

# WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1999

### MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Department of Health is to promote health, prevent disease and prolong meaningful life for Westchester residents. The Commissioner of Health is vested with all of the powers and duties necessary under the mandates of the New York State Public Health Law to monitor and control the spread of communicable disease, monitor and regulate air and water quality, enforce the state and local sanitary code, promote and ensure local public health activities and assure the availability of community health services.

### PRINCIPAL SERVICES:

Communicable Disease Control  
Environmental Health  
Community Health  
Health Education and Information  
Administration  
Services for Children with Disabilities

### DEPARTMENT GOALS:

#### Communicable Disease Control

- To prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including vaccine preventable diseases, enteric infections, food and waterborne infections, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, vector-borne diseases, rabies, and central nervous system infections in Westchester County through:
  - Appropriate surveillance programs;
  - Epidemiologic analyses;
  - Case and outbreak investigations;
  - Appropriate screening services; and,
  - Development and implementation of measures to reduce the risk of disease.
- To assure care for those infected with tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases by providing medical services free of charge and through the identification, notification, evaluation, and treatment of such individuals and their relevant contacts.
- To provide physician consultation/case management for rabies exposures, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases with public health implications 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

- To provide education and outreach for the general public, targeted populations at high risk for particular infections, and physicians and health care providers, in order to reduce the risk of communicable diseases.

### **Environmental Health Services**

- To ensure environmental quality by responding rapidly to environmental emergencies; inspecting, monitoring and regulating public water systems, sewage treatment plants, sewage disposal systems, solid waste facilities, and radiological equipment; monitoring and regulating air and water quality; reviewing and approving realty subdivision plans and construction; and providing environmental risk assessment and control.
- To protect the public's health by monitoring and regulating food service establishments, hotels and motels, day camps, day care centers, swimming pools, housing and community sanitation, migrant labor camps, bathing beaches, mobile home parks, public health functions, mass gatherings, animal facilities and camp grounds, by enforcing regulations to ensure rabies control, lead poisoning prevention, injury control and clean indoor air, and by taking measures to reduce and/or prevent mosquito borne diseases.
- To respond to emergency spills and regulate petroleum bulk storage facilities.
- To implement and enforce New York State and Westchester County Sanitary Code requirements and applicable laws and administrative rules and regulations to assure compliance with environmental quality and public health protection objectives.

### **Community Health Services**

- To assure access for residents of Westchester County to community health services including breast cancer screening, cervical cancer screening, adult immunizations against influenza and pneumococcal disease, child health services, family planning, nutrition services, and pediatric dental services.
- To promote lead poisoning awareness in families with children six months to six years of age, including the need for routine screening; to assure case management and the removal of lead hazards from the environments of children identified as lead poisoned.
- To provide health care services to patients in their homes through the Westchester County Department of Health Certified Home Health Agency.
- To reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable childhood diseases by assuring complete immunizations and through surveillance and tracking of hepatitis B infected women and education of health professionals.
- To reduce infant mortality by assuring access to perinatal care for pregnant women and by in-home assessment and follow-up.

- To identify children at risk for developmental delays and provide home visits, health education, developmental screening tests and referrals to the Early Intervention Program and other programs or community agencies as appropriate.

### **Health Education and Information**

- To improve community awareness of public health issues by providing health education and information programs to Westchester County residents.
- To support public health programs through public outreach and education, media coverage, education of medical providers, and coordination of policies and information among local departments of health and other health and human service agencies.
- To provide 24 hours/day access to the public for response to public health complaints and emergencies through the Complaint & Information Bureau.
- To provide support to Community Partnerships initiatives of the Department of Health.

### **Administration**

- To obtain and administer grant funding, state aid and third party reimbursement in order to maximize the delivery of health services to Westchester residents while minimizing the use of tax levy dollars.
- To manage resource allocation and utilization to help ensure the continued provision of essential services for the protection of the public's health.
- To collect, interpret and provide data for community health status and public health services assessment for Westchester County.
- To coordinate managed care activities within the Department, with state and local departments of health and social services, and with private providers in order to ensure the provision of preventive and primary health services to county residents.
- To administer Ryan White Title I Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act funding to support primary health, dental care, mental health, and social support services for persons with HIV/AIDS in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam counties.
- To implement and coordinate the enrollment of children into Child Health Plus or Medicaid.
- To develop and expand programs that will help improve health status, services, and access for residents of Westchester County.

### **Services for Children with Disabilities**

- To identify infants and toddlers with known or suspected disabilities and/or delays and to ensure that they and their families receive appropriate evaluations, service

coordination, and, if eligible, services specified in the individualized family service plan are delivered in a natural setting environment in accordance with Article 25, Title II of the New York State Public Health Law.

- To work with school districts, providers, and families to ensure access for preschool children three to five years of age with disabilities and/or developmental delays to appropriate services in their natural, least restrictive environment in a cost-effective manner in accordance with Section 4410 of the New York State Education Law of 1989.
- To act as the fiscal agent for handicapped school-aged children placed in residential programs by their respective school districts.
- To determine eligibility of and provide financial assistance to children from birth to 21 years of age under the Physically Handicapped Children's Program in accordance with Article 25, Title V, of the New York State Public Health Law.

## **REVENUES**

### **Departmental Revenues**

The Department of Health collects direct revenue from three major activities: home health nursing visits, clinical encounters, and the issuance of environmental health permits. Home health and clinic revenues are generated by billing Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance companies under fee-for-service and capitated payment plans. Patients without insurance are charged a fee based upon family income. Environmental permit fees are established by determining the cost of issuing the permits.

### **State Aid**

State aid reimbursement is based on a percentage of total eligible expenditures determined by the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Education.

### **Bad Debt and Charity**

Proportional, retroactive reimbursement is provided based on the share of clinical services provided to uninsured patients.

### **Grants**

Categorical federal, state, and private grants are competitively awarded to support discrete activities of the Department.