

**Healthy Ulster Council
Meeting Notes
May 14, 2020**

Attendees: Name (Organization), Name (Organization),

Jenna Adams (MHA), Sean Baily (Family of Woodstock), Jodi Brunetto (People USA), Christina Carranceja (IFH), Courtney Churchill (CCE),Katie Clayton (RCAL), Trish Cina (UC Probation), Marge Gagnon (RWCS), Janie Greenwald (CCE), Keith Gurgui (RCAL), Lisa Heintz (TFAC-Tobacco Free Action Committee), Melinda Herzog (CCE), Michelle Hirsch (Family of Woodstock and Alderwomen Ward 9), Collen Jones (Mid-Hudson Problem Gambling Resource Center), Deb Jones (Arc Mid-Hudson), Stacy Kraft (UC Dept of Health and Mental Health), Kristine Kessler (ShopRite), Amanda LaValle (UC Dept of Environment), Susan Lennon (American Lung Association), Vince Martello (UCD Of H and MH), Gilbert Marrero (Family of Woodstock), Dakota Modica (UC Community Action), Doreen Morris (People USA), Christine Noble (Office of the Aging), Karri Paul (CCE), Kathy Nolan (Samadhi Recovery Outreach Center and Catskill Mountainkeeper), Melanie Penalosa (MHA), Nancy Plumer (New Visions), Amanda Quintana (Mid-Hudson Problem Gambling Resource Center), Dani Ricardulli (People USA), Katie Sheehan-Lopez (CCE), Erik VanGaasbeek (People USA), Linnette Vargas (Maternal Infant Service Network SC and UC), Sharon Williams (Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition Of NY), Evelyn Wright (Deputy Executive of UC), LeiLani Yizar-Reid (Mid-Hudson Problem Gambling Resource Center)

- I. **Introduction:** Melinda Herzog Introduces HUC, reviews Zoom Mtg Recommendations

Presentations:

- A. **“Addressing the Ulster County COVID-19 Crisis”;** Presented by Vin Martello Director of Community Health Relations at the Ulster County Department of Health and Mental Health and Director of Opioid Prevention Strategy for the Ulster County Executive’s Office

- a) **COVID-19 Overview**

- Review COVID-19 Tracker: 1,517 positive cases, 60 fatalities, 646 have recovered, and 7,145 have tested negative.
- COVID-19 is more contagious than the flu and Ulster County’s close proximity to NYC contributed to the high number of cases.

- b) **Effects that COVID had on the Opioid Epidemic in Ulster County**

- This population is more vulnerable to effects of COVID-19
- Financial stress, economic stress, and recovery programs were shut down due to COVID
- Fatalities due to opioid overdoses are on the rise in 2020. In 2019 there were 33 fatalities due to opioid overdoses. In 2020 there has already been 25 fatalities, with 10 being between March and April when Ulster County was hardest hit with COVID-19.
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- However COVID-19 has led to some innovations in treatment such as through Telemedicine, which now is bringing access to treatment to those who in the past were not reachable and more teamwork and collaboration between programs.

B. “Ulster County Project Resilience”; Presented by Evelyn Wright; Deputy County Executive of Ulster County Executive of Ulster County and Amanda LaValle; Coordinator of the Ulster County Department of the Environment.

a) Start and Overview of project

- The goal of this project started as to feed those in need, and support local restaurants and small businesses
- Project has raised over 2 million dollars
- The County created a simple web form for those seeking assistance and restaurants wanting to participate.
- Over 130,000 meals have been delivered.
- Recipients are from 23 of the 24 municipalities in Ulster County, no one from the town of Hardenberg registered.

b) What is next

- Phase 1- March-May 16- prepared meals
- Phase 2 starting May 16- focus will be on groceries and limited prepared meals as well as help connecting with sustainable resources like SNAP.

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II. **Movement Break:** “Stretch Break” presented by Katie Sheehan Lopez (CCE)

Question and Answer:

- a) How do people sign up for the grocery delivery with project Resilience?
They can call the COVID hotline, people already signed up have been notified of the grocery delivery.
- b) Is project Resilience connected to Project Manna?
People are being made aware of other resources available to them when they register for Project Resilience.
- c) Has connect tracing started?
Training for contact tracers is this week and tracers will be deployed next week.