMAQ/TDM for the program year.
- Continued to work with regional partners to complete the updated FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and build the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for highway and transit projects.
- Related to the Department's Capital projects, completed the closeout for the Monsey Park & Ride facility project with Tomco Construction; with the Rockland County Highway Department, completed repaving for the Smith Street Park & Ride facility and repaving and drainage for the Building T Parking Lot.
- Continued to monitor NJ TRANSIT and MTA Metro-North Commuter Rail service performance and advocated for improvements for Rockland County residents.
- Supported the County Executive's successful efforts to restore service to Metro-North's West of Hudson rail lines and the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry. Assisted with the County Executive's continued efforts with Metro-North and NJ Transit to freeze West of Hudson rail fares and negotiate improved service via a tougher service contract between Metro-North and NJ Transit.
- Conducted data analysis activities, prepared public data products and provided technical support regarding the initial results of the 2020 Census for Rockland County and its towns and villages.
- Provided staff support to other County departments with continuing COVID response efforts, including aiding the Office for the Aging with its food delivery program and vaccine call center, assisting the Department of Health with contact tracing efforts and helping Purchasing with the County's acquisition and distribution of PPE.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue to provide TRIPS and TOR service to ensure public transit options remain available for essential workers and for residents who have essential travel needs.
- Continue to support the County's response to COVID-19, including continued efforts to provide staff resources for PPE distribution and contact tracing.
- Take delivery of 20 new 35- and 40-foot Gillig transit buses for TOR and place them into service.
- Purchase as many as 23 new TRIPS paratransit service buses using Federal and State funding and NO COUNTY TAX DOLLARS.
- Complete work on the TOR Routing Analysis to identify strategies to improve service performance and efficiency, and begin to implement planned technology improvements for TOR.
- Adjust schedules for TOR routes to address traffic congestion impacts, improve on-time performance and potentially serve new destinations with demonstrated high demand for transit service.
- Implement service improvements to TOR that meet the County's established Routing Guidelines, including significant ridership demand, operational considerations that are deemed safe and efficient, and sustainable funding.
- Continue to secure Federal and State funding for operations and capital infrastructure improvements.



- Secure ongoing annual funding from Metro-North for TOR to serve as a connecting service with Hudson Link and Metro-North.
- Complete all quarterly Federal & State transportation mandates.
- Continue work with the US Census Bureau and State Data Center as 2020 Census data is released and analyzed.
- Continue to monitor NJ TRANSIT and MTA Metro-North Commuter Rail service performance and advocate for/negotiate improvements for Rockland County residents.
- Complete ROW acquisition for the Railroad Safety & Quiet Zone project and move into final design phase. Begin to develop the CSX construction schedule and contract. Continue working with NYS DOT and CSX to gain consensus on an approved gate plan, signalization plan and other requirements associated with this Locally-Administered Federal Aid Project.
- Continue work with NYMTC on the Federally-required programs and projects.
- Begin to implement the ADA Transition Plan for County transit facilities.
- Through the Department's Bus Shelter Program, continue to identify appropriate locations for new bus shelters and replace existing bus shelters that have reached the end of their useful lives. Continue to repair and replace components and panels as needed.
- Implement a Bus Shelter Solar Lighting campaign to install solar lighting kits on existing bus shelters throughout the entire Rockland County public transportation system to enhance safety and increase ease of use at night for transit ridership.
- Continue to work with Orangetown to begin the construction of the new Sparkill Park & Ride facility.
- Continue to provide training and cross training opportunities to staff in order to continue to provide essential services and to aid in our efforts toward succession planning.
- Improve customer service for both TOR and TRIPS services by capitalizing on recent phone system upgrades and in developing call centers to more directly route customers.
- With NYMTC and Clarkstown, begin to develop an RFP for the selection of consultants for the Clarkstown Safety and Sustainability Study for the Route 303 & 304 corridors.
- Assist Facilities Management to make improvements to the Building T facility and systems, including a roof replacement, HVAC system, security enhancements and fuel tank replacement, by providing Federal and State funding, input to procurement solicitation documents and oversight regarding the adherence to Federal and State guidelines and requirements.

# SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Louis Falco III, Sheriff

## **2021 Achievements**

### **Police Division**

- Implemented several recommendations identified during Criminal Justice Reform Collaboration.
- Completed a pilot of a Body Worn Camera program (BWC).
- Convert former bomb response truck into the new DWI Van/Emergency Services Vehicle.
- Set up security post at Bldg. A main entrance with additional measures.
- Established the position of a records Supervisor to oversee increased requirements created by discovery reform.
- Implement new Policy Management software.

### **Corrections**

- Despite challenges from COVID and short staffing, met required training mandates (suicide refresher, 4 hrs.; legal issues, 4 hrs.; first aid, 8 hrs.; CPR, 8 hrs.; fire safety, 4 hrs.; use of force, 1 hr.; firearms/OC refresher, 8 hrs.; duty to intercede, 1.5 hrs.; PREA refresher, 2 hrs.; EEO, 2 hrs.; DT/baton/CED, 4 hrs.) for all staff.
- Continued to manage COVID and institute changes as guidance was updated/amended.
- Effective January 21, enacted policy for every inmate to be issued facemask, to be worn whenever outside cell and given a new mask every day.
- Reinstated conventional, in-person Line-Up, now conducted in Delta Wing.
- Assembled team to prepare for 2021 Accreditation.
- Maintained compliance with the 166 standards for NYS Sheriff's Association Jail Accreditation Program. Our re-accreditation site visit/inspection from the Association is scheduled for December 16 and 17 and am confident we will have 100% compliance.
- Switched over and updated inmate phone system from GTL to Securus Technologies.
- Applied for and received variance from COC to supply each inmate with a tablet. Wrote policy and distributed Securus tablets to all inmates.
- Applied for and received variance from COC to switch to digital mail for inmates.
- Wrote policy and instituted changeover, effective December 1, 2021. Inmate mail is inspected off site, scanned and sent to the inmates tablet, greatly enhancing facility security.
- Reopened in person visits under strict COVID controls.
- Switched from Policy Tech to Power DMS for online Policy management.
- Updated inmate commissary banking accounts to new, cloud-based platform.

- Added inmate vending machines to all housing units.
- Added cameras to A Wing to eliminate blind spots.
- Replaced old magnetic intake census board with new digital board, now located in the Classification Office.
- Introduced Skype calls for attorneys to have easier access to inmates.
- Continued Parole Hearings via WebEx.
- Continued Virtual Court under various platforms, over 1,000 Court appearances conducted thus far.
- Completed trial period for body worn cameras.
- Replaced body armor for 87 staff members.
- Outfitted entire Division with pepper spray as another less lethal form of defense/protection.
- Wrote new policy for voting rights of convicted felons, detailing their voting rights are restored upon release and to provide voter registration forms.
- Applied for and was granted approval from COC and OCFS to house minor inmates when no beds are available at specialized secure detention facilities. Wrote new policy and procedures for same.
- Completed ceramic tile and other repairs in E Wing in order to house minor inmates.

#### Civil Division

- The Civil Enforcement Division continues to be an active participant in the County's Illegal Housing Task Force by making referrals to building code enforcement officers as well as the County health department. These referrals assist in identifying a potential hazardous condition to the residents as well as first responders. This has assisted in getting corrective action to alleviate the hazards and illegal conversions in our community. In 2018, the Civil Enforcement Division recommended an initiative to increase the compliance and collection of unpaid fines levied upon landlords and property owners refusing to pay by converting those fines into money judgments thus allowing the Sheriff to seize assets of these individuals when avoiding payment of fines assessed. In 2021, the Civil Enforcement Division has collected approximately \$100,000 in sanitary code violation fines that were converted into money judgments through this initiative. Since the inception, the Civil Enforcement Division has collected approximately \$550,000 in unpaid fines/judgements.
- The Civil Enforcement Division seized approximately \$3 million dollars for reimbursement to the residents of Rockland County and other plaintiffs in court related actions.
- Implemented new Policy/Accreditation management software for greater accountability and management of department polices and accreditation standards.
- Issued Cellular Phones to all sworn personnel to comply and assist with the new discovery laws.

#### Communications Division

- Started construction of a new Mobile Field Communications Vehicle.
- Chosen by RapidSOS as their Center of Choice for a video on successful integration. RapidSOS is a new configurable system designed to streamline the way emergency communications centers gather and process data in real-time from 9-1-1 calls while

improving the guidance about the incident they provide to both the responder and the citizen in distress.

- Transitioned to full dispatch of the New York State Police after the merger of the NYS Park Police.
- Provided Emergency Medical Dispatch which resulted in 5 Cardiac Arrest saves.
- Provided Emergency Medical Dispatch which resulted in 1 successful delivery of a baby.

## **2022 Goals**

### **Police Division**

- Implemented several recommendations identified during Criminal Justice Reform Collaboration.
- Completed a pilot of a Body Worn Camera program (BWC).
- Convert former bomb response truck into the new DWI Van/Emergency Services Vehicle.
- Set up security post at Bldg. A main entrance with additional measures.
- Established the position of a records Supervisor to oversee increased requirements created by discovery reform.
- Implement new Policy Management software.

### **Corrections**

- Create ADA compliant cell.
- Continue to install high-definition cameras to replace existing throughout facility.
- Continue to upgrade facility CCTV system with new NVR's, new cable runs, and new camera locations in all wings to eliminate blind spots. A Wing and F Wing have been completed.
- Continue in-house training to meet standards of DCJS and NYS Accreditation.
- Upgrade current JMS. Internal security system/locks all need updating.
- Obtain supply of locks, manual and electronic to replace existing locks which fail.
- Improve appearance of front façade to coordinate with new parking, lighting, and signage.
- Install ramps on recreation yard steps.
- Restore Specialized Security Cell in F Wing.
- Repair ceramic tile in kitchen floor near steam kettle.
- Tile floor of Intake Booking area.
- Complete Correction Officer Academy for new hires.
- Complete Supervisor Academy for new Sergeants.

### **Civil Division**

- Enhance the training program in conjunction with the police academy to train all police officers in the handling of landlord/tenant issues prior to enforcement as well as an overview of the Civil Enforcement Division.
- Develop system to deliver intelligence briefings, police officer safety and information bulletins electronically to staff.
- Enhance and update the Civil Division's web page.

- Research and implement risk management software to prevent undue liability toward this agency.
- Review/audit of all active cases.

#### Communications Division

- Deploy and put into service a new Mobile Field Communications Vehicle.
- Perform final optimization, complete training, and move into a new Alternate Emergency Communications Center.
- Deploy APCO Law Enforcement Communications.
- Deploy APCO Intellicomm, a new configurable system designed to streamline the way emergency communications centers gather and process data in real-time from 9-1-1 calls, while improving the guidance about the incident they provide to both the responder and the citizen in distress.
- Replace 10-year-old backup batteries at all Trunked Radio Sub-sites.

## **SEWER DISTRICT #1**

Michael Saber, Director

#### 2020 Achievements

- Twenty-one generators from the Phase I and II Pump Station Emergency Generator and Fuel Oil Tank Replacement projects using Sandy Mitigation Loan Program are online.
- Obtained authorization for financing the Union Hill and Tallman Pump Station Upgrade project.
- Obtained authorization for financing the Sludge Dewatering Upgrade project.
- Maintained operations through the COVID pandemic.
- Completed required infiltration and inflow removal per our SPDES permit.
- Began construction on the equipment replacement project at the WWTP in Orangeburg.

#### 2021 Goals

- Start producing electricity from the Combined Heat and Power Project.
- Enter into a contract for the design and construction of the Odor Control Replacement and Upgrade Project.
- Finalize SPDES limits with the NYSDEC.
- Begin construction work for the Main Pump Station Upgrade project.
- Begin design for the Union Hill and Tallman Pump Station Upgrade project.
- Begin design for the Sludge Dewatering Upgrade project.

# DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Joan Silvestri, Commissioner

## **2021 Achievements**

- Provided outreach efforts and application assistance throughout Rockland County to tenants for the Emergency Rental Assistance for those effected by the pandemic. Rockland County is leading the state with the percentage of allocated funds committed and distributed to date. Over 2,000 applications have been submitted and over \$16 million has been committed or distributed.
- Processed payments exceeding \$2.2 million for assistance for utility assistance for Rockland residents effected by the pandemic.
- Obtained additional grants for supportive housing and homelessness prevention. Collaborated with community partners to provide community-based showering, meals, and laundry service to homeless individuals. Expanded our homeless outreach efforts and now include mental health and physical health supports as well as peer interaction.
- Rockland remains the County with the lowest percentage of children in foster care placement and is topped ranked for their work in child safety measurements. We continue to expand Kinship foster care. We successfully implemented the requirements of the new federal legislation referred to as Family First which significantly changed reduced the placement of foster children in congregate care settings.
- Over 800 APS cases were investigated and resolved.
- Expanded the Parent and Adolescent Response Team designed to provide counseling and intervention for at risk youth and parents to avoid higher level of system involvement.
- Expanded families receiving childcare subsidies by over \$1 million utilizing additional grant dollars and applying for COVID waivers.
- In conjunction with vendor, developed a completely mechanized contract submission, approval, and payment system for DSS vendors.
- Launch an online Foster and Adoptive parent portal for recruitment and training of prospective parents. This model is now being replicated by other counties.
- DSS volunteered to become the Rockland County lead agency for the outreach, application, submission, and casework for new HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers that are aimed at homeless or those at risk of homelessness to be able to stabilize their housing for a ten-year period. To date, 63 Rockland families and individuals have received these vouchers.

## **2022 Goals**

- Continue to provide support to the community, adjusting resources to meet those requirements ensuring that we identify gaps in services and respond in a timely way to emerging needs.

- Continue to implement the provisions of the Family First Act, reducing foster children in congregate care through expansion of Kinship care and foster homes.
- As the moratorium on evictions has expired, prevent evictions and homelessness by expanding supportive housing, rental assistance and expanding the use of Emergency Housing Vouchers.
- Develop and implement new policies and processes associated with state mandated changes to the Personal Care and Child Welfare programs.

## **STOP-DWI**

Albert Del Principio, Coordinator

### **2021 Achievements**

- Successfully completed the Audit conducted by the GTSC.
- Created a better more efficient Victim Impact Panel Court Referral Form. The form was sent to all the courts and put into use.
- Restarted in-person Victim Impact Panels (VIP) in August 2021.
- Increased County Revenue through our VIP program (\$50 per attendee).
- Increased the number of in-person English VIPs to once a month (12).
- Offered Spanish VIPs quarterly (4).
- Coordinator developed a consistent, NYS STOP-DWI approved Victim Impact Panel curriculum, presentation, and victim speaker(s).
- Created age-appropriate STOP-DWI curriculum for school/community assemblies and events.
- Coordinator and consultants provided on campus in-person school presentations/assemblies at high schools and middle schools.
- Budgeted funds were equitably shared with our municipal police departments with monies allocated for DWI enforcement.
- DWI enforcement equipment was purchased through the STOP-DWI program and shared with municipal police departments.
- Always maintained a current stock of the appropriate amount of DWI equipment and test kits in the STOP-DWI Office. An accurate record of all items provided to each police agency was kept.
- Updated the STOP-DWI County of Rockland webpage.
- Updated the NYS STOP-DWI webpage.
- Reinforced our relationship with the County of Rockland Police Academy by providing more instruction and equipment to recruits.
- Significantly increased the number of DWI Checkpoints and Enforcement throughout 2021 in County of Rockland.
- Converted English VIP documents to Spanish.
- Created two-hour Spanish VIP Presentation, NYS Approved.

- Created two-hour English VIP Presentation, NYS Approved.
- 2021 Semi-Annual DWI statistics (01/2021 & 06/2021) collected.
- Attended regional STOP-DWI VIP sessions, meetings, and conferences.
- Attended New York State STOP-DWI meetings and conferences.
- Attended NYSGTSC New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee meeting and conferences.
- Secured funds through 2022 to pay for the services of Sheriff's Deputies at the Victim Impact Panels.

## **2022 Goals**

- Locate and utilize additional Victims of Drunk Drivers willing to share their stories at our Victim Impact Programs.
- Complete, submit, and await approval from the NYS GTSC for our 2022 STOP-DWI County Plan.
- Submit STOP-DWI report of expenditures for Quarters 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Annual report to the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.
- Create the 2022 in-person English and Spanish Victim Impact Panel Calendar.
- Continue to hold in-person monthly English and quarterly Spanish Victim Impact Panels.
- Provide the Victim Impact Panel calendar to all County Courts/clerks.
- Encourage all clerks to continue to utilize the same Victim Impact Panel referral form created in 2022. Create uniformity of the court paperwork regarding the VIP.
- Coordinator and consultants will continue to provide campus in-person school presentations/assemblies at high schools and middle schools. However, in 2022 this will be extended to include the College and University located in Rockland County.
- Continue to participate in virtual New York State STOP-DWI, Association and Foundation meetings and conferences.
- Continue to share funds and equipment with our municipal police departments with monies allocated for DWI enforcement.
- Purchase and maintain in-stock, up to date DWI enforcement equipment and share with municipal police departments.
- Purchase new alco-sensors for departments in need of additional or replacements.
- Purchase and replace data-masters in each agency with a more modern testing mechanism.
- Provide training sessions, quest speakers for law enforcement agencies and academy recruits.
- Seek funding for enhanced STOP-DWI enforcement that may be available through NYS STOP-DWI in February 2022 and October 2022.
- Focus more on advertisement opportunities.
- 2022 Semi-Annual DWI statistics (06/2022 & 12/2022) will be collected.
- Attend regional STOP-DWI VIP sessions, meetings, and conferences.
- Attend New York State STOP-DWI meetings and conferences.
- Attend NYSGTSC New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee meeting and conferences.



## **VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY**

Susan Branam, Director

### **2021 Achievements**

- Continued to assist Rockland County Veterans and their families in filing claims, getting benefits, and assisting in coordination of other services as well as attending ceremonies and outreach events.
- Completed our conversion of all files to an electronic database.
- Improved our submission of claims process.
- Continued to train our Service Officers in the most up to date information on VA regulations and case law concerning veteran issues.

### **2022 Goals**

- We are looking forward to doing more events and outreach in the Veteran community in 2022.
- We hope to expand our resources and services in the VSA to include more assistance for an aging veteran population in need of more specialized benefits such as Aid and Attendance and Family Caregiver Program.
- We plan on continuing our trainings as Veteran Service Officers, expanding our skills and knowledge, to continue our reputation in NY State as being one of the busiest offices for submitting claims.

## **YOUTH BUREAU**

Gabriella Marano-Holahan, Asst. Director

### **2021 Achievements**

#### **Youth Employment Program (YEP)**

- Young people between the ages of 14-21 developed attitudes, skills, and behaviors to help them become contributing members of Rockland's workforce and prepare them for success in their current and future endeavors.
- The Youth Bureau trained and employed over 250 young people in 2021.
- The program provided 35,280 hours of paid employment experience to Rockland County youth while equally benefitting our local employers.
- 30 youth graduated the T.E.E.N. (Teen Employment Education Network) Works Program. T.E.E.N. Works is a 4-week pre-employment summer training that engages participants

in experiential activities focused on helping them develop job-related soft skills including effective communication, acceptance of feedback and problem solving with the purpose of strengthening their ability to become self-sufficient and responsible. Participants' ability to work as a team under supervision was seen in their community service activities lead by Youth Bureau staff.

- 98% of youth placed in employment successfully completed their job placement.
- On a scale of 1-4, with 4 being the highest, 99% of our youth workers received a rating of 3 (very good) or 4 (excellent) from their supervisor in assessing their work skills and attitude.
- Additional funding was allocated to Rockland County as a result of the Gun Violence Prevention initiative which allowed over 30 young people to continue their subsidized employment through 2022.
- When given the opportunity, young people are rising to the occasion and contributing to our County in a meaningful and productive way.

### **Rockland Conservation & Service Corps**

- Rockland Conservation & Services Corps (RCSC) builds the capacity of municipalities and organizations to address community needs. RCSC continued to recruit and train members to meet community needs in environmental issues and gain an understanding of the factors affecting Rockland and New York's environmental resources.
- RCSC coordinated volunteers for 30 Get Fresh deliveries drawing over 250 volunteers in 2021 totaling over 1500 hours dedicated to providing fresh, nutritious food and produce to our local food pantries.
- Rockland Conservation & Service Corps 24 Summer Corps Members dedicated 8,403 hours of environmental and conservation service in partnership with 11 host sites.
- Completed 5 "Friday Projects" – County-wide environmental projects which channeled the strength and skills of the Conservation Members towards projects that improved county sites and resources.
- Co-facilitated Rockland Planning Land Use with Students (RPLUS), virtually engaging over 300 students from 8 local high schools in land use planning and sustainability education.
- Partnered with The Corps Network – an organization that provides fellowship and technical support to Conservation Corps around the country.

### **Youth Development Program (YDP)**

- Through an RFP process, the Youth Bureau and its Volunteer Advisory Board funded 18 programs run by Rockland County agencies and municipalities that provide direct service to our local youth.
- The Board process for allocation includes a needs assessment to determine which of the goals and objectives in the NYS Touchstones Life Areas – Economic Security, Physical & Emotional Health, Community, Education, Families, and Citizenship – would have the most beneficial impact on our community.
- A total of \$324,298.00 NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Youth Development Program funds were allocated, monitored and audited.
- Funded agencies include CANDLE, Chiku Awali African Dance, Arts, & Culture, EPIC, the Martin Luther King Center, Mental Health Association of Rockland County, RCADD, Rockland 21C, Rockland County YMCA, the Stony Point Police Department, VCS, and the Village of Haverstraw.

## **2022 Goals**

- Employ and train at least 200 young people through the Youth Employment Program.
- Coordinate volunteers for at least 20 Get Fresh food deliveries.
- Engage 25 Conservation Corps members in environmental service throughout 10 host sites in Rockland County.
- Develop an orientation for Youth Employment Program and Conservation & Service Corps employers and site supervisors on best practices on positive youth development and youth engagement.
- Host at least 2 Repair Cafes in partnership with Rockland Green.
- Establish a network of school and community staff responsible for supporting Runaway and Homeless young people to facilitate improved attendance, engagement, and academic success of homeless children and youth.
- Initiate the development of a County wide internship program to help young adults see County Government as a career goal.
- Establish a Youth Service Network comprised of young people developing leadership skills through community service outreach and activities.
- Identify and apply for funds to support year-round employment for eligible youth.
- Develop and communicate through Youth W.I.N. (Workforce Initiative Network) to:
  - Identify & Connect: Identify and connect local businesses, non-profits, and municipalities who serve youth and young adults ages 14-24.
  - Gather & Align: Gather information from local youth serving organizations to ensure alignment between services and community needs.
  - Learn & Expand: Learn about and expand upon our knowledge, specifically the barriers that youth face and the resources available to help overcome those barriers.
  - Educate & Engage: Educate community leaders on the supports and resources available to better engage youth and young adults.