

COVID: LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PLANNING COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) has a special oversight role with respect to New York State's public health and health care delivery system. In addition to regulatory responsibilities for promulgating the state's sanitary code and establishing the operating environment for licensed health facilities, the Council is charged with advising the Commissioner on issues related to the preservation and improvement of public health.

In the setting of the current COVID pandemic, we celebrate the Governor's leadership and the response of the state's hospital sector along with the work of so many essential health workers in providing care to so many needing emergency and acute care services. We are pleased that the NYS DOH and the Governor's office are working with State and City hospital leadership in after-action analysis and future planning for emergency mobilization.

The Health Planning and the Public Health Committees of the NYS PHHPC are looking to complement these activities by convening a joint committee meeting to gain information about experiences during the COVID19 pandemic and the lessons learned from primary care providers and public health organizations across the state. We seek to understand how best to include these sectors in preparing for the next such emergency and how what they learned can contribute to policy planning for shaping the health care delivery system going forward.

We are planning to hold a Joint Meeting of the Health Planning and Public Health Committees on Wednesday, August 12, 2020

There will be two 90-minute sessions for primary care (with behavioral health and linkage to CBO's being integral to this discussion) from 9-10:30 and 10:45-12:15 and a 90-minute session for public health between 1:00-2:30.

The format for each session will include presentations by four panelists with discussion and questions by Council members.

Members of the public will be notified about the meetings through the usual PHHPC channels. Because these are listening sessions, the public will be invited to participate as observers with opportunity to submit comments to the Committees on the matters of interest which will become part of the public record of the meeting.

Primary Care Panels: Chair--John Ruge, M.D.: 9:00 am-10:00 am and 10:45 am-12:15 pm

Public Health Panel: Chair--Jo Ivey Boufford, M.D.: 1:00 pm-2:30 pm