

DUTCHESS COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S

Annual Report 2024



Sue Serino
Dutchess County Executive



DUTCHESS COUNTY GOVERNMENT

January 31, 2025

RE: Dutchess County Executive's Annual Report for 2024

Dear Chairman William G. Truitt and Members of the Dutchess County Legislature,

Pursuant to the Dutchess County Charter, filed herewith is the County Executive's written report of the finances of the County and the activities of the Executive Branch of County Government for the year 2024.

Upon reading this document, I hope you are struck with the same profound appreciation for our Dutchess County Government workforce that I feel every day, as I'm fortunate to work alongside these dedicated employees. While I always knew our County's personnel was the example other counties throughout New York State emulated, the past year left me in awe, seeing firsthand the degree to which these devoted civil servants help thousands of Dutchess County residents, every day of the year.

This annual report details the daily functioning of Dutchess County Government and reflects on all that our departments, divisions, and offices have accomplished in the past year. I am sure you will agree it's inspiring to be surrounded by such excellence, as the talent, dedication, and ingenuity of our County government co-workers is unmatched.

Building on the successes of the past year and looking forward to accomplishing even more in the coming months, I hope you will join me as I present the *2025 State of the County Address* on Tuesday, March 11th at John Jay High School in East Fishkill. I look forward to sharing our goals and direction for Dutchess County Government for the year ahead, as we strive to continuously improve the lives we touch each day.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan J. Serino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Serino" clearly legible.

Susan J. Serino

Dutchess County Executive

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County Finances Update

The County ended 2024 in a strong fiscal position due to fiscal management and spending restraint coupled with a strong cash position driven by the realization of the balance of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds in 2024, smart investment activity to maximize interest earnings, and strategic financing decisions. The end of 2024 saw economic growth and the job market slowing, while still providing a soft economic landing. While the Consumer Price Inflation Rate (CPI) stabilized to under 3% in 2024, it is expected to remain above the Federal Reserve's target of 2% through the new year. Assuming the unemployment rate remains low, near 4%, there will likely only be a slight reduction in interest rates in the new year. Dutchess County's 2023 Annual Update Document, filed in April of 2024, confirmed the strength of Dutchess County's financial position, with general unassigned fund balance at \$85.3 million. With a bond rating of AA+ — the highest County rating of Standard & Poor-rated counties in New York—Dutchess was well positioned in 2024, as \$85.3 million is within the \$46-93 million the County strives to set aside.

The County's fund balance policy states: The County will strive to maintain an undesignated general fund balance of 1-2 months of general fund operating expenditures as a means of maintaining financial stability. To the extent general fund balance exceeds 2 months of operating expenditures, the County will use general fund balance to pay down or avoid indebtedness and/or provide property tax relief through offsetting current year operating expenses.

With sales tax revenue funding 43% of the County budget, the County monitors sales tax receipts very closely and adjusts spending if necessary. The 2024 Adopted Budget included a planned increase in the sales tax rate from 3.75% to 4.0%, however, without home rule support at the state level, the increase was not implemented. The budget had included almost \$10 million in revenue from the rate increase however, it is projected that some of that loss will be offset by higher-than-expected growth. The County currently projects a loss of \$4-6 million compared to the 2024 Adopted Budget. The 2025 projected sales tax includes the continuation of the exemption on clothing and footwear items under \$110 each, and a growth rate of 2% totaling \$268 million compared to the projected 2024 of \$262.7 million.

The County shares sales tax with municipalities through a sales tax sharing agreement with the Cities of Poughkeepsie and Beacon, which provides funding for local programs and services. Through that agreement, the cities receive 7.76% and the towns share 9.5% distributed by population. This economically sensitive revenue stream must be monitored closely, and spending adjustments may be necessary in the new year if sales tax realization is lower than expected.

The federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds totaling \$57 million have been received by the County and completely realized in 2024. The County drew down the funds to pay for the following community investment priorities:

- Youth
- County Parks

- Infrastructure/Building Jobs
- Community Partnerships
- Education- Dutchess Community College and Pre-School Special Education
- County Government Programs and Services

In 2024, the Legislature voted to draw down \$25 million to fund the Education Project, using ARP funds to offset Dutchess Community College and Pre-School Special Education costs. Because these costs were budgeted, \$15 million will favorably impact fund balance, enabling these funds to be set aside in a community benefit fund to fund priority projects over the next 4 years. The Legislature also approved \$10 million in other projects previously funded through ARP to continue through completion even though the ARP funds were moved to the Education Project. So, although the County will realize \$10 million in ARP this year for the Education Project, creating a favorable impact, as the remaining projects are spent, completed and closed over the next few years, a negative impact to fund balance will offset the \$10 million positive impact this year.

Roughly 70% of spending by County Government is for State mandated programs and services, with \$43 million paying for Medicaid alone. The County minimizes costs in mandated programs to the extent possible, but State regulations and requirements often drive costs. Dutchess County will continue to advocate for mandate relief, including working with the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) to ensure any new mandated program or service from the State comes with corresponding funding to cover the costs.

Dutchess County's mission is always to provide quality programs and services to residents, while minimizing the impact on taxpayers. The County ended 2024 in a strong financial position, and the 2025 Adopted Budget includes the continuation of core programs and services, as well as many new initiatives focused on seniors, veterans and youth, while delivering the 10th consecutive tax rate decrease.

Executive Department Activities

The following are highlights, by department, of the activities of the Executive Branch of Dutchess County Government for 2024:

Office for the Aging

- Received 43,496 calls from older adults, caregivers, and healthcare providers, and greeted 8,194 walk-in visits, an increase of 49% in foot traffic into the OFA office.
- The successful “Friendly Calls” program continued with 143 older adults receiving calls from 156 volunteers. With many volunteers and participants repeating the program’s 8-week cycle of companionship calls, approximately 170 successful pairings took place. “Friendly Calls” is now available for participants and volunteers fluent in Spanish, French, Jamaican patois, German, Italian, Hungarian, Yoruba, and various Chinese dialects.
- Distributed 48 digital intervention devices to isolated older adults to combat loneliness including 11 Elli-Q devices (proactive voice-operated care companions); 10 tablet computers; and 27 animatronic companion pets.
- Provided 40,623 meals and social activities to 460 attendees at eight OFA Friendship Centers served in a congregate setting.
- Hosted 12 senior picnics throughout the county attracting 3,984 attendees.
- Launched the new OFA Facebook Page in May to provide information and resources to both seniors and caregivers. The page has nearly 800 followers in its first seven months.
- NY Connects Program recorded a total of 7,544 contacts, through incoming calls, emails, walk-in clients, and outreach events.
- Long-term services and support include medical and non-medical services a person needs to improve or maintain health and independence. Topics include, but are not limited to, homecare, home delivered meals, transportation, housing, energy assistance, and issues relating to health insurance such as Medicaid and Medicare. 1,176 referrals were made to other units within OFA.
- HIICAP Coordinator and 9 volunteers provided 337 health insurance counseling sessions. The team attended and/or facilitated 17 “Navigating Medicare” classes, 18 community outreach event presentations, and 3 “Navigating the Medicare Website” classes, reaching a total of 774 residents – 35% more than in 2023.
- Took part in and/or organized 66 group activities/events, including, but not limited to:
 - Senior Park Prints (January/February), with Dutchess County Parks
 - Millbrook Library Volunteer Expo (February)
 - Pancakes in the Park, with Dutchess County Parks (March)
 - Town of Wappinger Senior Services Day (May)
 - Dutchess County Caregiver Conference (May)

- Dutchess County Health Fair (April, December)
 - Veteran/Military Families Resource Fair (June)
 - “Rat Pack” end-of-summer concert (September)
 - Social Security/Medicare Fair in Red Hook (September)
 - Citizens Preparedness training (September), with DER and MRC
 - Vassar College Employee/Retiree Fair (October)
 - The Senior Prom (October)
 - Thriving in Rhinebeck (November)
 - “Getting To Know Your Smartphone” Event with AARP (November)
 - “Rat Pack Holiday” concert (December)
 - “Introduction to Pickleball” classes (spring/fall), with Dutchess County Parks
 - County Budget Forums (Town of Poughkeepsie, Beekman, Pine Plains), with the County Executive’s Office
- Co-sponsored the annual Golden Gathering at Arlington High School; at the Golden Gathering, attracting approximately 1,000 older adults and caregivers who received information about resources and services available to them. 160 older adults received their annual flu shot at the event.
 - 428 volunteers, a 63.9% increase in volunteers over the previous year, served in various, critical capacities to help deliver OFA programs and services, including insurance counseling, picnic assistance, home delivered meals, Friendship Centers, Friendly Calls, and clerical assistance.
 - Held 13 “Navigating Medicare” classes in various locations throughout the County during the open enrollment period.
 - Hosted both in-person and virtual exercise classes, including A Matter of Balance, Tai Chi, SAIL (Staying Active & Independ for Life) and general senior exercise; more than 280 older adults took part.
 - Delivered weekly “Aging News” email blasts to over 3,700 subscribers, along with weekly printed “Aging News” newsletters to 600 Friendship Center and Home Delivered Meals clients.
 - Delivered four quarterly “THRIVE60+” newsletters and one annual “Medicare Spotlight” newsletter to 1,976 print subscribers and distributed over 1,500 quarterly print newsletters to public libraries and older adult groups throughout the county.
 - Completed 812 comprehensive assessments to Home Delivered Meal clients. These assessments gather information about the clients’ needs, functional status, psychosocial and informal support. The assessment assists in helping to identify areas where further support is needed to maintain independence. Of these assessments, 273 referrals were made to other OFA programs.
 - Served over 145,000 home delivered meals, an increase of 6.9% over the previous year, to 632 homebound older adults.

- Distributed Nutritional Education materials to over 900 older adults through the Home Delivered Meal program and Senior Friendship Center congregate meals.
- 62 Nutrition Education presentations presented to local groups and organizations.
- Distributed over 1,100 Farmers' Market Coupon books to low-income seniors.
- Provided 18,330 units (one-way trips) of transportation, an increase of 19.3% over the previous year, to 392 clients – a 188% increase in riders, year over year – through partnerships with community-based organizations, including Friends of Seniors, Pawling Resource Center and Northeast Community Center for medical appointments, shopping, and senior center activities, as well as through contract with GoGo Transportation
- In partnership with GoGo Technologies, provided 1,941 trips for 125 clients within Dutchess County, to non-emergency medical appointments, visits to loved ones in a hospital, skilled nursing facility or hospice facility.
- Public Health Nurses made 455 visits to 312 community-based, long-term care clients for homecare assessments and reauthorizations, aide orientations, aide supervision, and Patient Review Instrument (PRI) screens.
- Public Health Nurses provided over 4,300 hours of Case Management to 312 clients, and 119 assessments for Home Delivered Meals.
- Through National Family Caregiver Support Program, served over 75 caregivers with various services:
 - 393 hours of Case Management
 - 80 Overnight Respite days
 - 646 Respite In - Home hours
 - 127 Days of Out of Home Respite (762 hours Social Adult Day Care)
 - 66 caregiver counseling sessions
 - 32 Support groups
 - 21 Caregiver Training sessions
- Case Managers in the Homecare Unit provided and/or authorized:
 - 6,195 hours of case management to 589 clients
 - 18,374 hours of home care
 - 656 days of adult day care (3,936 hours)
 - 345 Emergency Response Unit
 - 68 Alzheimer caregiver consultations, including follow-up and ongoing support.
- Community Benefits Specialists (CBS) served 905 served clients including:
 - 179 Medicaid applications
 - 119 Medicare Savings Program applications
 - 172 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program applications
 - 44 Medicaid recertification applications

- Received and processed 1,164 applications through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP); including but not limited to:
 - 160 emergency HEAP applications
 - 17 Heating Equipment Repair and Replacement applications
 - 45 Clean and Tune applications
 - 159 Cooling Assistance Program applications
 - 6 Weatherization referrals
- Provided 730 hours of legal services to 93 clients, a 38.8 percent increase in clients over the previous year.
- 206.4 pounds of unwanted/unused prescription medication were collected for safe disposal at OFA picnics, in collaboration with Dutchess County Traffic Safety/STOP DWI and the Sheriff's Office.

Office of Central & Information Services (OCIS)

Division of Information Services

Recognitions/Awards

- Ranked 6th in the nation by the Center for Digital Government (CDG) and the National Association of Counties (NACo)'s 2024 Digital Counties Survey for counties in the "250,000 - 499,000 population" category. The award recognized efforts to enhance cybersecurity, streamline delivery of services and apply innovative technologies to county priorities. Dutchess County has ranked in the nation's top 10 digital counties for 22 consecutive years.
- Received 2024 Government Experience Project Award from the Center for Digital Government for the Natural Resources Inventory Website and Environmental Mapper.
- Awarded Best of New York Award: Best Application Serving an Agency's Business Needs for the Drinking Water Regulation Information Portal (DRIP).
- Awarded Best of New York Award: Best Application Serving the Public for the new Electronic Health Permits

County Intranet & Internet

- Began planning and design work for redesign of County website, www.dutchessny.gov.
- Website engagement continues to be strong as residents and visitors rely on www.dutchessny.gov for information and online services.
 - 769,958 visitors, or users, visited the Dutchess County Government website in 2024.
 - Pageviews and event counts totaled 6,699,899 million for 2024. This updated total is a combination of page views and engagement.
 - 29,488,198 pages were served on the County's website, which includes website pages and documents such as PDFs, Excel spreadsheets, etc. visited by users, including repeat visits.

Customer Service

- Worked with Finance and Real Property Tax on the redesign of tax bills to meet new State requirements
- Processed, balanced, and printed more than 250,000 tax bills for County/Town, School and Village Taxes representing 2 cities, 20 towns, 15 School Districts, and the Hyde Park Fire and Water District.
- Partnered with Marist College for the 2024 Hudson Valley Cybersecurity Summit.
Topics presented:
 - Budget-conscious resources available to help improve your cybersecurity programs,
 - How artificial intelligence (AI) is being used by both protectors and adversaries,
 - How a cyber-attack can quickly unfold within an organization.

Cybersecurity

- Responded to worldwide Crowdstrick incident, which affected 922 County machines. Within 4 hours of first report, restored DCER and DCSO dispatch centers. 95% of servers and workstations restored by end of business day.
- Participated in Board of Elections (BOE) Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise facilitated by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), with other counties in NYS.
- Provided Cybersecurity End-User Awareness Training via KnowBe4 using active campaigns testing end-users on phishing attacks and online learning.
- Continued cybersecurity testing and worked quickly to address areas of concern.

Digital Transformation

- Partnered with Board of Elections to migrate to a new Voter Registration system prior to the November general elections, including the Presidential election.
- Partnered with the County Clerk to develop Dutchess Deed Watch to provide email notifications of deed changes to current owners. Once signed up, a registered user will receive an email notification if a deed or mortgage is recorded affecting residential property held by the subscriber.
- Partnered with the Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office to implement technology for the new Real Time Crime Center.
- Upgraded Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Situational Awareness Tool, a GIS-based tool used in the EOC during emergencies, to current GIS platform.
- Partnered with Emergency Response to create a webpage and online reporting form for the Threat Assessment Group.

- Partnered with the County Executive's office and Emergency Response to create a webpage to share information on how to build a career in Emergency Medical Services in Dutchess County.
- Partnered with the Dept. of Health on several projects to enhance operational efficiency, tracking and document management including:
 - Electronic permits for water supplies.
 - Expanded electronic Food Service Permits web and payment application types to enhance the permit process.
- Partnered with OFA and Finance to set up electronic payments for home-based services.
- Continued to support the Dept. of Health with the configuration and use of Cerner Millennium.
- Assisted County Clerk in completing the certification of electronic court records.
- Implemented configuration changes in Tyler Tech New World Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) to handle changes in recently negotiated contracts, including accruals and salary changes, and calculated and processed retroactive payments.
- Assisted the Public Defender's Office in reviewing their RFP for new hosted case management system.

Infrastructure Support

- Continued disaster recovery testing program using Zerto Long Term Recovery (LTR), enabling a faster recovery time and improved continuity of operations during a disaster.
- Replaced leased host servers for virtual environment at both OCIS and DCER.
- Replaced and increased storage at both OCIS and DCER.
- Made numerous improvements to the County's Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications and uploaded new 2024 aerial photos for all GIS applications.
- Completed enterprise hardware, software, and database upgrades to keep GIS secure and utilizing the latest technologies.
- Supported technology infrastructure including networks, servers, Help Desk, telephones, deskside workstation support, printers, and/or server rooms to meet ongoing needs.
- Outfitted the new Dutchess County Justice & Transition Center (DCJTC) with new computer equipment and assisted the move into the new facility.
- Negotiated a renewal of the countywide copier lease resulting in additional savings.

Networking and Telecommunications

- Implemented Mobile Device Management system to inventory and track County-provided cell phones and tablets.

- Upgraded internet access at Wilcox Memorial Park to improve reliability of service.

Shared Services

- Designed and published two new municipal website for the Village of Fishkill and Town of Beekman, making it easier for each municipality's staff to publish new content and improve citizen experience.
- Provided cloud-based web hosting to municipal websites including Arlington Fire District, City of Beacon, Town of Amenia, Town of Beekman, Town of East Fishkill, Town of Lagrange, Town of Pawling, Town of Wappinger, and Village of Wappingers Falls.

Division of Central Services

Municipal Procurement Assistance Program and Shared Services

- Maintained the Municipal Procurement Assistance Program giving municipalities access to professional, lower-cost procurement services throughout the County, with the goal of reducing the need for services at the local level, providing value and cost savings.
- Contracted with 16 municipalities for procurement shared services; assisted contracted municipalities with 14 procurement projects.

Print Shop

- Received over 1,430 printing requests. Completed 2.4 million impressions.
- Printed more than 250,000 school tax and property tax bills in a timely manner.

Procurement Card

- County's Procurement Card Program received over \$22,000 in rebates in its fifth program year (March 2023 – February 2024).

Purchasing

- Received 78 Requests for Bid and Proposal submissions and 27 Requests for Quotes submissions.
- Participated in multi-County bids and forums to enable the procurement of supplies, successfully navigating disruptions in supply chain distribution.
- Promulgated new purchasing flow chart as part of Countywide training program.

Storeroom

- Continued e-waste program, eliminating the County's need to pay for disposal service resulting in the removal of 17,000 pounds of e-waste such as old monitors, computers, printers and more.
- Repurposed approximately 214 pieces of furniture allowing County departments, local municipalities, and agencies to save \$22,660.

- Coordinated four surplus equipment auctions and vehicle sales, generating over \$293,900 in revenue.

Community & Family Services

General Highlights

- Delivered services to more than 31,000 unduplicated individuals across all programs.
- Participated in the Childcare in Dutchess County Roundtable Discussion and joined the Dutchess County Childcare Coalition seeking universal system, which means an early learning and childcare space is available for every child in Dutchess County, regardless of income, family structure, number of children, or location.
- The Commissioner's Rapid Response team responded to 3,537 inquiries received through the DCFSinfo email on the County website, an increase of 18% from 2023.
- Offered two *Navigating the DCFS System* hybrid workshops to bring providers up to date on the various benefits available. One workshop explained the Temporary Assistance application process offered, with 76 individuals representing 22 agencies participating; the other covered Temporary Housing Assistance (THA) and other housing assistance programs, with 71 individuals representing 23 agencies in attendance.
- Continued adoption recruiter partnership with New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and the Wendy's Wonderful Kids Foundation. The recruiter worked with 5 children. The Department finalized a total of 11 adoptions in 2024.
- To reduce the disproportionate minority representation in foster care, DCFS has adopted the practice of Blind Removal meetings, in which case information is presented to a committee of staff not familiar with the case where all demographic information of a family is excluded thus removing bias in the decision to petition for removal. In 2024, 25 Blind Removal meetings were held; DCFS sought removal in 19 of those cases.
- Continued partnership with Mental Health America on the Coached Visitation Program, an interactive program focused on trained volunteers coaching parents during supervised visits, teaching them to meet the needs of their children so that children can safely return home from foster care. In 2024, 11 families received these services.
- Dutchess County was allocated federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds to assist households that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID-19 and are at risk of homelessness or housing instability. The state portal closed for new applications on January 20, 2023. As of October 28, 2024, there have been 2,671 total applications have been paid more than \$25.6 million.
- Administered a Rental Supplement Program (RSP) to provide vital rental assistance to individuals and families, regardless of immigration status, who are experiencing homelessness or are facing an imminent loss of housing. The district has contracted with a

local nonprofit, Hudson River Housing (HRH), to administer the program but it is closely monitored.

- 607 applications were received; processed and eligibility was determined for 569 applications, housed 45 adults and 12 children (42 households) and placed 38 applicants on the waiting list.
 - Collaboration with the Continuum of Care remains ongoing, as County is using HOME ARP and CDBG funds to supplement the rates from 85% Fair Market Rent (FMR) to 120% FMR.
- Spearheaded and coordinated a multidisciplinary team approach to street outreach, bringing together all County outreach efforts regardless of their area of focus. The multidisciplinary team, Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), began meeting in January 2024 to ensure outreach efforts are coordinated across agencies, to eliminate duplication of services, and to better address the needs of our unsheltered homeless population. HOT members responded to over 20 direct outreach referrals from the community and conducted joint targeted outreach efforts, including one at Beulah Baptist Church in Poughkeepsie.
- Completed NYS OCFS 5-year (2024-2029) Dutchess County Child and Family Services plan which included a needs assessment for children, youth and families to identify gaps in services; holding stakeholders' meetings for Day Care, Children Services and APS services to solicit input in the development of the plan; and holding a public forum to present the plan in October 2024. The plan was submitted to the State for approval.

Staff Development

- The Department vacancy rate continued to fluctuate around 15%, impacting on the implementation of program mandates. The Department redoubled its recruitment efforts while also seeking to reduce barriers to recruitment and retention including:
 - Obtained a temporary testing waiver from the New York State Department of Civil Service as part of the State's Hiring Emergency Limited Placement Statewide (HELPS) for additional direct client-facing positions of Receptionist and Office Assistants in addition to Social Welfare Worker and Case Manager positions that were already approved under the previous (HELP) waiver.
 - In coordination with Human Resources and support from the County Executive, upgraded the following titles by one grade: Social Welfare Worker I (SWW I) from Grade 10 to 11, Social Welfare Worker II (SWW II) from Grade 11 to 12, Case Manager I (CM I) from Grade 12 to 13 and Case Manager (CM II) from Grade 14 to 15.
 - Partnered with Dutchess Community College for a second year to implement a yearlong Professional Development Series. 36 staff participants learned strategies for strengthening their relationships with colleagues and supervisors as well as improving and developing their leadership skills.

- Held an informational session for staff regarding the Employee Education Program which enables DCFS employees to take courses and obtain an Associate, Bachelor, or Master degree at Empire State University.
- Attended several in-person and virtual Job Fairs, including the Marist College Career Fair, Hudson Valley Regional Virtual Career Fairs, Think Dutchess Career Fairs, Franklin D. Roosevelt High School Career Fair, and the Mental Health America of Dutchess County Veteran Resource Fair.
- Conducted a full staff training/retreat focusing on how to center oneself and find happiness as part of the department's employee selfcare and wellness efforts.
- Tracked training for all staff to ensure mandated state trainings as well as County required trainings are completed. Supervisors also participated in supervisory training offered by County Attorney's Office.
- Continued to offer Unit Overview presentation monthly throughout the year for all new employees to ensure staff are informed and aware of all the division/units and programs offered by the department.
- Arranged for the following additional trainings:
 - Active Shooter training for all staff with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.
 - A full-day Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training, mandatory for field workers, but open to all staff in collaboration with Westchester Medical Center; 57 staff participated.

Reception

- The Poughkeepsie Office Front Desk handled 24,812 transactions, a decrease of 14% from the previous year reflecting an increase in virtual transactions.
- The client privacy booth in the reception area of the main office building was utilized for 13,551 calls in 2024, an increase of 11.67 % from 2023

Administrative Services

- Processed over 7,200 documents submitted through the NYDocSubmit mobile app.
- Held and processed 841 Fair Hearings. DCFS was successful in 80% of fair hearings in 2024.
- Completed 57 Fiscal Day Care Audits for NYS Office of Children & Family Services (OCFS) for the first three quarters of 2024. All transactions and funding calculations were properly claimed and processed for Dutchess County without any discrepancies.
- Processed over 300 contracts for various services including, but not limited to, supportive service agreements, domestic violence, employment, homeless prevention, foster care services, resource parents, etc.
- Processed 68,200 fiscal transactions in the accounting unit, totaling more than \$51 million.
- Maintained accounts for 44 clients in receipt of Supplemental Social Security who need help managing their money. Deposits of \$811,509.62 and issuance of 3,002 checks totaling \$825,723.36 occurred on behalf of these clients.

- The Accounting Unit processed 703 credit/debit card transactions for a total of \$170,794.97.
- Accepted more than 9,992 incoming voter registration forms (included in benefit application packages).
- Processed nearly 116,116 pieces of outgoing U.S. mail (not including interoffice mail).
- Opened DCFS Case Management Team office at the Emergency Shelter at the 95 Hamilton Street building.
- Initiated the migration of the agency's iPad fleet to the ManageEngine Mobile Device Management (MDM) system, improving device management and security.
- Facilitated application migration from COLD to WARM – to State systems used by DCFS to implement its programs.
- Upgraded scanners for the Integrated Eligibility Determination and Reporting (IEDR) system.
- Continued proactive computer hardware upgrades to ensure compliance with New York State ITS standards and requirements.
- Processed 331 employee change form requests:
 - General - 71
 - New Employee - 86
 - Office Move - 43
 - Reassignments - 86
 - Left Agency - 45

Adult Services

- Received 845 Adult Protective Services referrals, an increase of 8% over the previous year, and provided ongoing services to 500 adults, a 9% increase, including 50 clients in need of Representative Payee Services. There were 34 guardianship cases in 2024.
- Administered the Family Type Home Program, a licensed community congregate care program that provides 24-hour adult care in a home environment to adults in need of minimal assistance with their adult daily living needs. As of December 31, 2024, there were 10 such homes in Dutchess County.
- Conducted 18 inspections for the Foster Family Home Program, a licensed community congregate care program with medical oversight.
- Provided Domestic Violence Liaison (DVL) service to people who need assistance in obtaining waivers for eligibility determinations, emergency residential services, or non-residential domestic violence services. There were 44 new DVL assessments and 14 reassessments, decreases of 33% and 56%, respectively, over 2023.
- Provided Temporary Emergency Housing to 802 adults and 472 children, representing an increase of 6% for adults and decrease of 18%, for children placed in emergency shelters

from 2023 to 2024. More than \$8.34 million was expended on emergency shelter hotel placements, representing a 1.5% decrease over 2023 expenditures.

- Continued to provide emergency shelter services for the homeless the temporary PODs located in the Law Enforcement Center and Jail campus, sheltering an average of 118 individuals per night, representing a decrease of nearly 21% from 2023.

Children's Services

- The number of children in Foster Care increased in 2024 and the percentage of children placed in approved relative homes slightly decreased. As of December 31, 2023, there were 153 children in foster care, with 43% (66) of them placed in approved relative homes. As of December 31, 2024, there were 163 children in foster care, with 42% (69) of them placed in approved relative homes.
- Child Protective Services (CPS) investigated 1,646 reports of suspected child abuse or maltreatment, including subsequent reports that were merged into active investigations. 82 children were placed in foster care. 65 children moved out of foster care to permanence. As of December 31st, 163 children were in foster care.
- 17 adoptions were filed, and 11 adoptions were finalized. There were 6 Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGap) discharges. As of the end of December, 31 foster children had a goal of adoption.
- Recruitment efforts continued to locate, train, and certify qualified foster parents for Dutchess County children. 23 kinship homes were certified, and 12 non-relative homes were certified. There are currently 14 Kinship homes in emergency status. In December 2024, an additional 9 non-relatives were in the process of being certified as foster homes. As of December 2024, Dutchess County had a total of 133 active foster/adoptive homes and 50 relative foster homes certified and opened.
- DCFS contracts with five agencies to provide preventive services to families. In 2024, 240 families received preventive services.
- Continued to partner with the Office of Probation and Community Corrections to provide services to meet the needs of Juvenile Delinquent (JD) youth. In 2024, 17 youths required non-secure detention.
- Continued to partner with the County's Office of Probation and Community Corrections to provide services to meet the needs of Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) youth. In 2024, there were no Pre-Dispositional Placement for PINS.
- Continued to coordinate Secure Detention Services on a 24-hour basis. In 2024, 14 youths required secure detention and 6 youths required specialized secure detention.
- Conducted outreach to all Dutchess County school districts to address educational neglect, offering in-person presentations regarding Child Protective Services and available Community Based Preventive Services. 12 presentations were given in the following schools

districts: Wappingers, Hyde Park, Rhinebeck and Webutuck. Presentations were also given at Dutchess BOCES and Hudson River Lodge.

- Youth Bureau Director served as panelist at New York Annual Youth Speak Out event at Westchester Community College to hear concerns and recommendations from current and former foster care youth and develop policies to address their needs.

Safe Harbour/Human Trafficking

- Received 31 referrals, a 15% increase over the previous year. Human Trafficking Coordinator worked with all 31 at-risk youth and continued to work with 13 youth from previous year. Total case management in 2024: 44 youth.
- Held 5 meetings of the full Dutchess County Task Force Against Human Trafficking.
- Provided over 40 *Human Trafficking 101* presentations local high school health classes, county and contract agency staff as well as several community conferences.
- Attended several community events to disseminate information, including Dutchess County Health Fair), City of Poughkeepsie National Night Out, Enhanced Coordinated Children's Services Initiative, Foster Parent appreciation event, and CAPE Health event.
- Facilitated the Love146 Prevention/Education program to 4 different youth groups.
- Trained 3 additional DCFS staff members as facilitators of the Not a Number Prevention Education Program.
- Participated in committee meetings with Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Abuse (C.A.S.A.D.A.), Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), and the Criminal Justice Council Victims Subcommittee. Participated in panel discussion at 3 events on services for victims.
- Facilitated 1 presentations to agency staff on the Bridges Out of Poverty framework.
- Assisted in facilitating 2 sessions of the Strengthening Families Program.

Youth Services

- Youth Board and Coordinating Council (YBCC) awarded New York State Office of Children and Family Services funding through four grant streams in two cycles:
 - 11 Youth Team Sports (YTS) awards totaling \$119,335.
 - Youth Development Program (YDP) awards totaling \$237,300.
 - 7 Youth Sports and Education Funds (YSEF) awards totaling \$63,734; and,
 - 1 Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) award totaling \$125,852.
- Held multiple grant workshops to review the various funding processes, attended by 67 individuals representing 50 organizations.
- YBCC recommended two \$1,500 scholarships, provided by the DCC Foundation, to an incoming freshman from Millbrook High School and a returning Dutchess Community College (DCC) student. The scholarship is provided by the DCC Foundation.

- Youth Council members created a public service announcement highlighting the various ways that the Council promotes safe spaces for youth to meet, learn from each other and discuss issues related to their health and well-being (e.g. stress, substance abuse, trafficking and nutrition) developed in partnership with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, Hypeman Hills Productions, Association of New York State Youth Bureaus and the Hudson Valley Youth Bureau Association.
- Supportive services provided for 147 youth/families by Youth Worker and Case Manager; 79 cases were closed, with 99% of clients achieving at least one goal.
- Conducted 6 workshops with a total of 135 youth and 35 adult participants.
- Collaborated with Putnam County Youth Bureau on the “Parents As Driving Partners” initiative aimed at fostering safer driving habits and creating safe drivers; 125 Parents As Driving Partners referrals were received.
- Two Strengthening Families sessions were held; 11 families completed the program.
- Funded Positive Youth Development and offered technical assistance to 3 City of Poughkeepsie based programs including Roy Community Foundation, Charlia Frank Inc. and The Black and Latino Coalition, which reached 202 youth participants.
- Conducted overview of Dutchess County Youth Services Division at the Leadership Dutchess “County Government Day” event.
- Continued partnership with Astor Services on the READY4K program for families enrolled in the Head Start Program; 363 families participated in the program. The READY4K Core curriculum includes literacy, math, Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and/or health information delivered via text messages to families enrolled in program.
- Partnered with the Dutchess County Workforce Investment Board and Dutchess Community College to host the Annual Youth Summit for 150 youth held at Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES).
- Developed Transportation for Youth Programs Request for Bids (RFB) and contracted with First Student bus company to address youth program transportation needs.
- Path To Promise website had 2,604 hits.
- Supported the City Connects initiative’s expansion to Poughkeepsie City School District’s Early Learning Center reaching 287 pre-kindergarten – kindergarten students enrolled during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Partnered with World Evangelical Center and Mental Health Association of Dutchess County to launch the “Swinging with Spirit” Youth Golf Outing in Wingdale, reaching 28 youth.
- Collaborated with Poughkeepsie City School District, Dutchess Community College, and Poughkeepsie Children’s Cabinet to launch the inaugural PK Youth Leaders’ Summit at

Dutchess Community College focused on college/career exploration, supporting mental health and financial literacy. The event reached 70 middle and high school students.

- Hosted two sessions of Youth and Police Initiative (YPI) program, with 20 students from the Dover Free Union School District at the first session and 8 young people from the Children's Home of Poughkeepsie and The Gathering at Faith Assembly at the second.
- 8 Poughkeepsie City School District and Dover Union Free School District students attended the YPI Leadership Conference at Binghamton University with chaperones from DCFS, City of Poughkeepsie Police Department and Dover Plains Library.
- 349 young people from throughout Dutchess County participated in Camp Pathfinder's summer camp program at Camp Nooteeming.
- Collaborated with the Youth Opportunity Union (YOU) Advisory Committee and Family Services Inc. for the 2nd "YOU GOES BOO" community outreach event at the Family Partnership Center.
- The "YOU Without Walls" Swim with A Friend program had 67 youth and adult participants
 - 10 adults completed First Aid/ AED and CPR training
 - 25 adults completed Water Safety training
 - 37 youth completed Water Safety training and participated in swim lessons

Temporary Assistance

- Processed 6,672 Temporary Assistance applications (average of 556 cases/month as of December 2024) for a total of 1,083 individuals receiving Temporary Assistance benefits.
- Referred and opened 95 cases with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to assist with SSI applications. A total of 36 applications were submitted and 12 were to receive awards, totaling \$179,900.04 in annual benefits (\$14,991.67 monthly) to Dutchess County households and \$96,738.70 in retroactive benefits received for clients who were assisted with applications.
- Through continued partnership with BOCES, 12 individuals completed the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) intake assessment; 8 Temporary Assistance recipients enrolled in Adult Basic Education (ABE) classes and/or the High School Equivalency program.
- Continued partnership with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, DCFS offers TANF eligible individuals with employment and life skills workshops, job seeking, placement, and retention services.
 - 13 clients participated in the Workforce Connections program
 - 3 recipients became employed
 - 14 clients enrolled in the Next Step Program, with 3 recipients employed
- DCFS offered a Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) through the Work Force Investment Board (WIB) for eligible youth from low-income households and foster care youth. 159 county youth participated, of which 3 were active on Temporary Assistance.

- 74 youth participated in the Youth Employment program (YEP) from February to March; 27 participated in the YEP program during the fall.
- Continued collaboration with Workforce Investment Board to offer “Way to Work Dutchess” program, which assists low-income working families to meet their transportation needs.
 - 68 eligible Dutchess County residents were assessed for transportation needs
 - 53 received instruction on financial literacy
 - 5 individuals received learner’s permits
 - 20 participants took driving instruction
 - 8 earned New York State driver’s licenses
 - 12 participants received preowned vehicles
- Contracted with Exodus through the first quarter of 2024 for employment services targeting eligible TANF and Safety Net individuals, post-incarceration, with comprehensive job seeking, job retention services, job education and training career/employment planning.
 - 5 TANF/SN eligible individuals participated
 - 3 becoming employed, earning an average hourly wage of \$12 and working an average of 35 hours per week

Day Care Unit

- Service provided to 990 families and 1,527 children with no waiting list.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

- 9,339 SNAP applications were received; 10,962 cases were open representing 17,070 individuals.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

- Authorized 12,461 regular benefits for a total of \$5,636,185 for the 2023-2024 HEAP season (Federal Fiscal Year to Date as of September 2024).
- 5,520 non-heating benefits issued, totaling \$162,486.
- Emergency HEAP opened on January 2 and closed on August 30, 2024. A total of 1,161 emergency HEAP benefits were issued, totaling \$847,270; 170 households received a second emergency HEAP benefit, totaling \$130,520.
- Heating Equipment Repair & Replacement (HERR) started on October 3, 2023, and closed on September 30, 2024. Authorized 48 furnace/boiler repairs, 37 furnace/boiler replacements, totaling \$344,903.
- Clean & Tune Component of HEAP opened on October 2, 2023, and closed on September 30, 2024. During that time, 215 Clean & Tune services were completed, totaling \$80,682.
- The Emergency Fuel Depots dispensed 1,495 gallons of heating fuel to 150 households.

- Cooling Assistance Component (CAC) of HEAP opened on April 15, and closed on July 19, 2024. 266 CAC benefits were issued totaling \$ 238,614. The maximum benefit was \$800 per unit.

Indigent Burials

- 222 burials assistance were requested: 109 were approved and 113 denied. A total of \$211,645 was paid to funeral homes for burial of the indigents.

Medicaid

- Processed 45,382 transactions, for a total caseload of 14,622.
 - 4,239 applications received for a total of 13,277 active community cases.
 - 480 chronic care applications were received, for a total of 1,075 active chronic cases.
 - 120 Supplement Security Income (SSI) applications received for a total of 5,051 active SSI cases.
 - 161 cases had determinations for Disability Reviews
 - 1,996 cases referred by New York State of Health (NYSOH) for processing by Medicaid.
 - 6,898 renewals processed as New York State Department of Health's (NYS DOH) Continuation of Certain Policy Easements and Other Processes After Expiration of the Public Health Emergency Unwind Period.
 - Medicaid processed 3,711 renewals and 725 renewal closings
 - NYS DOH processed 2,462 automated renewals
- Implementing the State Dept. of Health's (DOH) Consolidated 1915c Children's Waiver Environmental & Vehicle Modifications with 8 modifications that were pending in various stages. In 2024, Medicaid completed 1 generator modification, and 7 have been transitioned to the Children's Health Homes of Upstate NY (CHHUNY), which will serve as the designated Fiscal Management Services (FMS) provider, in conjunction with the State DOH.
- Participated in Community Based Services, Inc.'s Spring Transition Fair for students with IEPs and 504 plans, their families, and educators to learn about opportunities involved with the process of planning for life after high school at Dutchess County BOCES.

Child Support Unit

- Child support collections totaled \$26,916,060.
- Filed 4,474 Family Court petitions.
- Established paternity for 92.77% of children in the IV-D caseload born out-of-wedlock.
- Support establishment rate is 88.53%.

Special Investigations – Fraud Prevention & Detection

- 1,099 cases referred to the Special Investigation's Unit.
- Amount recovered in lawsuits totaled \$18,521.

- Personal incidentals and other bank accounts totaled \$142,158.
- Income executions accounted for \$1,891.
- There were 44 SSI repayment recoveries amounting to \$278,069.
- There were 10 SNAP disqualifications totaling \$59,853 and 6 Temporary Assistance disqualifications totaling \$ 39,107.19 that were attained through the Disqualification Consent Agreement (DCA) process in conjunction with the Dutchess County's District Attorney's Office, as well as through administrative disqualification hearings.
- The number of Confession of Judgments equaled 68, totaling \$206,429.16.
- Cost avoidance by Front End Detection System (FEDS) were as follows:
 - Temporary Assistance \$4,188,600.00
 - Day Care \$ 291,540.00

Emergency Response

Administration

- In partnership with the County Executive's Office, completed final planning efforts, RFP process and vendor selection for Countywide Supplemental EMS initiative. This initiative, which includes providing supplemental EMS coverage, launching a public education and awareness campaign, and efforts to boost recruitment and retention of EMS personnel was made possible through a historic \$2 million investment in the 2025 budget. Efforts from across DER divisions included data analysis, protocol building, coordinating and participating in stakeholder meetings, developing digital content, and extensive logistics planning for the program to successfully launch on January 1, 2025.
- Successfully completed NYS Local Emergency Management Accreditation Application Submission, including:
 - Organized all facets of this 21-point workplan and managed project timeline
 - Created public information and warning plan
 - Created a social media policy for DCEM
 - Developed and wrote standard operating procedures for the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
 - Developed and wrote DC Joint Information Center Plan
 - Reviewed and updated PHEPR Volunteer Management Plan
 - Reviewed and updated three sections of the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
 - Co-developed the Debris Management Plan
 - Reviewed and updated RRCD Communications Plan
 - Reviewed and updated County COOP/COG Plan
 - Developed and co-wrote DCEM COOP Plan

- Completed Mobile Command Unit (MCU) integration through response and training exercises. MCU and personnel were used at escalating incidents and training opportunities across the county. In-service training is ongoing with County personnel and multi-disciplinary partners.
- Continued work on the Consolidated Trunked Radio Project, including confirming designs for construction/upgrades at 17 radio tower sites, with construction beginning at tower sites. Auxiliary generators were received and delivery to sites has begun.
- Ongoing development and expansion of Dutchess County Threat Assessment Group (TAG).
- Established Dutchess County First Responder Health and Wellness program, which includes an appointed Deputy Coordinator for First Responder Health and Wellness. A First Responder Resiliency Awareness Training was designed and delivered.
- Continued efforts within the Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Workgroup under the Dutchess County Domestic Terrorism and Targeted Violence Prevention Plan, which led to the formalization of a Rescue Task Force dispatch protocol to ensure qualified personnel can be efficiently dispatched and integrated into active threat incidents anywhere in the county.
- Facilitated and hosted FEMA LSU Active Threat Integrated Response training course to ensure police, fire and EMS first responders are properly trained to national standards and best practices in responding to active shooter scenes.
- Facilitated a large-scale multi-agency active shooter exercise at Arlington High School with participants from all relevant agencies and disciplines across the county

9-1-1 Communications Center

- Processed 209,515 individual phone calls for assistance and dispatched 118,470 individual incidents through the 9-1-1 Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD).
- Conducted a one-year review of the APCO Intellicom Emergency Medical Dispatch and EMS Processes Call Taking Software and made changes to the EMS call taking protocols based on real-world experience.
- Rolled out APCO Police and Fire protocols that provide call takers with scripts to ensure more consistent questioning and pre-arrival instructions given to callers reporting events of a non-medical nature.
- Continued to assist the Dutchess County EMS Citizens Advisory Committee with their efforts in improving EMS response within the County by providing statistical reports of call volume and response; as well as providing insight into the emergency medical dispatch call taking process, the different response algorithms among county agencies, and the various outcomes and response decisions made by dispatchers.
- Assisted 988/HELPLINE in going on-line with the multi-agency Vesta 9-1-1 Phone System; including training, technical assistance and support.

- Worked with police agencies to revise and test the Observation Point Protocol used to locate wanted or missing persons involved in high profile events.
- Worked with 988/HELPLINE staff and the County Coordinator for First Responder Health and Wellness to develop a program of on-going support for dispatchers' mental health and well-being.
- Ten dispatchers were certified in the FEMA Incident Tactical Dispatcher Class. These staff members then supported DCER with Active Shooter Hostile Event Response (ASHER) Training throughout the year culminating in a live ASHER exercise in August held in partnership with Arlington Central School District.
- 9-1-1 Communications Center staff attended 5,113 hours of new employee and continuing education training.
- Worked with County Human Resources to apply for the NY HELPS (NY Hiring for Limited Placement Statewide) Program. This will allow more flexibility in hiring entry level PS-Call Takers without the need for a civil service exam.

Fire and Rescue Division

- Dutchess County Emergency Response's specialized volunteer teams were active in 2024:
 - Deputy Fire Coordinators responded to 128 mutual aid incidents
 - Hazardous Materials Response Team responded to 12 incidents
- Fire Investigation Division conducted 58 fire origin and cause investigations.
- The Fire Training Division provided 2,450 hours of training across the county.

Emergency Management Division

- Ongoing integration of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Emergency Medical Services, and Medical Reserve Corps continues into the Emergency Management – Public Health Unit. This effort continues to redefine multidisciplinary emergency management, a model now viewed as a national best practice.
- Finalized New York State Emergency Management Accreditation requirements, with Dutchess County expected to receive accreditation in February 2025. Dutchess County will be the first county between New York City and Albany to receive accreditation.
- Under the County's Domestic Terrorism and Targeted Violence Prevention Plan, Cold Zone Training for First Responders was designed with the first offering delivered in the fall. Additional offerings will occur in 2025.
- Continued monthly Integrated Public Alert and Warning testing to ensure proficiency in Wireless Emergency Alert transmission to cell phones during major emergencies.
- Took delivery of vehicle barricades for use in fortifying special events and mass gatherings.

- Supported the Board of Elections with back-up generators and light towers during 2024 Primary and General Elections.
- Supported multiple agencies and County departments at multiple events and incidents including the natural gas incident in the Town of East Fishkill.
- Ongoing preparedness activities include:
 - 'Ready Dutchess' Smartphone app expansion
 - Access and Functional Needs Registry expansion
 - Citizens Preparedness Training offered at various locations

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

- Led efforts for State Local Emergency Management Accreditation Application process, which included review and development of multiple plans and procedures.
- Updated Citizen Preparedness Training presentation for attendees aged 60+; supervised MRC volunteer delivery of training sessions at the Office for the Aging Friendship Centers across the County.
 - Also translated all program content into Spanish for program expansion in 2025.
 - This project will expand to additional Disabilities, Access & Functional Needs (DAFN) partners in 2025.
- Established and launched DAFN Emergency Planning Coalition to prioritize the inclusion of people with disabilities, older adults, and those with access and functional needs in all phases of emergency planning and preparedness. The inaugural meeting was held in March.
- Established and launched Public Information Officer (PIO) Network among DER, DOH, law enforcement, and school public information officers for the purpose of training, understanding where priorities intersect, and learning to work together in a joint information center scenario. Hosted two advanced PIO training courses in 2024 with more specialized training and exercises planned in 2025.
- Continued training in the Everbridge notification system and adding various DOH/DMH/DER teams to Everbridge for more efficient and immediate team notification.
- Participated in various communications-related training and professional development activities through membership in the National Information Officers Association (NIOA).
- Joined and participated in the nationwide Language & Accessibility for Alert & Warning Workgroup, which focuses on equity and accessibility in public communications. (Only participant representing Hudson Valley region.)
- Performed ongoing administrative, communications and maintenance tasks including:
 - Continued the creation of NYSDOH Health Commerce System accounts for new and transferred staff

- Continued to update the communications directory, removal of accounts for staff members who leave, quarterly IHANS drills
 - Issued Public Health Alerts and other notifications via the Health Commerce System as requested by the DOH Commissioner.
- Continued developing guidelines for the Mobile Health Unit (MHU) in partnership with the Dept. of Health, including creating a manual, stocking the vehicle, training drivers and preparing the vehicle for service.
- Composed or updated the following plans in partnership with DBCH:
 - Continuity of Operations/Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) Plans
 - Communications
 - Environmental
 - Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Plan for the Dept. of Health
 - Concept of Operations
- Completed all State Dept. of Health Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) deliverables including the Operation Readiness Review.
- Performed PHEP duties for Orange County until they hired a new PHEP in May. Completed deliverables and reports.
- Conducted a CPR Training Program, training 202 individuals in CPR consisting of 16 Heartsaver classes, 16 Basic Life Support (BLS) classes and one first aid class combined with MRC instructors.
- Supported ThinkDIFFERENTLY events, including at the Dutchess County Fair.
- Maintained Recovery and Resiliency Coalition of Dutchess and conducted quarterly meetings. Completed an Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop.
- Attended and served on various committees of the Rhinebeck Coalition, which is comprised of northern Dutchess County medical facilities and related partners, including conducting a full-scale evacuation exercise with Dutchess County MRC.
- Participated in various community exercises with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES).
- Served on various regional planning committees and provided expertise on topics such as:
 - Homecare
 - Hazard and Risk
 - Exercise Planning
 - Surge Planning
 - Chemical/Radiation Response
- Developed and conducted public health training to the incoming class of Nuvance Health's medical residents.

- Attended the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Conference in Cleveland, OH. Led a principal session on the Integration of Public Health with Emergency Management with Trish Munk and co-presented “Improving Public Health Through Emergency Management Integration” with Mario Gonzalez.
- Chaired the Safety and Security Committee for DBCH and DOH. Conducted several fire drills for each of the buildings this year.
- Served and continue to serve on the NACCHO Points-of-Dispensing (PODs) Planning Group.
- Designed, participated and observed in the following exercises: Tabletop Exercise at Dover Schools, Hospice, ESRD Fresenius, Regional MRSE Exercise, Vassar Medical Surge and ASHER Full Scale Exercise in Rhinebeck.
- Co-Chaired the County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee.
- Attended School Safety Committee Meetings throughout the year.
- Maintained warehouse MHU inventory.
- Deployed with the MHU for several community events including the Vietnam Travelling Wall event at Bowdoin Park.
- Maintained CHEMPACK with the state.
- Responded and supported several public health emergencies.
- Reconvened with the EHS Division of the Drought and Wildfire Planning Group.
- Responded to the Vassar Hospital power outage and assisted in the evacuation of 15 critical patients from the ICU/CCU.

Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)

- The Medical Reserve Corps of Dutchess County has 162 volunteers who provided 3,500 hours of volunteer time serving over 2,700 community members at an economic value of \$126,946.
- Supported OFA Pancake Breakfast, all 12 Senior Picnics, two Foster Care events, ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day, the Dept. of Health YOUR Health Fair, Millbrook High School Health and Wellness evening, and the Golden Gathering providing First Aid and completing over 550 blood pressure screenings for community members.
- Assisted the Epidemiologist and Environmental Health staff with a food borne illness investigation, including creating a call center for three days.
- The MRC’s Mental Health Team members responded to 25 of the 31 trauma calls assisting over 260 community members in partnership with Department of Mental Health staff.
- Collaborated with the Town of Poughkeepsie Police Department to host two Women’s Personal Safety Awareness Trainings for over 90 community members.

- MRC's Animal Response Team (DCART) hosted Pet First Aid training for 75 community members in eastern Dutchess County, teaching over 1,270 community members pet CPR and pet preparedness at various community events including the Dutchess County Fair, John Jay FFA Spring Festival, and HVARs Fall Festival.
- MRC presented Stop the Bleed training to community groups and Dutchess County school district personnel, training over 190 individuals.
- To highlight Emergency Preparedness Month, MRC volunteers taught Citizen Preparedness to 156 seniors across all Office for the Aging Friendship Centers, another 70 people at various community trainings, and assisted the Emergency Manager at three (3) classes that reached another 106 participants for a total of 332 community members.
- MRC volunteers trained in areas such as radios, ICS, NIMS, CPR, Cultural Humility, Narcan, Hazmat/PPE, Citizens Preparedness, Seizure First Aid, Suicide Awareness, Mental Health First Aid, Disaster Mental Health, and other areas to be better prepared to assist Dutchess County in future emergencies.
- MRC volunteers participated in multiple drills and exercises to assist in preparing for scenarios such as active shooter events, mass casualty incidents, medical facility evacuations, and assisted with the Dutchess Community College EMT and Paramedic Programs.

Emergency Medical Services

- Recommended to the County Executive's Office recipients for the Fly Car Grant initiative. Ten agencies awarded grants up to \$12,000 for life saving equipment in exchange for wrapping agency vehicles with branded designs to boost recruitment and retention of EMS personnel.
- Collaborated with the Department of Mental Health to initiate a Leave Behind Narcan Kit Program with police, fire and EMS agencies.
- Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) Response Trailers, which carry large quantities of basic supplies in case of large-scale incidents, were deployed for standby at multiple mass gatherings and special events.
- Expanded the County's Public Access Defibrillator (AED) Program.
- Conducted CPR (202) and First Aid (10) Trainings for county employees and MRC volunteers.
- Continued discussion with Mid-Hudson Regional and Vassar Brother Hospitals to expand EMS training and exercises to focus on trauma related injuries.
- Attended regular meetings of State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems, the Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Services Council, Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee, Dutchess County Emergency Medical Services Council, Hudson Valley Regional Emergency Medical Services Protocol Committee,

Mid-Hudson Regional Hospital Trauma Committee, and Hudson Valley Regional Trauma Advisory Committee.

Finance (including Real Property Tax)

- Maintained a bond rating of AA+ with a stable outlook by Standard & Poor's in March 2024.
- Actively managed the County's cash and working capital resulting in approximately \$15 million in interest income earned across all funds.
- Continued the implementation of online payment options for various County departments.
- Implemented GASB 96 in time for the County's Annual Update Document to be filed as required with New York State in May 2024.
- Worked with the Capital Plan Committee to develop the 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Plan.
- Finalized all FEMA claiming related to COVID 19 pandemic with the end of the Federal State of Emergency in May 2023.
- Continued using project accounting to track The American Rescue Plan Act local fiscal recovery funding received by the county and realized all remaining revenue.
- Implemented Bargaining Agreement changes related to the settlement of the Police Benevolent Association contract
- Worked in coordination with Human Resources and the County Attorney's office on the FLSA language which was accepted as part of the PBA 2024 contract settlement. In addition, DCSEA membership has approved the FLSA MOA that was negotiated between the efforts of our 3 departments. Language from the accepted agreements will be utilized in drafting the 2025 proposal to CSEA.
- In coordination with the Department of Human Resources, changes in the reporting of employee leaves have been implemented to better track the financial impact and properly report benefit costs for an employee on approved leave.
- Continued work with a multi-department team to implement a countywide electronic time and attendance recordkeeping system. The goals include increased efficiencies in all phases of the payroll process and standardization of time and attendance recordkeeping using biometric and other electronic data capture methods.
 - Rolled out to other county departments including DBCH, Central Services, District Attorney, and Department of Community and Family Services.
 - Trained over 350 staff at DCFS for them to be prepared to go live in the last quarter of 2024.
 - Approximately half of all County employees were reporting time on an electronic timekeeping system by the end of 2024.

- Successfully held training program for County Tax Collectors and Receivers. The goal of the training is to ensure new collectors (Town, Village, City, & School) are aware of the proper process for reviewing their bills, handling corrections, and turning over their unpaid files at the end of collections. Provided initial information on the revised bill formats and the impact of the 4/20/2024 legislative changes regarding additional bill notices sent by the towns during their collection period.

Real Property Tax Division

- Completed all mandated programs under Article 5 of Real Property Tax Law, and completed all local programs and duties assigned by the County Charter including:
 - Over 50 investigative reports for Administrative Corrections of Errors,
 - Maintaining parcels lines for tax mapping and Parcel Access,
 - Administering the assessment software database for local assessors,
 - Providing state-mandated training to 25 Board of Assessment Review members and 10 other municipal and state employees,
 - Processing of over 6,500 property transfers, filed maps and other documents,
 - Maintenance of over 45,000 escrow accounts, and
 - Calculation and verification of approximately 400 tax rates for County, Town, City, School, Village and special district purposes.
- Worked with Finance and OCIS to update the County/Town, School, and Village tax bill layouts.
- Coordinated with OCIS to process assessment and tax rolls as well as print tax bills for 60 school district segments, 20 towns, 2 cities, 8 villages and 1 fire district.
- Provided administrative and systems support for 13 municipalities in Dutchess seeking to sustain annual reassessment: approximately 63,000 parcels.
- Coordinated and assisted in the state-mandated orientations of 5 new County Directors of Real Property Tax Services and 6 Deputy/Assistant Directors.
- Provided training in assessment administration to local assessment staff in Dutchess County and Real Property Tax directors across the state.
- The Director continues to serve as a member of the Real Property Tax Administration Committee and the chairperson representing the state county director's association on the Real Property System Governance Group Committee. These committees seek to resolve administrative and procedural issues that arise because of changes in the Real Property Tax Law, as well as help to guide the implementation of the current assessment software used by Dutchess County and most assessing units in New York.
- The Director is one of six County Directors that have been named to the RPS Online Constituents Group. This advisory group will help guide the State in the creation and implementation of the State's new assessment software that is being developed.

Health

General Department Highlights

- Health became an independent department in August, following months of logistical and administrative planning to dissolve the combined Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) and create separate operations as Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health (DOH), and Office of Veterans Affairs.
- Coordinated and hosted the third annual Dutchess County Health Fair at Dutchess Community College on April 13, 2024, bringing together over 70 county departments and community organizations to provide hundreds of residents with valuable health information and activities.
- The Mobile Health Unit (MHU) and outreach team participated in multiple community events and began collaboration with Pawling School District, Dover Union Free School District and Sun River Health to offer monthly outreach events in the eastern portion of Dutchess County on an ongoing basis.
- Contracted Patagonia, Inc. for a new electronic medical records software, with implementation expected in the first quarter of 2025.
- Expanded primary prevention efforts focused on youth and developed novel collaborations including:
 - Fit Dutchess project -bringing together dozens of community stakeholders to develop interventions targeting youth wellness through nutrition and physical activity
 - Public health collaboration pilot in Poughkeepsie City Schools to examine health-related drivers of chronic absenteeism.
 - Partnership with Dutchess BOCES and school district educators to begin development of an enhanced health literacy curriculum for K-12 students.
- Hosted first annual healthcare provider forum focused on sexual health in collaboration with several community organizations.

Medical Examiner's Office

- 1516 total reported case for 2024, with 426 scene investigations and 448 cases required DCME investigation, including:
 - 233 autopsies
 - 74 external examinations
 - 136 death certifications
 - 5 consultations

- Those autopsies, external examinations and certifications were classified as:
 - 4 Homicides
 - 170 Accidents (66 Substance Use-Related Deaths)
 - 31 Suicide
 - 207 Natural
 - 11 Undetermined
 - 6 Skeletal remains
 - 10 still pending investigation
- 21 cases were released to LiveOnNY and/or Lions Eye Bank for tissue/bone/organ/corneal donation.
- 1 brain donation submitted to the Harvard Brain and Tissue Resource Center
- Contracted for Marist College Physician Assistant Program and Quinnipiac University Pathology Assistants Program to perform rotations at the DCME. Six (three from each school) rotated at the DCME in 2024.
- Hosted the John Jay High School's forensics class in April.
- Worked with the Opiate Task Force and participated in the Dutchess County Suicide & Overdose Fatality Review Committee (S/OD FRC) Overview and Dutchess County Resiliency Council for Suicide Prevention.
- Provided training and education including:
 - Taught the “Death Investigation and Medicolegal Matters” portion of NYS Police training requirement as part of the Dutchess County Police Crime Scene and Evidence Specialist Training Course.
 - Presented “Careers and Role of The Medical Examiner” at the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department (CPPD) headquarters for high school students enrolled in the CPPD’s Careers in Law Enforcement program.

Public Health Preparedness and Community Engagement & Prevention Division

- Division was reorganized to include Public Health Education Coordinators, Quality Improvement Coordinator as well as Epidemiologist and Biostatistician.
- Built a permit schedule for restaurant inspections.
- Created and launched monthly reports of environmental engineering performance metrics for internal evaluation.
- Built data collection and management systems for tracking new initiatives, including the Empowerment Center.
- Expanded R coding and created an interactive heat map for overdose spike responses.
- Completed first analysis of efficacy of sustained benefits in individuals released from DCJ who participated in MAT.

- Created various English/Spanish educational materials to promote and connect residents with services including temporary food permits), ePermits, CYSHCN, and Mobile Health Unit events.
- Created Community Resource Guide in English/Spanish in collaboration with Sharon Hospital, Nuvance Healthcare, eastern Dutchess municipalities and other community-based organizations.
- Developed educational outreach materials for Spanish-only community events.
- Developed “Grab & Go Tabling Kits” for volunteer staff to participate in community outreach events.
- Participated in more than 45 community events with outreach and educational materials.
- Led coordination of third annual Dutchess County Health Fair in April, which saw the highest vendor participation and resident attendance to date.
- Created training videos to assist water system operators on how to use the DRIP online service portal.
- Assisted with investigation of large foodborne illness outbreak, including establishing mini-call center to interview ill individuals to determine the source of the outbreak.
- Updated various print materials to include QR code with online information including Food Service Facilities packets and Breast Cancer information.
- Septic System Replacement Grant—Develop new webpages, materials, and promotional materials for Septic System Replacement Grant program through which residents can apply for funding to replace septic tanks within 250 feet of a protected waterbody.
- Worked with Planning, DPW, and Transit Departments to improve pedestrian safety education and outreach

Early Intervention (EI) and Preschool Special Education

- Total Early Intervention enrollment for 2024 was 1231 children.
 - 745 Early Intervention referrals were received and evaluated, with 395 found eligible for services.
 - 855 intakes were completed
 - 1,378 home visits were conducted.
 - 556 office visits were conducted.
 - Average monthly number of children awaiting EI services was 28.
- Total Preschool Special Education enrollment for 2024 was 2086 children.
- Continued recruitment of therapists to better meet the needs of the children within the Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs and reduce waiting times and ensure timely services.

- Provided regulatory guidance and support to Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education provider agencies as well as to the Committee for Preschool Special Education chairpersons in the 16 school districts to ensure children are receiving the most appropriate and effective services needed to improve their delay or disability.
- Conducted confidentiality training for the County Comptroller's Office staff to enable access to On Base Preschool Digital Records Auditing File to complete monthly audits of bills being paid.
- Met with the DCFS Children's Services leadership to discuss Child Find and EI referral process for children in Foster Care or with CPS involvement. Developed referral process and updated referral form designed specifically to have referrals made directly by DCFS Children's Services personnel.
- New York State's EI data management software, EI Hub, went live in October 2024, creating challenges due to system wide capacity and functionality issues.
- Due to the changing regulations and billing rates, two of three EI center-based programs closed over the past year, losing 35 center-based slots for EI children.
- Continued provider recruitment for both Early Intervention and Preschool Special, with six new EI service provider/agencies added and ten new Preschool service provider/agencies
- Several agencies expanded their preschool classrooms, adding capacity/slots. In 2024, four agencies added a total of 8 classrooms serving 60 classroom slots. (Note: these slots are shared with surrounding counties' students.)

Public Health Emergency Preparedness / Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)

- These units are a collaboration of the Department of Health and the Department of Emergency Response. Annual activities can be found under the Department of Emergency Response.

Public Health and Disease Prevention Division

Adolescent Tobacco-Use Prevention Act (ATUPA)

- Conducted 479 ATUPA compliance checks, generating 61 violations resulting from tobacco or vapor product sales to underage individuals and 2 illegal tobacco or vapor product sales to adults.
- Completed 44 enforcement actions for ATUPA related violations (underage and out of package sales; possession of flavored vapor products; tobacco sales without valid permits; failure to allow access to areas of facility). Completed one enforcement action for a Clean Indoor Air Act violation.
- Received and investigated 17 ATUPA and 12 Clean Indoor Air Act related complaints.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

- Received 3770 lead screenings; 63 children newly identified elevated lead levels reported. These levels were addressed by nursing and environmental staff for education, mitigation and follow up testing.
- Performed lead hazard assessments at 22 dwellings in the program's target area (high-risk housing in the City of Poughkeepsie) with goal of educating, inspecting, and controlling lead-based paint hazards before a child becomes lead poisoned.
- Received 66 elevated blood lead level referrals for environmental case management.
- Completed one enforcement action against a property owner for failing to complete required lead hazard remediation by specified dates.
- Trained and certified 201 individuals in lead safe work practices through contract with CertRebel, LLC.
- Educated six childcare providers and two training coordinators about childhood lead poisoning and DCDOH lead programs at a Childcare Council meeting.
- Tabled at Smith School Early Learning Center, the Dutchess County Department of Health's annual Health Fair, and the Dutchess County Fair to educate parents/guardians about lead. More than 50 individuals were reached through these efforts.
- Received Leading in Lead Prevention Pilot Program grant from NYS Homes and Community Renewal. Funding will be used for lead abatement in eligible dwellings located in areas of high risk, including the City of Poughkeepsie.
- Two Public Health Sanitarians became U.S. EPA certified Lead Risk Assessors.

Indoor Air Quality

- Investigated 44 indoor air quality complaints.

Maternal Child Health Program

- Received 168 referrals for the LHCSA (Licensed Home Care Services Agency) program
- Opened and processed 29 new cases in 2024
- Developed and administered a survey regarding barriers to prenatal care access to 180 Dutchess County residents. Used knowledge gained from survey responses to engage 17 Dutchess County residents in discussion groups regarding prenatal care access and experiences.
- Developed and administered a survey to 9 Dutchess County clinicians who provide prenatal care services to help understand their perceptions of barriers faced by the community. Used information learned from both surveys and discussion groups to draft recommendations to help improve prenatal care access and utilization.

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

- Received 3770 lead screenings.
- 63 newly identified elevated lead levels reported in children.

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

- Offered 4 evening workshops in the spring for Spanish speaking families of children with special needs to introduce many community resources available.

School Attendance Project

- A public health nurse was dedicated to the Early Learning Center serving PreK and Kindergarten for project relating to prevention of chronic absenteeism in early grades, as it is predictive of high school graduation rates.
- DOH staff provided a series of 6 Parent Academy Workshops at the Early Learning Center.

Clinic-based services

- Various screenings, testing and immunizations were conducted at the DOH Clinic at the Family Partnership Center in Poughkeepsie in 2024 including but not limited to:
 - Oversight of 9 active 6 latent Tuberculosis cases
 - 406 sexual health clinic patients
 - 833 immunizations

Immunization

- Immunizations at the DOH clinic detailed as follows:
 - 143 Adult immunizations
 - 460 Children's immunizations
 - 230 Rabies post exposure immunizations
- Collaborated with Environmental services to manage and oversee 146 rabies post exposure cases.
- Translated multiple foreign immunization records for many students who were starting school in Dutchess County.
- Rabies vaccine administration activity was transferred to the local emergency departments in 2024.

Communicable Disease Control

- Total of 1233 confirmed Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) cases reported countywide:
 - Gonorrhea: 272
 - Chlamydia: 897
 - Early or Symptomatic Syphilis: 64

- Held first sexual health educational forum “Spilling the Tea” for local healthcare providers in June at Vassar College.
- 8 reportable cases of Legionella were monitored.
- 60 reported Pertussis cases. Shared NYS Health Advisory Alert in December to alert healthcare providers to consider pertussis in their differential diagnosis of patients presenting with a prolonged cough illness regardless of vaccination status.
- Investigated reports of a cluster of gastrointestinal illnesses among attendees at a local event in June. The parasite Cyclosporiasis was found to be the common denominator. Dutchess County and Columbia County collaborated in the case investigations, as some of the affected were Colombia County residents.

Rabies Exposure Program

- Investigated 750 potential human rabies exposures from animal contacts.
- Authorized 143 individuals for rabies post exposure prophylaxis. Of those, 59% were authorized due to bat exposure.
- 111 animal specimens were tested for rabies as part of investigations, with 7 tested positive including: 1 bat, 1 beaver, 1 cat, 3 racoons, 1 skunk.
- Four rabies vaccination clinics for pets were held in partnership with the Dutchess County SPCA, with 433 pets vaccinated.
- Supported one community partner clinic with 62 pets vaccinated.
- Partnered with Dutchess County SPCA and Stray HELP to facilitate trap neuter vaccination return (TNVR) of feral cats as well as provide public education. 136 feral cats were spayed/neutered with this funding.

Environmental Health Services

Bathing Beaches, Swimming Pools, and Recreational Aquatic Spray Grounds

- Regulated 26 public bathing beaches including:
 - Collected 612 samples for fecal coliform, with 12 samples exceeding threshold for acceptable bathing waters and beaches were closed.
 - Two harmful algae blooms occurred, with each beach closed until it could be demonstrated that the water was below the acceptable threshold.
- Provided regulatory oversight of 200 public swimming pools including:
 - Conducted 678 public swimming pool operation inspections and re-inspections.
 - 95 critical violations were cited, all of which were corrected. Most critical violations were associated with inadequate disinfection, inadequate supervision, and improper pool enclosure.

- Permitted 3 recreational aquatic spray grounds, including the new spray ground at the County's Wilcox Park, which opened in July 2024.

Children's Camps

- Regulated 53 children's camp operations including:
 - Investigated 29 reportable children's camp injuries and illnesses.
 - Investigated 7 abuse allegations at children's camp operations including one investigation concurrent with NYS Troopers.
 - Investigated 3 disease outbreaks at children's camp operations. (Respiratory illness and gastrointestinal illness).
 - Investigated 1 complaint about a children's camp operation.
 - Conducted 2 administrative hearings for children's camp operations.

Engineering Projects

- Reviewed over 2,550 engineering submissions of new private wells, sewage collection and treatment system improvements, public water system improvements, public swimming pool improvements, subdivisions, extension of approval requests, use change requests, completed works certifications, and septic system repair notices of intent.
- Sent outreach email to local septic contractors about updates to residential septic system repair notice of intent program, including links to new webpages.

Food Service

- 692 digital permit applications were processed for temporary food service operations.
- 110 digital permit applications were processed for year-round food service operations.
- Investigated a multi county foodborne illness outbreak which affected over 200 guests at a catered event, in collaboration with the Dutchess County Department of Emergency, NYSDOH and FDA.
- Regulated 1180 year-round food service operations
 - Performed 2987 food service inspections.
 - Cited 868 critical violations, which were resolved. Most frequently cited violations were inadequate food storage room temperature, inadequate cooling of food, and inadequate refrigeration.
 - Investigated 99 food service facility complaints
 - Conducted 19 informal hearings for food service operations.
 - Conducted 7 administrative hearings for food service operations with the Administrative Law Judge.
- Regulated 105 mobile food service operations.
 - Cited 21 critical violations, and investigated 1 complaint.
- Regulated 42 State Department of Education Summer Feeding Sites.
 - Cited 4 critical violations.

- Regulated 16 Office for the Aging Feeding Site operations.
- Regulated 692 temporary food service operations.
 - Cited 12 critical violations and Investigated 1 complaint.
 - Conducted 1 informal hearing.
 - Conducted 1 administrative hearing.
- An in-person food safety training course for food service operators provided education to 16 food service workers.
- Seven additional food safety training courses were taught at different food service facilities including at restaurants and children's camps.
- Performed 73 Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) inspections. This process trains chefs to actively manage food safety risk in their own restaurants. This helps establish better communication, and partnership with the food service operators.

Housing & Nuisance Complaints

- Investigated 270 housing complaints and 54 indoor air complaints along with the Public Health and Disease Prevention Division.
- Investigated 124 public health nuisance complaints.

Private wells

- Reviewed 179 applications to drill, deepen or abandon wells.
- Reviewed 166 sampling results for private wells tested as part of Town mandated private well testing regulations for the Towns of East Fishkill, Wappinger, and Fishkill
 - Notified 141 homeowners by letter when results exceeded drinking water standards.

Public Water Systems

- Public health engineers and public health engineering technicians regulated the operation of 626 public water systems.
- 888 site visits conducted; 243 sanitary surveys completed; 512 violations were cited.
- Investigated 196 chemical spills for impacts to public water systems.
- Investigated 15 public water system complaints.
 - Conducted 4 administrative hearings for public water system operations.
- Launched the online Drinking Water Information Portal (DRIP) for operators and owners of public water systems to upload required monthly operation reports, sampling results, annual water quality reports and other documents.
- Launched an electronic process for permits to operate a public water system using a new web-based application called e-permits developed by OCIS.

- 240 public water systems completed Lead Service Line Inventories to comply with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

- Processed 212 Residential Sewage Disposal System applications (SAN 34) from local building departments verifying the availability of approved septic system and/or well designs before issuing building permits for individual residential projects.
- Approved 179 residential septic system and well installations for individual residential projects.
- Reviewed 416 residential septic system repair notices of intent (SAN 36).
- Investigated 32 reports of sewage failure.
- Partnered with DC Planning and OCIS to develop septic system replacement fund webpage with an interactive map and application.

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

- Regulated 95 temporary residence operations.
 - Completed 154 inspections.
 - 17 critical violations were cited and corrected.
 - Investigated 4 temporary residence complaints.
 - Conducted 1 informal hearing.
- Regulated 11 campground operations
 - Conducted 1 informal hearing for a campground operation
- Regulated 79 mobile home park operations.
 - Performed 142 inspections.
 - 8 critical violations were cited.
 - Investigated 4 complaints.
 - Conducted 1 informal hearing.
 - Initiated 1 administrative hearing.
- Regulated 13 migrant farmworker housing operations.
- Regulated 35 rooming houses and bed & breakfast operations.
- Regulated 5 public function operations (attendance of over 5,000 people) including the Dutchess County Fair, the Sheep and Wool Festival, the Rhinebeck Antique Car Show, Balloon Festival and Barton Orchard Harvest Weekends.

Weights and Measures

- Performed 683 inspections at 669 establishments.
- Inspected 4,656 weighing and measuring devices; 4,529 devices were found to be correct, a 97% accuracy rate.
- Conducted 222 gas signage inspections.
- Submitted 199 gas samples taken from random Dutchess County gas stations for octane analysis as part of the New York State Petroleum Quality Program; no violations found,
- Conducted 67 inspections for pricing accuracy; more than 6,600 items checked with 98.8% accuracy rate.
- Responded to 9 complaints including: gas signage, scale accuracy, weight discrepancy, accuracy of amount of fuel dispensed, fuel pump operation, fuel quality, item pricing and scanner accuracy at supermarkets, delis and small establishments. All concerns were addressed.
- 27 supermarkets and 16 chain pharmacies in Dutchess County continue to participate in the Item Pricing Waiver Law.
- Licensed 25 Secondhand dealers.

History

- Completed indexing of 20,000 pages of Ancient Documents for future imaging.
- Completed Phase 10 of the Ancient Documents Project, successfully digitizing 20,000 pages of historic court records to make accessible for public research.
- Secured Phase 11 imaging funding of an additional 20,000 pages of the Ancient Documents Collection through a State Archives LGRMIF Grant for \$22,500.
- Collaborated with the County Clerk's Office to digitize 17,704 pages of manuscript historical material through the Archival Imaging Initiative to preserve invaluable documents from the County archives as well as from local historical society collections.
- Delivered 22 public programs at venues throughout Dutchess County.
- Delivered six Dutchess County Historic Tavern Trail programs at sites throughout the county.
- Mentored a high school intern from the Wappingers School District through the Mid-Hudson Regional Chamber of Commerce's Youth Leadership Program
- Created a curriculum guide for 4th-12th grade students drawing on the Ancient Documents Project and other historical county records.
- Presented on Ancient Documents Project and the Archival Imaging Initiative at the "Archives of Revolution" Conference in Providence, R.I.

- Served as a judge at Mid-Hudson History Day, part of the nationwide History Day competition series.
- Partnered with the East Fishkill Historical Society on Dutchess County Civil War Days weekend event.
- Led three forum meetings of all Dutchess County history organizations for collaborative planning and networking.
- Presented at the Dutchess County Clerk's Office's naturalization ceremonies.
- Led network of local and county-level planning groups throughout Dutchess and expanded regional partnerships for Rev250 planning.
- Served on the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Advisory Committee.
- Served as an ex officio member of the Dutchess County Historical Society Board of Trustees.
- Advised and assisted the Dutchess County Historical Society and local historical societies throughout the county on strategic planning, board development, and other institutional projects.
- Answered 53 research inquiries from the public at large and maintained countywide communications network for county history community through department landing page and email list.
- Authored article on the Tivoli Fire Companies for the 2024 Issue of the *Dutchess County Historical Society Yearbook*.
- Published local history columns in Dutchess County newspapers throughout 2024.

Human Resources

- Approved and tracked personnel actions including appointment, promotion, and salary updates, etc. for over 9,018 employees of the County and covered agencies and 7,019 non-county employees.
- Reviewed 5,494 applications for appointment eligibility (3,000 exam applications, 1,735 recruitment applications and 755 non-county applications).
- Administered 187 civil service exams and 81 recruitments, as well as conducted FPAT testing for Firefighters, Deputy Sheriff/Police Officer Agility Testing, and Correction Officer Agility Testing and administering 911 PC Qualifying Tests. Due to the implementation of new exam software, exams were paused during July, August and into September, resulting in fewer exams and applications processed compared to an average year.

- Implemented new application/exam software to create an improved and modern applicant experience, enhance online/digital correspondence, increase online access to lists and information, and streamline the exam scoring process.
- Processed 342 new employee orientations.
- Reviewed 303 positions from County and covered agencies for classification and conducted multiple appeals and desk audits. Revised 65 job specifications.
- Completed 51 payroll audits and 3,544 non-County civil service employees certified for civil service compliance for covered agencies and certified Dutchess County payroll.
- Submitted 31 Resolutions to NYS Civil Service Commission to update the Rules for Dutchess County, including additional County HELP titles such Public Safety Call Takers, Receptionist, Office Assistant, Community Benefits Specialist.
- Received 24 complaints/inquiries of harassment/discrimination involving eight departments. Full investigations were completed and/or referrals/mediated disputes were resolved.
- Established County LinkedIn Account for increased digital presence for recruiting.
- Settlement of PBA Collective Bargaining Negotiations with ratification by County Legislature.
- Worked with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Correction Division recruitment team in collaboration with assigned Seasonal Student Worker who designed recruitment flyers and distributed flyers to over 35 locations for the 2024 Police Officer Exam.
- Equal Employment and Inclusion Officer (EEIO) participated in the Bard College HR & Hiring Manager and Beacon High School Alumni panels. Participated in several ThinkDIFFERENTLY/Think jobs committee meetings and round table series in addition to Perkin Advisory Council Meetings, as well as career pipelines within Dutchess County Government.
- Participated in 34 community outreach and recruitment meetings that serve underrepresented groups regarding employment with Dutchess County Government.
- A total of 15 inquiries and applications were received and submitted for the 55A program.
- The department participated in approximately 30 Career and Recruitment Hybrid Fairs and tabling events.

Risk Management Division

- 22 ADA Requests received, reviewed and determinations completed
- Received and processed 53 workplace violence investigations, with 74 employees interviewed.
- 113 employees tested as part of the annual test for the Hearing Conservation Program.

- Completed 71 miscellaneous safety inspections for county departments (confined space inspections, noise complaints, unsafe condition reports, decibel testing, mold/lead complaints, emergency egress complaints).
- Completed 161 Building Inspections for the County along with Workers Compensation Trust participants.
- Assisted 192 employees with Defensive Driving Signups/payment processing.
- 14 employees trained and certified to operate forklifts.
- Managed NEOGOV training, with 1,922 new and existing employees completing over 11,000 trainings.
- Processed over 224 new Workers' Compensation claims for Dutchess County and 10 other Article 5 Plan Participants.
- Conducted 52 Federal Transit Administration Random, Post Accident and New Hire Drug Tests and 70 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Random, Post Accident and New Hire Drug Tests.
- Managed and maintained all Health Insurance benefits and processed Open Enrollment for all 1929 active employees and about 1300 retirees.
- 155 Paid Parental Leave, Paid Family Leave and Disability Claims Processed.
- Successfully completed Triennial Review of Transit service and FTA audit.

Law (County Attorney's Office)

- Prepared and submitted 145 resolutions on behalf of County Departments to the County Legislature for review and approval.
- Prepared and circulated approximately 1650 Contracts, Extensions and Amendment Agreements for County Departments through the OnBase system.
- Assisted 123 residents with applications for Poor Person status, enabling them to start actions in Dutchess County courts without paying initial filing fees or other costs.
- Successfully won Decision, Order and Judgment that the New York State "Even Year Election Law" is unconstitutional. Protected County Home Rule and the sanctity of the Dutchess County Charter as it concerns the election of local elected officials.
- Provided legal counsel to Risk Management and various departments on 73 civil litigation cases.
- Provided general counsel to County Executive's Office and Department of Emergency relating to initiatives to address EMS challenges including:

- Counsel to contract for Supplemental EMS support services to Dutchess County, which provides both basic life support and advanced life support ambulance services under a new pilot program.
 - Counsel to complete new Fly Car Grant awards, which provide critical funding for life-saving equipment to fire departments, rescue squads, and ambulance corps.
 - Prepared procurement documents and resulting contracts to facilitate a County-wide public awareness campaign.
- Amended the Dutchess County Charter and Code to create independent departments of the Mental Health, Department of Health and the Office of Veterans Affairs.
- Obtained a temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction and finally a permanent injunction from Dutchess County Supreme Court, the first and only in New York State, to reverse New York City's policy of bussing asylum seekers to Dutchess County without coordination with or advance notice to Dutchess County.
- Wrote and facilitated adoption of a Local Law to increase the Hotel Tax from 4% to 5% after securing Home Rule Legislation from New York State Legislature.
- Provided legal counsel to the Finance Department and County Executive's Office concerning a demand of over \$7.9 million related to Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) withdrawal liability for an underfunded Public Transit Pension Fund. Facilitated a settlement agreement resulting in considerable savings to the County. The demand exceeded \$7.9 million, and the settlement was \$2.3 million.
- Reviewed all Orders of Succession County-wide. Ensured legal compliance during transitions/vacancies in the offices of OCIS, Emergency Response, and Parks.
- Provided legal counsel and facilitated the execution of Interim Services Agreement of the Maybrook Trail, with Metro North and the MTA, ensuring continued access to this important resource while insulating the County from undue liability.
- Provided legal counsel and facilitated the acquisition of Obercreek Farm in the Town of Wappingers, preserving over 5,000 acres of vital farmland as part of the County's Partnership for Manageable Growth (PMG) program.
- Provided counsel to the County's new Corporate Compliance group and reviewed the Corporate Compliance Policy to ensure County-wide adherence to statutory requirements.
- Created a New York State Open Meetings Law "Questions and Answers" Legal Guidance document.
- Assisted and counseled the Board of Ethics in adoption of rules and regulations proposed which govern extensions to file Financial Disclosure Statements.
- Provided advice and counsel resulting in a PBA collective bargaining agreement.

DCFS and Juvenile Justice

- Attended and participated in the Child Welfare Court Improvement Project initiative that supports the Family Court's mandate to promote the safety, permanency, and well-being of abused and neglected children.
- Scheduled and moderated virtual multi-county meetings, which included Dutchess, Westchester, Orange, Putnam, Suffolk, Ulster and Monroe, to discuss the representation of Department of Community & Family Services (DCFS) before the courts, the implementation of State programs/initiatives, changes in the statutes and topics of interest to other departments under the auspices of the local departments of social services.
- Facilitated open communication with the Family and Supreme Courts regarding the role of the agency in child welfare and adult protective services matters.

Training

- Organized and administered employee corrective action training for all County Department Heads and supervisors, proctored by Elena Pablo, Esq. of Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux, LLP.
- Presented Juvenile Delinquent material at the CAASNY Winter Meeting in Cooperstown, New York regarding the prosecution of a juvenile delinquency rape case under changes to Penal Law Section 130.
- Provided legal training for agency staff in Child Welfare matters and the confidentiality of Medicaid records, including the interpretation of the courts regarding same.
- Participated in and presented at the Annual School Safety Symposium held at FDR Home, providing information about the Juvenile Fire Setter Intervention Response & Education (JFIRE) Program.
- Instructed and presented on Juvenile Law legal issues at the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Police Academy.

Mental Health

Administration/Department Highlights

- Mental Health became an independent department in August, following months of logistical and administrative planning to dissolve the combined Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) and create separate operations as Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health (DOH), and Office of Veterans Affairs.
- Revised every Scope of Service and outcome reporting metric for DMH contract agencies, ensuring contract agencies are held accountable to a high level of service delivery, and progress can be continually monitored and problems are identified for swift correction.

- Implemented new system to monitor contract workflows, allowing each contract liaison from DMH to closely monitor all contract documents and outcome metric reporting.
- Established a new Quality Improvement Committee and quality monitoring internal reporting system to ensure compliance with best practices, improve internal processes, ensure appropriate billing practices and monitor compliance to regulations.
- The Hoarding Task Force was established, in collaboration with Office for the Aging and the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS). Hoarding disorder is a significant challenge that can lead to homelessness. A system that includes a referral portal, treatment protocol, training opportunities was developed and launched.
- Awarded 13 Youth Wellness Mini Grants totaling over \$200,000 to organizations across Dutchess County, funded by opioid settlement.
- Developed a new internship program for mental health, partnering with Marist College to host 4 interns.
- In collaboration with the Dept. of Community and Family Services, established a new clinical intervention team for individuals experiencing homelessness at the PODS.
- The Dutchess County Stabilization Center became New York State's first licensed Supportive Crisis Stabilization Center. A collaborative effort with People, USA, the New York State Office of Mental Health and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports now enables People, USA to operate the Dutchess County Stabilization Center under their own license. In 2024, there were 2,748 visits to the 24/7, walk-in Stabilization Center by 1,720 individuals.
- Launched "Leave-Behind Kit" program in October, in partnership with Department of Emergency Response and trained first responder agency partners. When responding to an overdose emergency, EMS, Fire or Law Enforcement will "leave behind" kits, which include two doses of naloxone as well as connections to resources via the Helpline app, with bystanders or family members on scene. In the program's initial roll-out phase, 10 first responder agencies have been trained, and 310 total leave behind kits have been distributed to the agencies.
- Purchased and began distribution of naloxone cabinets ("naloxboxes"); 57 stocked naloxboxes were distributed throughout Dutchess County in 2024.
- Received authorization from the NYS Department of Health to implement a Second Tier Syringe Exchange Program. 15 participants currently enrolled through street outreach.
- Hosted 4 Mental Health Public Forums, one in each region of the county: central Dutchess (Poughkeepsie), northern Dutchess (Pine Plains), eastern Dutchess (Dover) and southern Dutchess (Beacon).

All Abilities

- Responded to over 250 inquiries for information and guidance regarding resources and services from families, individuals and partner agencies – a 43% increase over 2023.

- ThinkDIFFERENTLY hosted 12 different events for residents, their families and providers which included (with attendance provided):
 - Sensory friendly movie at Roosevelt Theater: Kung Fu Panda 4 – 147
 - ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day – 330
 - Sensory friendly movie at Bardavon: Frozen – 47
 - First Responder Autism Training – 25
 - First Responder Meet & Greet – 20
 - Sensory friendly performance for School-Aged Youth: David Gonzalez – 152
 - Sensory friendly performance for Day Programs: David Gonzalez – 104
 - Supporting Emotional Regulation Workshop – 70
 - ThinkDIFFERENTLY Conference (Disability Etiquette) – 70
 - Sensory Friendly performance: The Nutcracker – 235
 - Flower box planting for Dutchess County Fair – 35
 - Sensory friendly tent used at Dutchess County Fair – 43 groups
- ThinkDIFFERENTLY was represented at 40 different community events, sharing information about the initiative, about youth mental health services (including 988), connecting individuals and families, and networking with providers.
- The ThinkDIFFERENTLY.net website had over 17,000 hits, with 10,480 being engaged sessions of 10 seconds or more.
- Received 87 Children’s Single Point of Access (SPOA) applications.
 - The average age of youth with a CSPOA application was 14, the age range was 5 years old to 19 years old; 43 were male and 44 were female; 63% of applications have Medicaid insurance and 37% have private insurance.
- Collaborated with Astor Services and other agencies for the planning of the annual Building Bridges conference, which was attended by 200-250 educators and providers of children’s services. Event included workshops related to self-care, children’s grief, green mental health, and trauma-informed care, following a panel of teens and young adults who discussed their own challenges.

AOT (Assisted Outpatient Treatment)

- There are currently 66 AOT Active orders and 9 Enhanced Service Contract orders.
- Completed the full revision of AOT policy and procedure.
- AOT Coordinator provided ongoing training to Family Services, MidHudson Regional Hospital, and Grace Smith House staff.
- Instituted in-person monthly meetings with Mental Health America (MHA) case managers and virtual monthly meetings with RSS case managers. This has improved communication immensely and has fostered better outcomes with AOT requirements.

Adult SPOA (Single Point of Access)

- Received and processed 294 Adult SPOA applications.
- Housed 82 individuals, a 34% increase over the previous year.
- Current Active SPOA is 165 individuals.

Care Management

- Received and processed 76 applications; 3 additional care management agencies added to DMH's existing SPOA referral.

ACT (Assertive Community Treatment)

- Received and processed 14 applications.
- Developed improved record keeping of actual homeless individuals by engaging with Safe Option Support (SOS) team, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion and other community-based street homeless programs.

HELPLINE

- Answered over 21,000 calls to 845-485-9700 number.
- Answered 38,943 texts from individuals.
- Answered 4,413 Lifeline/988 calls, a 38% increase over 2023. Vesta System, a phone system used by both Dutchess and Ulster County 911, became operational, allowing for much more redundancy and accessibility in alternate locations, if the current center needs to be evacuated.
- Completed re-accreditation through the Association of Applied Suicidology (AAS).
- 649 new downloads in 2024 of the Dutchess HELPLINE app for a total of more than 2300 downloads.
- Received 374 calls or texts for help via HELPLINE app.

Trauma Team

- Responded to 32 calls, more than double the number in the previous year; the team met with 276 individuals.
- Completed policy and procedures and began development of community outreach brochure.
- Partnered with State Office of Mental Health to develop a disaster mental health response team.

Dutchess County Threat Assessment Group (TAG)

- Developed TAG's formal protocols.
- Partnered with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office for a case coordinator position.

- Developed and launched the TAG webpage with an online referral form for the community and participating member agencies, in partnership with OCIS.
- Partnered with the Department of Emergency Response, Probation, County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Office and District Attorney's Office twice monthly to review new cases of reported threat and monitor resolved cases.

Intensive Treatment Alternatives Program (ITAP)

- Received 5,273 visits, averaging 25 daily program attendees.
- Hired full-time recovery coach was hired, serving as a critical link between professional treatment and sustainable recovery, empowering individuals to build healthier, more fulfilling lives.
- Integrated true co-occurring treatment by introducing improved screenings and treatment by dually licensed Addiction Psychiatrist.
- Received re-certification post audit from NYS Office of Addiction Services and Supports.
- Re-wrote Policy and Procedure to integrate new regulations and improve the use of person-centered language and planning.

Partial Hospital

- Monthly Census average of 42 unique individuals per month.
- Average daily attendance was 10 individuals.
- 3,496 total visits for individuals seeking clinical services, a 44% increase over 2023.

Forensic Services

- Completed 184 forensic evaluations upon referrals from the courts, probation, and attorneys. Upon completion of the evaluation, recommendations for addiction and recovery treatment are made to the courts.
- Participated on the Judicial Diversion Team. Judicial Diversion participants have a substance addiction and are charged with a felony and facing prison. There are about 50-65 Diversion participants at any one time.

Embedded Clinical Team at Office of Probation and Community Corrections

- Collaborative Solutions Social Worker at youth probation coordinated:
 - 170 Functional Family Therapy Sessions
 - 36 Teen Intervene Group sessions
 - 81 collaborative sessions with clients and probation officers, clinical services, adult probation:
 - 124 Individual client contact sessions
 - 100 Case conference sessions with probation officers

Empowerment Center

- Hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony in September to celebrate permanent location at 230 North Road at Poughkeepsie, with more than 100 people in attendance.
- Provided Recovery Coach services to 207 unique individuals.
- Center has reached a 69.6% growth rate since its establishment in 2022, continuing to reach more individuals each year.
- Conducted outreach 81 times in the community, including on streets, at parks, the PODS, colleges, organizations, recovery houses, behavioral health settings, and substance use treatment settings.
- Distributed harm reduction kits:
 - 582 Fentanyl Test Kits
 - 553 Narcan Kits
 - 371 Xylazine Test Kits
- Facilitated 96 Group and Training Sessions with participants and community members. Group sessions included Recovery Group, Wellness in Numbers and Restoration League and trainings on topics such as use of Narcan, Fentanyl and Xylazine testing, de-escalation skills and more.
- 38 individuals connected to substance use treatment or supports.
- Obtained housing for 25 participants including independent housing, supported housing, Section 8, or emergency housing.
- Assisted 17 participants with accessing education college, GED, vocational, or other.
- Assisted 39 participants start vocational (employment) opportunities.
- Launched Empowerment Center Garden to bring gardening and the educational, healing, and practical benefits of agriculture to participants, in a contracted partnership with Eden Share, Inc.
- Administered a participant feedback survey and change box success story form to capture quantitative and qualitative data from Empowerment Center clients to hear about their experience.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

- Received 30 referrals to LEAD in 2024; 11 were both eligible and accepted entry into the program.
- Program now has 39 total participants.
 - 20 are now housed.
 - 13 are now in and maintaining permanent housing.

- Team made 179 direct connections to treatment.
- LEAD's Policy Coordination Group (PCG), which consists of leadership from city and county government, the police department and People USA, became firmly established with robust participation and cross-agency collaboration, and developed measurable goals and outcomes for the LEAD initiative.

Jail Based Services

- Recovery Coach worked with 23 unique individuals since beginning work in the jail in August; 16 of these individuals were also on medication-assisted treatment (MAT).
- Recovery Coach had 103 total engagements with participants.
 - 16 occurred out in the community
- Discharge Planner had approximately 480 inmate contacts, providing support and planning with people incarcerated in the Dutchess County Justice & Transition Center (JTC).
- Discharge Planner transported people directly to treatment over 20 times.
- Discharge Planner completed over 30 referrals to treatment for incarcerated individuals.
- Chemical Dependency Counselor opened 180 new Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) cases in the JTC.
- Chemical Dependency Counselor facilitated 65 ongoing MAT support/education groups in the JTC.
- Chemical Dependency Counselor linked 37 individuals to ongoing outpatient MAT maintenance.

Commission on Human Rights

- "100 Cups of Coffee" small group conversations
 - Trained 7 facilitators
 - Conducted 7 presentations with municipalities and organizations
 - Held 2 dialogues, 165 people reached
 - Planned 2025 with organizations in 3 communities
- Facilitated 3 other group conversations
- Facilitated 5 conversations regarding antisemitism attended by 37
- Helped 7 constituents with hate and bias incidents
- Convened community stakeholders in response to incidents resulting in Community + Kindness Project (Phase I).
- Participated in 2 NYS DHR Hudson Valley Prevention Council meetings, resulting in 5 virtual trainings funded by NYS.

- Hosted 6 “Bystander Intervention Trainings” on preventing harassment and increasing resilience; attended by 482 people.
- Conducted 4 presentations to municipal boards.
 - Contacted 5 additional municipalities; met with 1.
- Conducted 1 four-hour training for employees, *Managing Challenging Conversations in Public Spaces*, focused on understanding conflict as a crisis in human interaction and applying interventions designed to increase safety while tabling at events; 22 people attended.
- Attended 3 days of Threat Assessment Training as member of the Threat Assessment Group; consulted on 1 case.
- Served as team member with DC Planning and ThinkDIFFERENTLY to develop and implement Title II State & Local Government and NYS Human Rights Law reasonable accommodation request and grievance process. Participated in consultation w/NE ADA Center.
- Served as Team member on 3 Title II complaints to ADA Coordinator; resolved all complaints through team process.
- Collaborated with ThinkDIFFERENTLY on 3 community cases affecting more than 18 people with disabilities; 2 cases were resolved.
- Participated in ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness & Field Day, providing information to people with disabilities, their caregivers and organizations.
- Attended Taconic Resources for Independence Inclusion Fair and shared housing resources with County programs.
- Assisted 14 additional people with disabilities alleging discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.
- Co-hosted 5 educational workshops in collaboration with community-based organizations; 210 people attended.
- Represented the Commission at more than 23 community events.
- Tabled and provided information, including mental health resources, at 6 municipal community days.

Planning and Development

Agriculture

- Closed on 3 Partnership for Manageable Growth projects farmland protection easements: Meadowland Farm in the Town of Clinton (117 acres); Cedar Ridge Farm in the Town of Pine Plains (247 acres); and Obercreek Farm in the Town of Wappinger (143 acres). The program has now preserved over 5,000 acres of farmland since its inception in 1999.

- Began discussion of proposed changes to the Agricultural District’s annual inclusion application form and process to merge it with the current Agricultural District Viewer in 2025 to automate the collection of property information.
- The Agricultural Navigator position was brought into the Department as a part-time position in September and will transition to a full-time position in 2025.
- Drafted role statement for an Education Sub-Committee of the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board; recruited potential members.
- Assisted Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board in the review of the 2024 annual ag. district inclusions, whose recommendations were approved by the legislature and adopted by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.
- Coordinated and moderated the annual Agricultural Forum held at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds in August with approximately 60 participants.
- Assisted 96 constituents with issues related to Agricultural Value Assessment, Right to Farm laws, Economic Development, land use, and Building Inspector issues.
- Responded to 15 farmers regarding agricultural issues.

Community Investment/CDBG/HOME

- Administered the 2024 Agency Partner Grant (APG) Program with \$1.5 million in APG funds awarded to 25 agencies for 32 programs.
- 2024 APG: Infrastructure Program received and reviewed 21 applications, requesting more than \$1.4 million; awarded \$350,000 for 9 projects.
- In partnership with the Department of Emergency Response, launched the 2024 Fly Car Equipment Support Grant Program; received and awarded 10 projects totaling \$160,421.
- Reviewed 12 applications received through the 2024-25 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Service program, requesting more than \$311,000 in funding; awarded more than \$235,000 for 7 programs.
- Completed a comprehensive review of 13 applications received under the 2024 CDBG Municipal grant program; awarded 6 projects totaling \$1,056,080.
- Used HOME ARP funding to support Hudson River Housing’s acquisition and renovation of 57 South Clinton Street in the City of Poughkeepsie for its Youth Transitional Housing program, which began operation in May 2024.
- Awarded 6 HOME projects for a total of \$1,309,995 in funding, which will result in 24 new affordable housing units at project completion.
- Completed and submitted the annual CDBG/HOME Action Plan and Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report to HUD.

- Conducted 8 Pre-Construction Conferences with recipients of CDBG Municipal funding.
- Provided administrative support to the Office of Veterans Affairs for its Veterans Microgrant Program and to the Department of Mental Health for its Youth Wellness Support Microgrant Program.
- Completed HOME projects on South Grand Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie, Rudd Pond Road in the Town of North East, and Castagna Drive in the Town of Pawling, resulting in a total of 12 affordable housing units.
- Successfully petitioned U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to change the County's Program Funding Year in 2025 to better align with federal appropriations.
- Contracted with a consultant for the development of the 2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan.

Data, Geographic Information Systems, and Graphics

- Fulfilled 92 custom mapping and data requests/projects for municipalities, engineering firms, local non-profits, and County staff.
- Provided the Department of Health (DOH) with monthly updated Legionella countywide mapping analysis of Vaping & Tobacco Vendor proximity to schools.
- Completed 5 road closure detour maps for the Department of Public Works.
- Implemented ongoing updates to Dutchess County's Parks & Trails database.
- Responded to 8 requests for census information.
- Fulfilled 27 custom graphics requests/projects for County departments/staff.
- Attended the State Data Center virtual conference.

Economic Development

- Held 5 public engagement events and launched a survey for the Schatz Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) study to advance a strategy for redevelopment of the former Schatz Federal Bearings Company property in Poughkeepsie.
- Met with staff from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) to discuss future EDA funding applications.
- Presented a summary of housing and agricultural issues to the Economic Development Advisory Council.
- Completed a special mapping project for the Assistant County Executive for Economic Development focused on mapping advanced manufacturing assets in the Mid-Hudson Region as part of One Network for Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships (ON-RAMP) application.

Energy and Environment

- Dutchess County earned Silver-level Climate Smart Community certification from New York State – one of only six counties to earn the highest distinction from the Department of Environmental Conservation – with 10 priority actions and 326 points logged in the County’s CSC dashboard.
 - Earlier in the year, re-certified Dutchess County as a bronze-level NYS Climate Smart Community prior to Silver certification.
- Launched the County’s new [Natural Resources Inventory website](#) and [Environmental Mapper](#) application, in partnership with the Dutchess County Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS).
 - In partnership with OCIS, the department won a [Government Experience Award](#) for the County’s [Natural Resources Inventory website](#) and [Environmental Mapper](#).
- Finalized the County’s first-ever [Climate Smart annual progress report](#).
- Posted Dutchess’ [government operations greenhouse gas emissions inventory report](#) to the County’s Climate Smart Communities webpage.
- Coordinated and convened the Dutchess County Climate Smart Communities Task Force (DCCSCTF) for 4 full meetings.
- Provided feedback to the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and DEC on proposed NYS freshwater wetland regulatory changes.
- Implemented 3 Climate Action Planning Institute (CAPI) project cohort meetings.
- Kicked off CAPI Adapt, a new cohort project in partnership with the Hudson Valley Regional Council and multiple local municipalities, focused on developing community climate vulnerability assessments and climate adaptation plans.
- Provided support to the Hudson 7 Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) and Monitoring Working Group, including assistance with submitting a grant application to the Water Research Foundation for water quality monitoring funding support.
- Provided technical support to the Hudson 7 DWSP2 project, which covers all Dutchess communities that rely on the Hudson River for drinking water, and submitted final report to NYS DOH for final approval and adoption.
- Hosted the annual Conservation Advisory Council/Environmental Management Council roundtable event for local conservation advisory groups within the County, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County.
- Completed 8 HUD Part 58 Environmental Reviews for CDBG and HOME Investment Partnership Program funded projects.
- Provided support as an ex-officio member of the Dutchess County Environmental Management Council at 11 meetings.

- Served on the EPA Dredging and Lower-Hudson Community Advisory Group as the designated representative on behalf of Dutchess County interests at 3 meetings.
- Presented the 2023 Climate Smart Community annual progress report and gave a CSC status update to the County Legislature’s Environment Committee.
- Completed Dutchess County Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report.
- Secured a \$259,000 DOE Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant for ongoing HVAC efficiency upgrades at 22 Market Street County Office Building.
- Supported the Young Engineers Empowerment Program at the Peach Hill Park rain garden event.
- Submitted comments to New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) on State proposed changes to the Clean Energy Communities Program.
- Completed CAPI Dutchess Cohort model.
- Adopted Dutchess County Climate Action Plan for Government Operations.
- Secured \$32,500 in NYS NYSEDA Clean Energy Communities grants for upgrade and replacement of 4 County-owned public EV charging stations;
- Dutchess County was a partner on a \$3 million grant for landfill emissions monitoring and mitigation, awarded to the Hudson Valley Regional Council, which includes Dutchess’ closed landfills at the Hudson Valley Regional Airport.
- In partnership with OCIS, won a Government Experience Award for the County’s Natural Resources Inventory website and Environmental Mapper.
- Completed an evaluation of County policies for climate resilience using the NYS Climate Smart Resiliency Planning tool.
- Completed Tier 2 and Tier 3 of Dutchess’ Clean Energy Communities EV Community Campaign.
- Completed draft of County Climate Adaptation Plan and presented to HVRC’s CAPI-Adapt cohort.
- Awarded the [2024 Building Bridges Award](#) at Hudson Valley Regional Council Annual Conference.

Housing

- Completed data collection, drafted, and published the 2023 Rental Housing Survey. Surveys were circulated to rental complexes of 20 or more units.
- Completed data analysis, drafted and published the [2023 For-Sale Housing Report](#).

- The first housing project funded by the Housing Trust Fund (30-32 Smith Street in the City of Poughkeepsie) broke ground in 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2025.
- Presented on housing topics – including the Rental Housing Survey, For-Sale Housing Report, and the Housing Trust Fund – to the Dutchess Industrial Development Agency.
- Participated in ongoing discussions with the Dutchess County Human Rights Commission and other housing stakeholders to discuss opportunities to work together to increase housing choice throughout the County.
- Spoke at the Town of Poughkeepsie Housing Committee meeting regarding County housing programs.

Interdepartmental

- Managed a grant writing consultant, which assisted all County departments; 9 grants were applied for and 3 were awarded.
- Assisted in the development of the 2024-2028 Capital Program process, working with all departments to update information regarding ongoing capital projects.
- Assisted in the review and resolution of two Americans with Disabilities Act Title II complaints.
- Formed a new interdepartmental drought planning working group with the departments of Health and Emergency Response.
- Assisted the Department of Health in developing an outreach plan and rules/regulations for the implementation of the new Local Law Regulating Hazardous Pollution Sources in Proximity to Public Water Sources, Aquifers and Wetlands.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)

- Recognized by the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) New York Upstate Section as its 2024 Transportation Project of the Year for the Poughkeepsie 9.44.55 study.
- Completed a Climate Vulnerability Assessment of the transportation system, titled Resilient Ways Forward, which study looks at climate change trends and their impacts on transportation, identifies where our transportation system is most vulnerable to climate hazards (including flooding, landslides, winter conditions, wind, drought, and extreme heat), and recommends ways to reduce those impacts. It includes an online adaptation toolbox, a list of priority resilience projects, and a series of policy-based measures for local jurisdictions and partner agencies to consider.
- Completed an [analysis of redesign options for the Columbus Drive](#) section of the westbound arterial in the City of Poughkeepsie, focusing on the section between Garden Street and Jefferson Street, and in particular, the weave between Mill Street and the eastbound arterial.
- Completed annual motorized and non-motorized traffic count program with:

- 144 vehicle traffic counts
- 28 bicycle/pedestrian counts
- Completed an analysis of a citywide speed limit reduction for the City of Poughkeepsie, with discussions with key staff and the Common Council to be held in 2025.
- Completed an [Existing Conditions Report](#) for the [Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Feasibility Study](#). The report includes an assessment of overall conditions along the corridor, including structures and natural resources.
 - Completed first public outreach campaign for the study, including an [online survey \(with 1,350 responses\)](#) and two pop-up outreach events at community events.
- Published [Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for Federal Fiscal Year \(FFY\) 2024](#), which shows how federal highway and transit funds were spent in Dutchess County from October 1, 2023-September 30, 2024.
- Initiated a [countywide Transportation Safety Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) to develop strategies to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes. The SAP will reflect USDOT's Safe Systems approach and meet the requirements of USDOT's Safe Streets For All (SS4A) program, making all municipalities in the county eligible to apply for SS4A implementation funding.
- Approved a series of updates to the Functional Classification of several roads in the County. These updates better characterize each road's function in the network and reflect changes in population, land use characteristics, and travel patterns.

Municipal Support/Education

- Completed 429 development reviews and referrals, a 16.8% increase over the previous year, under General Municipal Law Sections 239-l and 239-m and the State Environmental Quality Review Act.
- Provided a total of 2,966 hours of community assistance to Dutchess County municipalities, including:
 - City of Beacon's Fishkill Avenue Redevelopment Committee.
 - City of Poughkeepsie informal review of its proposed new zoning code.
 - City of Poughkeepsie provided a comprehensive list of existing regulations for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) that could be found within the municipal codes of all 30 municipalities within Dutchess County.
 - Town of East Fishkill comprehensive plan assistance.
 - Town of North East informal review of its proposed new zoning code.
 - Town of Pine Plains Zoning Review Committee short-term rentals discussion.
 - Offered Town of Pleasant Valley guidance on the GML 239 referral process, the County's intermunicipal agreement with the Town, and what projects are required to be referred.
 - Assisted Town of Stanford by providing resources regarding battery energy storage systems and wind energy conversion systems.
 - Town of Poughkeepsie potential Brownfield Opportunity Area application.

- Provided Town of Poughkeepsie affordable housing data to the Housing Committee.
- Coordinated a road salt and brine road treatment presentation to the Town of Red Hook.
- Assisted Town of Red Hook with the preparation of a DEC HREP grant for developing a municipal Natural Resources Inventory.
- Town of Stanford Zoning Commission housing affordability discussion.
- Town of Wappinger Aquifer Protection Ordinance Advisory Subcommittee.
- Offered guidance to the Town of Wappinger on submitting new local laws for GML 239 review. Additionally, supported the Town's DWSP2 committee by attending meetings and reviewing draft ordinances.
- Village of Fishkill meeting to discuss its signage application and approval process and how it fits in with GML 239 review.
- Village of Rhinebeck comprehensive plan assistance.
- Municipal Support through the Agricultural Navigator
 - Town of Amenia – Discussed Agricultural/Commercial/Residential spaces and the impact of special use taxes as it relates to the Comprehensive Plan.
 - Town of Beekman – Provided agricultural information specific to a parcel.
 - Town of East Fishkill (2) – Neighbor issues and farm property.
 - Town of LaGrange – Information on poultry housing.
 - Town of Red Hook – Speaking engagement regarding Agricultural Navigator.
 - Town of Union Vale (2) – Farms not receiving Agricultural Value Assessment.
- Education and Training Local Board Members, on behalf of the Dutchess County Planning Federation:
 - Hosted 7 educational sessions with a total of 481 participants; topics included:
 - Outdoor Lighting
 - How to Run a Good Meeting
 - SEQRA Basics
 - Skills that make Great Board Members
 - Battery Energy Storage Systems
 - Contemporary Approaches to Comprehensive Plans
 - Design Guidance for Better Buildings
 - Published one eNewsletter: [Protecting Wetlands and Streams in Your Community – Grasping their Vital Role as New York Implements Regulatory and Mapping Changes.](#)

Division of Solid Waste Management

- Hosted three household hazardous waste and electronics recycling events, utilized by 1,035 residents, collecting:
 - 39,910 pounds of chemicals, a 10% increase from previous year
 - 64,954 pounds of electronic waste
- Hosted one small quantity generator of hazardous waste event was held for businesses, schools, and government; 9 entities took part.

- 8,516 pounds of pharmaceuticals, including 3,767 pounds from Dutchess County, were safely incinerated at the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Facility. This is a free community service provided to police departments from medication drop boxes and collection events.
- Staff completed Recycling and Solid Waste audits of all Dutchess County-owned office buildings.
- Licensed 8 new solid waste haulers and relicensed 13 existing haulers. Investigated 56 unlicensed haulers conducting business in Dutchess County.
- Partnered with the Poughkeepsie Repair Café to co-host two cafés to help further the Division's "reuse" programing.
- Bi-monthly newsletters have been published on the Division's website, informing residents on best recycling practices as well as pertinent sustainability information.
- Sold 31 backyard composting Earth Machine bins at-cost/discounted rate to residents and continued promotion of availability.
- Recycling Educator attended Millbrook, Arlington and City of Poughkeepsie Farmers Markets to host an informational table on composting.
- Continued to promote the statewide paint stewardship program, PaintCare; County now has 12 drop off sites accessible to residents year-round.
- Gave 67 presentations informing Dutchess County residents how to properly recycle, ways to reduce throwing materials into the garbage and how to compost at home.
- Held Earth Day event, with 28 organizations participating and more than 200 guests in attendance.
- Held a Dutchess County "America Recycles Day Art Challenge" to teach children about recycling and reusing materials, while instilling important lifelong habits that will help reduce waste; more than 100 students took part.
- Launched 2024 Dutchess County Composting Grant to promote composting and diversion of organic waste out of the waste stream, furthering the County's sustainability and waste-reduction initiatives; 2 Composting Grants were awarded:
 - \$50,000 for the Town of Wappinger to purchase and install an in-vessel composting machine
 - \$7,868 for the Village of Red Hook for set-up costs to implement a food waste drop-off site
- Completed application for NYSDEC Municipal Food Scraps Recycling Grant Program.
- A Battery Recycling tri-fold pamphlet was created and printed to educate the community on how to keep batteries out of the trash and avoid potential hazards.

STOP-DWI

- Was awarded a total of \$50,000 for participation/coordination of the NYS STOP DWI Foundation's Impaired Driving High Visibility Community Engagement Enforcement Grant Project. Due to program effectiveness, received a \$15,000 reallocation, in addition to the original \$35,000 award. Funding supported 11 law-enforcement agencies countywide and directly resulted in 677.5 combined hours of coordinated enforcement activities – a 15.3% increase over the previous year – including, 2 coordinated checkpoints and dedicated patrols, resulting in 22 additional impaired driving arrests, an increase of 15.8% over the previous year.
- The Prescription Drug Take Back Program continues to be a proactive and effective campaign to reduce the availability of prescription drugs for misuse/abuse, and improper disposal of unused medications. More than 3,766 pounds of unused, unwanted medications were collected/destroyed countywide from the 11 permanent drop boxes and multiple community events; that total includes 206.5 pounds collected at the Office for the Aging's Senior Picnics. Since the drop boxes were established in 2013 more than 33,227.5 lbs. of unused/unwanted medications have been collected and properly destroyed.
- Administered a one-time "Aid to Localities" State grant award of \$29,000 through the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, supporting coordinated dedicated enforcement patrols/multi-agency sobriety checkpoints that resulted in 184 combined enforcement hours, effecting more than 130 stops, 70 vehicle and traffic tickets, and 7 impaired driving arrests. The Office of Probation and Community Corrections utilized allocated funds to conduct coordinated DWI/IID compliance checks/unannounced sweeps (105.5 hours) for high-risk offenders, including alcohol/drug testing, at home and work sites. The operational plan included support of the Mid-Hudson Regional STOP-DWI Conference in April, and purchase of alcohol impairment/checkpoint safety equipment (8 alco-sensors and LED road flares).

Traffic Safety Board

- Administered a "A Safe Systems Approach to Community Based Injury and Crash Prevention" grant program through the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (\$65,809) with an emphasis on unsafe driving behaviors, safe older driver mobility, as well as school bus, motorcycle, and helmet safety. Program goals were reached through enhanced opportunities to generate awareness and distribute multi-topic educational materials and injury prevention programming/events.
- Conducted 6 Bicycle Safety Rodeos with 246 residents participating and 78 helmets being replaced; 4 Note: several planned vents were cancelled due to weather.
- Distributed bicycle helmets and provided education through safety partners including the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, municipal police departments in East Fishkill, Fishkill, Wappingers Falls, Millerton, as well as the Department of Community and Family Services.

- School Bus Safety program, including stop-arm cameras, remained in effect in 9 local districts, with 3 more districts in discussions about joining.
 - 13,821 citations issued in 2024
- School Bus Safety education and multimedia public awareness campaign was presented in municipalities and school districts throughout the County as they joined.
- The 21st annual Dutchess County School Bus Driver of The Year award was presented at an Operation Safe Stop press event.
- Distributed more than 450 School Bus Safety activity books and loaned related safety videos to various school district transportation personnel to support student trainings.
- Awarded \$19,500 grant to provide child safety seats and fitting materials to 11 fitting stations covered under the TSB grant. Collectively they inspected/correctly installed 436 seats and replaced 103 child safety seats throughout the grant cycle.
- The grant included \$3,200 to support a Low-Income Seat Distribution Program coordinated with Dutchess County Community and Family Services, Astor HeadStart, and Nuvance Health's hospital base program. Child safety seats were purchased/provided to identified high risk families and qualified caregivers. In total 32 child safety seats were distributed, and parents/caregivers educated.
- Provided organizational support for Regional National SAFE-Kids CPS Technician certification courses held within the grant cycle.
- TSB and members of the Dutchess County CPS Coalition, in ongoing efforts to educate the public/caregivers on proper use of child safety seats coordinated/supported 11 Community seat check events throughout the grant cycle. In total 139 seats were inspected and 47 replaced at these child safety seat check events.

Probation & Community Corrections

- Following the retirement of Mary Ellen Still, who dedicated over 40 years of service to the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections, including 22 years as Director, Kathy McQuade was appointed by County Executive Sue Serino as Director in June.
- Deputy Director Thomas Morris was appointed chair of the Training and Qualifications Committee for the NYS Council of Probation Administrators (COPA).
- Hosted the second annual Dutchess County Probation Officer Academy, which trained four, newly hired Probation Officer Trainees as well as 3 graduates from Columbia and Ulster counties. This year's curriculum added several weeks of required training in the NYS Basic Course for Peace Officers (BCPO), procedural justice, and implicit bias.
- Supervised 3,300 adults and juveniles placed under probation supervision.

Juvenile Services

- Continued use of a universal trauma screening instrument to identify youth in need of trauma-informed interventions.
- Monitored and encouraged participation in an evidence-based brief Target Trauma Group that is delivered by Dept. of Mental Health and Astor therapists.
- Six participants took part in the evidence-based equine therapy program Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue summer program. Program eligibility was expanded to include youth, women, and veterans.
- 43 youth participated in restorative justice and evidence-based programs including empathy workshops and Interactive Journaling.
- Continued to rebuild the Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination (JRISC) Program. After a brief suspension of providing Functional Family Therapy (FFT), there are now two therapists on-site who are trained to provide this evidence-based intervention to youths and their families.

Pretrial Services

- 1,793 pretrial screens were conducted, and 883 releases to supervision occurred.
- Maintained certification from the New York State Office of Court Administration (OCA) to operate as the pre-trial service provider within the courts of Dutchess County.
- Continued RESTART with 162 admissions and 79 successful completions, with a short lapse in participation due to the transfer to the new Justice & Transition Center from the former the Dutchess County Jail.
- With the Dutchess County Criminal Justice Council, continued to analyze the impact of bail reform on Pretrial Services and the criminal justice system, while exploring ways to develop alternative avenues to provide programming and services.
- Collaborated in the exploration of a possible Centralized Arraignment Part (CAP) Court in Dutchess County, which could enable more efficient case management by Pretrial Probation Officers.
- Continued to utilize Reconnect software as a tool to enhance communication with pretrial services and treatment courts clients, with a plan to further expand the use of this application with other justice-involved individuals.

Adult and Administrative Services

- Expanded participation in the State Gun Involved Violence Elimination (GIVE) initiative, a multi-agency collaboration to reduce gun violence in the community and established a GIVE model of investigation and supervision of individuals judged at high risk of involvement in gun crimes.

- Collected over \$120,000 in restitution for distribution to victims of crime.
- Supported the activities of the Criminal Justice Council with staff serving on its committees and as chairs of the Juvenile Justice, Special Populations and Justice-Involved Women's Committees.
- Trained staff and began implementation of the COMPAS-R tool. The updated tool is integrated with the department's case management system and assists in the case planning process between officers and clients.
- Continued participation with the Opioid Task Force to promote availability of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to individuals on probation and in the Justice & Transition Center.
- 52 people participated in the Veterans Court and Drug Diversion Treatment Court and the Veterans Court had two graduates.
- Maintained a successful partnership with Project M.O.R.E.'s Community Employment Program, which focuses on employment readiness and mentoring to assist people on probation find and maintain employment. It uses the highly effective evidence-based Ready, Set, Work curriculum. The Community Employment Program had 72 participants and 55 successful completions in 2024.
- Expanded availability of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) groups and Interactive Journaling at the Office of Probation, Community Transitions Center, the Women's Center, and other agencies by training more facilitating staff, enabling more groups to be offered to meet the needs of clients and decreasing group sizes, resulting in more effective sessions.

Public Defender's Office

- Following the retirement of Thomas N.N. Angell, who dedicated 34 years of service to the Dutchess County Office of the Public Defender, including 12 years as the Public Defender, Margaret Walker was appointed by County Executive Sue Serino as the County's sixth Public Defender in January.
- Under this new leadership, and with many staff changes and various challenges throughout the year, the Public Defender's Office competently and professionally handled 7,495 cases. Of those, the Criminal Unit handled 5,058 cases in the many criminal and appellate courts and the Family Court Unit handled 2,437 cases in Dutchess County Family Court.
- Provided legal representation at 4,566 arraignments in all Dutchess County criminal courts, and are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Of those total arraignments, 3,584 (78%) of individuals were released on their own recognizance or other forms of immediate release.
- Received Aid to Defense and Aid for Discovery awards from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) totaling \$945,438 that will be used to create a Discovery Evidence Unit to manage, troubleshoot, and work on highly technical discovery evidence management as well as new positions; a new case management system for digital discovery

processing and file management; and various software that will improve the evidence review process and attorneys' ability to effectively use evidence in the courtroom.

- Participated in Year 2 of the \$750,000 Second Upstate Family Defense (Child Welfare) Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant through the State, to be used over three years in the Family Court Unit. Funding was used to create two additional family court attorney positions, exclusively handling Article 10 proceedings. This has resulted in specialized legal counsel for parents benefitting from tailored representation. Additionally, this grant provides much-needed caseload relief to the other attorneys in the Family Court Unit. In 2024, these two attorneys were responsible for over 266 family court cases involving neglect, abuse, or the termination of parental rights. This substantially assists parents getting needed services, programs and education, to help keep families together.
- Successfully filed the 2023 ILS-195 Annual Report, the first Parent Representation Semi-Annual Report (PRR-195), and the April and October semiannual Performance Measures Progress Reports. These workload reports ensure continued state funding from the NYS Office of Indigent Legal Services in criminal and family court cases.
- The Criminal Unit conducted seven felony jury trials, six of which were violent felony cases, and one misdemeanor jury trial in 2024. The unit also conducted one bench trial on a violent felony case.
- The Appeals Unit achieved reversals of parole denial in two cases, conducted five contested final hearings for parole, and successfully appealed one matter to the Appellate Term. The Unit filed nine briefs and conducted four oral arguments in the Appellate Division.
- The Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) and Social Worker Unit assisted in over 200 cases in 2024. Assistance includes hands-on support and planning for clients, assisting clients with entrance into social welfare programs, enrollment into housing programs, coordinating treatment for clients, transporting clients to and from high-importance appointments, and other needed services that assist in our holistic approach to effective representation and public safety, to reduce recidivism and prevent future criminality. In addition to the above assistance, our Social Workers wrote 14 mitigation reports for clients, resulting in more just sentences.
- Successfully filed and argued 11 writs of habeas corpus for immediate release of incarcerated individuals.
- Participated in numerous training programs, including CLE presentations by the Dutchess County Bar Association (DCBA), New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NYSACDL), and the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA).
- Presented two Continuing Legal Education (CLE) seminars for the New York State Defenders Association.

- Management and employees participated in numerous community programs, including:
 - Dutchess County Re-Entry Task Force;
 - Domestic Violence Offender Project Committee;
 - Poughkeepsie High School Mock Trial Program;
 - Opioid Task Force;
 - Suicide and Overdose Fatality Review Committee;
 - Treatment Providers' Meeting (Social Workers);
 - New York State Public Defense Social Workers Committee;
 - Special Populations Committee, including Special Needs Subcommittee for incarcerated clients;
 - ILS Family Court Practice Standards Workgroup;
 - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), including Policy Coordinating and Operational Work Group teams;
 - Criminal Justice Council, including Executive Committee and Full Council
 - Dutchess County Threat Assessment Group
 - Centralized Arraignment Committee
 - Family Court Countywide Court Improvement Project
- Completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to upgrade to an improved case management system (CMS) for use to begin in late 2025. The new CMS will leverage new tools, data tracking, internal and external communications, and secure artificial intelligence to enhance criminal defense and family court advocacy. Furthermore, the new system will help further the department's goal of managing all case files in a paperless format.
- Continued conflict swap program with Ulster County, allowing each Public Defender's Office to handle criminal cases in which the partner county has a legal conflict that prevents representation.
- Employed two law school student interns who used student practice orders under the supervision of staff attorneys to represent clients at arraignment and learn appellate practice. Accepted 36 college students over three semesters as interns who assisted with office intake/eligibility determinations. Hosted one master's degree level student intern who assisted the social work staff in providing client services. Also hosted an international attorney pending admission to the New York State Bar, who will join the office as a Law Assistant and then Assistant Public Defender in 2025.
- Overall jail admissions in 2024 were 1,311, an increase of 272 admissions from 2023.
- In Dutchess County, a total of 24 individuals were incarcerated on civil commitment orders involving failure to pay child support or contempt of court, for a total of 622 jail bed days used (note that one individual accounts for 372 of those days). Significantly, of the 24 civil commitments, only three were Public Defender clients, accounting for five bed days.

Public Works

Airport Division

- Exceeded 85,000 take-offs and landings (operations), a 27% increase over 2023.
- At the close of 2024, the airport is at 100% occupancy in both office space and on the airfield, with waiting lists for hangars and tiedowns.
- Executed a new 20-year lease with the FAA for the air traffic control tower.
- Advanced the grant-funded Airport Operations Equipment and De-icing Material Sheds project.
- Continued working on the Runway 6 RSA (Runway Safety Area) improvement project anticipated to be complete by the end of 2025.
- Completed design work on Alpha Taxiway Rehabilitation Project.
- Completed design work on runway 24 LED Lighting and Signage Upgrade Project.
- Completed the Airport Master Plan.
- Received final approval to purchase green electric mowers and maintenance vehicles through the NYDOT Air99 grant program.
- Advanced the grant-funded Airport Operations Equipment and De-icing Material Sheds project.

Auto Service Center/Fleet Services Division

- Provided safe, operational, and fully maintained vehicles and equipment for all Dutchess County departments and staff as well as Hyde Park Police, Hyde Park Recreation, Dutchess Community College, and Dutchess County BOCES as part of ongoing Shared Services agreements.
- Worked with County departments and staff to evaluate fleet needs, order vehicles that are more fuel-efficient and improve work environments at the Auto Center and Highway Garage.
- Worked with Risk Management to evaluate, restructure and improve the County's auto-body repair process.
- Worked with the Buildings Division to improve the Highway Garage locker room and restroom areas, including adding new fixtures, paint, refinished floor, lockers and a new seating area.
- Replaced multiple bay doors at the Auto Service Center.

- Continued to train and audit processes in the use of the County's computerized fleet maintenance system to increase operational efficiency and find cost savings as well as providing better service to departments and staff.
- Conducted weekly toolbox talks with auto center and highway garage staff to discuss safety, fleet needs, and industry enhancements.

Buildings Division

- Completed 2,819 work orders for various departments.
- Installed AMAG access control system at Public Transit Facility, 14 Commerce St.
- Completed phase three replacement of carpeting at the Family Court building, 50 Market Street.
- Replaced flooring in Beacon Government Center's Probation offices
- Replaced flooring on the fifth floor of the District Attorney's office, 236 Main Street.
- Successfully relocated staff for District Attorney's reorganization.
- Installed new security camera system at Beacon Government Center; Eastern Dutchess Government Center; Pine Plains, Rhinebeck, and Amenia highway outposts; and Bowdoin Park and Quiet Cove Riverfront Park.
- Completed design and construction documents for Beekman Salt Shed roof replacement.
- Successfully rebuilt Family Court building's cooling tower drive shaft and bearing housing to prevent downtime in the summer months.
- Contracted with a consultant to begin design of improved water treatment systems at Farm and Home Center, Nooteeming Cabins, and 911 Center back-up water system.
- Corrected Wilcox Memorial Park concession building's potable water cross connection per Department of Health requirements.
- Completed modernization of Public Transit Fire Alarm system.
- Finalized design and bid documents for Airport Terminal Building's on-site sewage disposal system and front entrance access improvements.
- Relocated Fire Alarm control panel from 1984 Jail control room to the 1995 Jail building to maintain fire protection and monitoring after demolition of the 1984 jail building.
- Competed fit up temporary DCFS caseworker space in the existing 1995 jail building.
- Designed and replaced two failed boilers at the Law Enforcement Center.
- Completed the Emergency Response Geothermal Vault relocation.

- Commenced with design of the generator replacement at the Family Court building, 50 Market St. and manual transfer switch installation at Public Defender, 45 Market St.
- Completed construction of a new Home Team Club House \and Banquet Space construction project at Heritage Financial Park.
- Completed construction of a temporary swing court room at the Family Court building, 50 Market St. in support of the 10 & 22 Market St (Dutchess County Courthouse and County Office Building) HVAC Upgrades project.
- Began the first phase of the 10 & 22 Market St four-year HVAC Upgrades project.
- Completed design, solicited bids and began construction of 22 Market St Electrical Switch Gear Replacement project.
- Selected architect and construction manager, and started design for phase II Renovation at the Department of Mental Health at 230 North Rd.
- Completed construction documents for ADA Access/Entrance Improvements at 22 & 60 Market Street (County Office Building and Dept. of Community & Family Services (DCFS)).
- Completed construction documents for ADA Restroom Improvement at DCFS, 60 Market Street.
- Completed 60% Design for Family Court building, 50 Market St HVAC Upgrades.
- Completed construction bid documents for Exterior Envelope Improvement project at the Office of Central and Information Services, 503 Haight Avenue.
- Completed design, solicited bids and started construction on Phase II Renovation at the Public Transit facility, 14 Commerce St..
- Completed design, solicited bids and started construction of the grant-funded Public Transit Phase II Bus Shelter replacement project.
- Completed a small renovation project on the 5th floor of the District Attorney's Office, 236 Main St.
- Completed the redesign of office spaces for the Department of Health, 85 Civic Center Plaza.
- Completed space plan for a new Commissioner of Jurors leased office space at 235 Main Street.
- Completed design of the Restroom Renovation project at Probation/Family Court at 50 Market St.

Engineering Division

- Completed replacement of the following bridge and culvert projects:
 - Bridge S-24, Hunns Lake Road (CR-65), Town of Stanford
 - Bridges S-39 and S-40, Salt Point Turnpike (CR-17), Town of Stanford
 - Bridge D-66, Old Route 22 (CR-6), Town of Dover
 - Bridge D-34, Ridge Road, Town of Dover
 - Bridge W-21, Stanford Road, Village of Millbrook
 - Culvert M-15, Milan Hill Road (CR 54), Town of Milan
- Completed traffic signal replacement at the intersection of Innis Avenue (CR-75) with Emmot Place and Deleval Place in the Town of Poughkeepsie.
- Completed construction inspection for the new Sprayground splashpad at Wilcox Memorial Park.
- Completed the design for the following intersection improvement projects:
 - Traffic signal replacement at the intersection of Middlebush Road (CR 93) and Sgt Palmateer Way in the Town of Wappinger.
 - Traffic signal camera upgrade and the intersection of Noxon Road (CR 21) and Titusville Road (CR 21) in Town of LaGrange.
- Began the design of the following intersection improvement projects:
 - Intersection improvements at Clove Branch Road (CR 29) and Hillside Lake Road (CR 33) in the Town of East Fishkill.
 - New traffic signal at the intersection of Myers Corners Road (CR 93) and Spook Hill Road in the Town of Wappinger.
 - Developed alternatives for improvements to the intersections of Red Oaks Mill Road (CR 44) with Walker Road (CR 44S), Cochran Hill Road, and Titusville Road (CR 49) in Town of LaGrange.
- Completed design for the following bridge and culvert replacement projects:
 - Bridge W-30, Verbank Road, Town of Washington
 - Bridge N-5, Rudd Pond Road (CR 62), Town of North East
 - Bridge S-13, Cold Spring Road (CR 53), Town of Stanford
 - Unnamed Culvert, Round Lake Rd (CR 52), Town of Rhinebeck
 - Culvert N-21, Boston Corners Road (CR 63), Town of North East
 - Culverts PA-1 and PA-4, N. Quaker Hill Rd (CR-66), Town of Pawling
- Continued design of the following bridge and culvert projects:
 - Bridge M-20, Salisbury Turnpike, Town of Milan
 - Bridge S-13, Cold Spring Rd (CR-53), Town of Stanford
 - Bridge WP-34, Jackson Road (CR-110), Town of Wappinger
 - Culvert M-29, Round Lake Road (CR-52), Town of Milan
 - Culvert N-21, Boston Corners Road (CR-63), Town of North East
 - Culverts D-6 & D-7, Chestnut Ridge Rd (CR-23) and Halls Corners Rd (CR-24), Town of Dover

- Culverts PA-37 and PA-40, Harmony Road (CR-69), Town of Pawling
- Began design of the following bridge and culvert projects:
 - Bridge F-2, North Jackson Street (CR 34), Town of Fishkill
 - Culvert WP-35, All Angels Hill Road (CR 94), Town of Wappinger
 - Culverts M-28, M-30, and M-31, Round Lake Road (CR 52), Town of Milan
 - Culvert S-25, Millis Lane (CR 87), Town of Stanford
- Completed the design of ADA improvements to sidewalks on Maple Avenue (CR-62), Village of Millerton.
- Reviewed and developed sign replacement plans for approximately 2.2 miles of Chestnut Ridge Road (CR 23) in response to New York State Department of Transportation-ordered speed limit reduction.
- Reviewed and developed sign improvements for various segments of County roads.
- Completed 214 miles of road striping, parking lot striping and special marking applications.
- Researched and provided survey mapping at 25 locations to various engineers and surveyors.
- Provided 60 Right of Way (ROW) determinations to the County's Highway Construction and Maintenance Division.
- Continued monitoring and reporting at the closed Balefill landfill at Hudson Valley Regional Airport in accordance with DEC requirements.
- Continued regular inspections of County-owned dams, pedestrian bridges, and major culverts.
- Inspected 97 stormwater outfalls and 23 County-owned stormwater ponds and structures as required by the State's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) regulations.

Highway Construction & Maintenance Division

- Worked with the Engineering Division on bridge, culvert, and highway improvement projects, addressing bridge inspection flags, drainage issues and highway safety concerns.
- Continued shared services intermunicipal agreements with six municipalities to provide snow and ice control on 61.67 miles of County highway.
- Hosted three Household Hazardous Waste Collection events in conjunction with the Office of Planning & Development's Division of Solid Waste Management.
- Removed hundreds of trees from highway right-of-way, parks, and other County property.
- Continued the annual drainage ditch, pipe and catch basin cleaning program.

- Handled over 140 after-hours emergencies related to the County’s highway system, including downed trees, auto accidents, culvert or bridge safety emergencies, guiderail damage, environmental spills, and more.
- Completed approximately 1,740 miles of roadside mowing.
- Installed approximately 4,500 ft. of new or replacement guiderail.
- Provided snow removal and ice control for 37 storms in the 2023 – 2024 winter season
- Aided in the rehabilitation of approximately seven miles of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.
- Completed over 30.65 miles of road surface improvements on the following County roads:
 - Smithfield Rd. (CR5)
 - Bean River Rd. (CR59)
 - North Quaker Hill Rd. (CR68)
 - Poplar Hill Rd. (CR4)
 - Beekman Rd. (CR9)
 - Old Hopewell Rd. (CR28)
 - DeGarmo Rd. (CR43)
 - West Hunns Lake Rd. (CR65)
 - Primrose Hill Rd. (CR84)
 - All angel Hill Rd. (CR94)
 - Amenia Union Rd. (CR2)
 - Winchell Mt. (CR 60)
 - Little Rest Rd. (CR23)
 - Jackson’s Corners Rd. (CR50)
 - Academy Hill Rd. (CR51)
 - Beekman-Pouquag Rd. (CR7)
 - Hollow Rd. (CR14)
 - New Hackensack Rd. (CR 104)
 - Boston Corners Rd. (CR63)

Parks Division

General Highlights

- Parks Naturalists hosted numerous sessions of its popular programing for children and adults, serving more than 3,700 homeschoolers, campers, and residents, including over 200 participants in the summer camp programming.
- Collaborated with Office of the Aging to host Senior Park Prints at Senior Friendship Centers in Poughkeepsie, East Fishkill and Millerton; Senior Pancake Breakfast at Bowdoin Park; and a series of Learn to Pickleball Clinics at Quiet Cove Riverfront Park.
- Dutchess County Parks Facebook following has grown to over 5,000

- Participated in DBCH's Dutchess County Health Fair at Dutchess Community College to share information on naturalist programming.

Bowdoin Park

- Processed 937 reservations for pavilions, Maple Knoll Lodge, athletic fields, Ellesdie Chapel, picnic areas and the auditorium through the Parks Reservation System, a 76% increase over 2023.
- Hosted the Sap Happy Maple Weekend in collaboration with Dutchess County Office for the Aging, Hudson Valley Renegades, Sneaker Mutt, Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club, Culinary Institute of America, NYS Maple Association, and Red Hook Library.
- Welcomed numerous County and community events, including:
 - Poughkeepsie Public Library District's collaborative nature hike
 - Think Differently Fitness and Field Day
 - Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Walk
 - Office for the Aging Senior Picnic for residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie
 - Office of Veterans Affairs Vietnam Travelling Wall Memorial event

Cross Country Meets

- Bowdoin Park Classic: 1,000 athletes, 2,000 spectators
 - NYS Public High School Athletic Association's Section 1 cross-country meet: 1,200 athletes, 2,400 spectators
 - Federation Cup: 800 athletes, 2,000 spectators
 - Nike cross-country regionals: 2,500 athletes, 7,500 spectators
- Contracted with Kevin McCurdy for the 48th season of Kevin McCurdy's Haunted Mansion, which welcomed 2,284 attendees and its 20th season of the Holiday Spirit Festival, which welcomed 1,195 adults and 440 children.
- Made improvements to Park security with the installation of a new camera system in partnership with the Buildings Division.

Wilcox Memorial Park

- Processed 559 reservations for the athletic fields, pavilions, and Forest Acres campground.
- Swimming returned to Wilcox Park from Memorial Day through Labor Day weekend, welcoming over 2,050 guests.
- The new Sprayground splashpad opened and served over 3,000 guests.
- Hosted Wilcox Wow Professional Disc Golf Association B-Tier Tournament in September.
- Collaborated with the State DEC to complete a second camera survey to document mammal habitats throughout the park.

Quiet Cove Riverfront Park

- Processed 93 reservations for the Boathouse and open space areas.
- Reached maximum capacity for the second year in a row for the Kayak slip rentals.
- Made upgrades to electrical panel and had new camera system installed to improve park security.

Rail Trails

- Welcomed 25 events with various community organizations and an “I Love My Park” clean-up day with Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office cadets along the WRS Dutchess Rail Trail.
- Hosted two community events as well as several clean-up days in partnership with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association, along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.
- Worked with Highway Division to complete five miles of asphalt resurfacing on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.
- Repaired and replaced fences along WRS Dutchess Rail Trail and Harlem Valley Rail Trail.
- The MJM Northside Line was open for its first full year of use. Parks conducted snow plowing and mowing maintenance to keep this urban trail open and available for use 24/7/365.
- Entered into an interim agreement with Metro North (MTA) to resume maintenance along the 15-mile Maybrook Section of the New York State Empire Trail, which connects to the WRS Dutchess Rail Trail, in September. Successfully removed fallen trees, overgrowth, and brush from the trail.

Upper Landing Park

- Hosted the annual Boots by the Hudson country music event at a new location, including fireworks display.
- Hosted State DEC’s eel counts project with local students.
- Hosted three Movies Under the Walkway events in partnership with Millman Harris Romano Foundation.
- Hosted the Walkway Over the Hudson’s Starry Starry Night benefit gala.
- Replaced a broken drinking water fountain.

Heritage Financial Park (FKA Dutchess Stadium)

- In addition to a successful Hudson Valley Renegades baseball season (hosting 66 home games), hosted the following special events were hosted at the park:
 - Naming rights press event for “Heritage Financial Park”
 - Cupcake Festival
 - Arlington High School and Beacon High School Graduation ceremonies
 - K Fest concert
 - Disability Dream and Do Baseball Camp
- Completed the following improvements:
 - New Home Team Clubhouse
 - New Banquet Space (Hosting XX events)
 - New outfield walls
 - New foul line poles and safety netting system to protect spectators
 - Replacement of the artificial turf field surface

Public Transit Division

- Logged over 880,000 passenger trips, representing a 10% increase over 2023 and a 5% increase from 2019 pre-covid ridership. This represents the highest annual total in Public Transit history.
- Began construction of Transit facility improvements, including flood mitigation, additional parking areas, a new storage garage, renovation of mechanics’ restrooms and locker rooms, renovations of ADA restrooms and conference room.
- Used \$5,049,138 of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and (coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding from the FTA to help support Public Transit 2024 operating expenses.
- Utilized a portion of \$2,480,000 of Section 5307 funds apportioned to the Mid-Hudson Valley Transportation Management Area for Dutchess County Transit System Infrastructure Improvements, including new scheduling software and engine overhauls.
- Received two new 35-foot and four 40-foot heavy duty Transit vehicles with \$2,043,506 in Federal 5339 funding.
- Installed a new bus wash system utilizing \$350,000 in New York State Public Transportation Modernization and Enhancement Program (MEP) funds.
- Commenced with a study and to develop strategies for the phased implementation of battery-electric transit buses. This project used \$450,000 from the Federal 5305-2 Statewide and Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Planning Programs funds.
- Completed a \$630,000 federally funded system-wide bus shelter replacement plan to install 11 new bus shelters throughout the county. Began using \$763,935 from the State’s MEP grant to install up to eight new bus shelters throughout Dutchess County.

- Continued contract partnerships with Bard College, Hudson River Housing, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie City School District, City of Beacon, and Dutchess Community College to offer transit services at no charge to their passengers.
- Year one of the bus advertising contract with Timely Signs yielded \$55,000 in revenues.
- Continued public outreach sessions throughout the county for new service changes that went into effect on January 4, 2025.
- Participated in the Lagrange Holiday Parade with a public transit bus decorated in holiday lights.

Veterans Affairs

- The Division of Veterans Services became the Office of Veterans Affairs, an independent department in August, following months of logistical and administrative planning to dissolve the combined Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) and create separate operations as the Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health (DOH), and Office of Veterans Affairs.
- Rendered 20,097 contact services to Dutchess County veterans and their families regarding services and entitlements available from federal, state, and local governments.
- 8 organizations awarded a total of \$100,000 through the 2024 Veterans Microgrant Program.
- Hosted the American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) Traveling Vietnam Wall at Bowdoin Park, attracting thousands of residents and veterans from across the northeast region to pay tribute to service members who gave their lives for this nation in every U.S. military action since World War I, including 9/11.
- Organized popular and well attended veterans' events, including the "Red, White and You!" Veteran Appreciation Picnic at James Baird State Park, Bowdoin Park Picnic and Veterans Baseball Night at the Heritage Financial Park.
- Assisted Congressman Pat Ryan's C.A.R.E.S. (Constituent Advocacy Resources Empowerment Services) Van to bring federal assistance and benefits directly to veterans at the Veterans Affairs office.
- Continued monthly virtual meetings with Hudson Valley Veterans Task Force.
- Provided updated information via email to 2,544 veterans
- Issued approximately 300 F.A.V.O.R. cards

- Partnered with Mental Health America of Dutchess County (MHA) in facilitating services and applications for VA benefits for veterans participating in VET2VET Veterans' Peer Services Program. The program is available to all Dutchess County veterans and their families and provides:
 - A network of Peer Support Groups facilitated by a veteran
 - Referral to services addressing PTSD, suicide, and suicidal ideation, TBI, depression, and other issues
 - Case management, advocacy, support, and connection to resources
 - Socialization activities
 - Liaison with other veterans' services
- Participated in popular MHA Veterans Programs of Dutchess County events, such as:
 - Veteran Stand down events with MHA VET-TAP where information was provided to veterans regarding benefits and employment information
 - MHA Veterans Gala
 - Two veteran appreciation pasta dinners, co-hosted by County Executive Serino
 - Annual Veterans' Christmas Party
- Provided \$72,800 grant for Hudson River Housing VETZERO for transportation for Dutchess County veterans to and from medical appointments; 177 veterans were served.
- Provided 18 veterans with nearly \$20,000 of financial assistance through the Tom Zurhellen Fund.
- Conducted monthly reviews of partner agency case files, including, but not limited to, VET2Vet clients in need of mental health treatment, veterans in need of housing, and all actions taken by the partner agency to meet the needs of the client.
- Hosted successful Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at the Dutchess County War Memorial in Poughkeepsie, attracting hundreds of residents.
- Served on numerous Boards and Committees including the Veteran Advisory Board (VAB), Veteran Advisory Committee (VAC), VA Hospital Director's VAC, Dutchess County Legislature VAC and Hudson Valley Veterans Task Force and attended meetings of Senator Rolison's VAB, Congressman Mike Lawlor's VAC, and Congressman Pat Ryan's VAC.
- Hosted a VA representative each month to assist veterans with healthcare enrollment.
- Mailed condolence letters, processed burial benefits, and applied for markers for surviving spouses for 226 veterans.
- Ongoing communications with local law enforcement agencies and the Dutchess County Office of Probation and Community Corrections regarding veterans who are incarcerated or on probation.
- Staffed information booth at the Dutchess County Fair and educated hundreds of veterans regarding various benefits and programs available to them in Dutchess County.

- Expanded community outreach:
 - Published monthly columns in the *Southern Dutchess News* family of publications, highlighting the department's many programs, events, and ceremonies, and issues important to local veterans.
 - Attended 11 OFA Senior Picnics to educate and meet with senior veterans and those interested in veteran's issues.
 - Visited 24 Dutchess County houses of worship to educate congregants.
 - Hosted 3 visits tours at the MHA Veterans One Stop facility with church and other community organizations.
 - Attended 11 municipal board meetings to advocate, educate and answer questions about veteran's issues and the work of Dutchess County Veterans Affairs.
 - Attended four 4 municipality community days to advocate, educate and answer questions about veteran's issues and the work of Dutchess County Veterans Affairs
 - Attended 6 meetings of the Dutchess County Veterans Affairs Committee.
 - Attended 34 American Legion related meetings and events.
 - Participated in 3 veterans related school ceremonies.
 - Delivered remarks at over 25 veteran and community organization events.
- Attended numerous community events – Golden Gathering, Salute to Vets, Hudson Valley Veterans Appreciation Day, Poughkeepsie Elks Veterans' Breakfast, Hospice Veterans Day Breakfast – as well as multiple networking events to educate attendees about the Office of Veterans Affairs' work and the MHA Veterans One Stop.

Water Resources/Water & Wastewater Authority

Operations and Customer Service

- Successfully managed and operated 31 water and sewer systems, serving over 6,300 customer connections.
- Implemented and transitioned to a new operations model in which contract operators are no longer utilized, and all responsibilities are now managed exclusively by in-house employees.
- Implemented "Pipeline for Jobs" Operator Outreach to improve public awareness of careers in water and attract new talent to the field.

Financial and Administrative

- Completed Annual Financial Audit with no outstanding findings.
- Completed multi-year upgrade to accounting/finance software from Accufund to Tyler ERP Pro.
- Completed transition to a new integrated utility billing and meter reading system interoperable with the new accounting system.

- Developed and implemented new work order management system.
- Updated Task Order Contracting Program with a pool of four consultants.
- Ongoing PFAS litigation aimed at securing compensation from responsible parties.

Design and Construction Projects

- BOCES/Peach Road Project: Design completed, plans awaiting final DOH approval. Bidding and construction are expected to commence in 2025.
- Dalton Farms Sewer System:
 - Construction commenced on new disinfection system.
 - Contracted engineering services to evaluate upgrades and replace the wastewater treatment facility.
- Chelsea Cove Sewer System: Commenced construction for a new bar screen.
- Hyde Park Water System:
 - West Dorsey-Route 9 Extension: Established zones of assessment and began design.
 - Continued to coordinate with Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE) for new power line construction in the Hudson River
 - Replaced the raw water pump.
- Greenfields Water System: Secured financing for system improvements and continued detailed design for interconnection with the Hyde Park water system.
- Central Dutchess Transmission Line:
 - Southern Dutchess Transmission Line: Completed engineering feasibility report for connecting the water main to the NYC Delaware Aqueduct.
 - Reviewed a new connection for the Hopewell Senior Living facility, with construction expected in 2025.

Funding and Grants Secured

- Schreiber Water System: Qualified for subsidized loans and paired with an existing grant (~\$2.6M) to address radionuclide contamination. Phase 1 initiated with additional source well drilling.
- Quaker Hills Water System: Secured ~\$21.8M grant to address PFOS emerging contamination.
- Valley Dale Sewer System: Qualified for subsidized loans through EFC.
- Village of Tivoli Partnership: Secured ~\$8M in grants and ~\$15M in interest-free financing for replacing the sewer treatment plant and upgrading the collection system. Commenced plant construction and completed collection system investigation.

Community Partnerships and Development

- Partnered with a developer for Lakes at Preserves Community Development, implementing an innovative community sewer system.
- Coordinated with Town of East Fishkill to establish new water districts for redevelopment projects.
- 100 new water customers added to the Hyde Park Regional Water System with the addition of the Jeffrey Groves development.
- Coordinated with Crofton Mews developer.
- Coordinated with Rockledge Estates developer on WTP and WWTP.