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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRST DEPUTY HEALTH COMMISSIONER ELECTED TO STATEWIDE POST

Patsy Yang, the First Deputy Commissioner of Health for Westchester County, has been elected to serve as president of the New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO). Her one-year term as president began yesterday.

Yang, who has a doctorate in public health and been with the Westchester County Department of Health since 1990, is the first deputy commissioner in New York State to be elected to that office since the organization was established in 1979. She takes over from Andrew Doniger, M.D., the Public Health Director for Monroe County.

"I am truly honored to have the confidence of my colleagues across the state," said Yang. "The coming year will be both exciting and challenging for NYSACHO and its members as we continue our work to protect, preserve and advance the public's health in the face of shrinking resources."

"I'm thrilled for Patsy," said County Executive Andy Spano. "It reflects well on Westchester that our first deputy health commissioner has been chosen for this key statewide role. We're proud to have such a well-qualified and dedicated professional working to protect the public health of our residents."

"Patsy's commitment to public health is admired and emulated by her peers in the field, so it's fitting she would be chosen for this prominent role," said Dr. Joshua Lipsman, Westchester County Health Commissioner.

Jo Ann Bennison, the executive director of NYSACHO, said she is glad to have Yang on board to advocate for restoration of funding to key public health programs.

"We're looking forward to her presidency," said Bennison. "She brings fresh ideas and a very proactive style, which will be great for our association. She's a lightning bug – it's not going to be easy keeping up with her. We

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thank Westchester County for sharing her with us.’’

NYSACHO is the statewide association that represents each of the 58 local health departments in New York. The membership includes health commissioners and public health directors, deputy commissioners, environmental health directors and directors of patient services.

NYSACHO members meet monthly to exchange ideas and experiences with each other and with the New York State Department of Health and others. NYSACHO works to strengthen the provision of local public health programs and services and to advocate for local health departments in the legislative and regulatory arenas.

Yang has worked in public health and hospitals throughout her professional career and also holds appointments to several statewide policy bodies including the New York State Early Intervention Coordinating Council and the Governor’s Children’s Cabinet Advisory Board. Previous employment includes work for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and for the New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and both a Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health awarded with distinction from Columbia University.