

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.

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed both strengths and weaknesses in our current health care and public health systems and there are lessons to be learned that can both inform our response to future crises and shape our future health care delivery system.

The Health Planning and Public Health Committees of the PHHPC are holding a series of joint meetings to explore these lessons. The first meeting on August 12 explored lessons learned from the experiences in the primary care and public health sectors that could help shape our health care system for the future.

A second meeting to be held on August 19th will respond to the need for health care providers to come together in integrated systems, patient responsive systems across all levels of care between home, community and hospital based services to meet both new and longstanding community needs. This Meeting will feature presentations by and discussions among health systems and health plans that have developed innovative ways to align and integrate their services across these levels of care and to improve the public's health while also adding to their own capacities to serve patients and beneficiaries.

We are planning to hold a Joint Meeting of the Planning and Public Health Committees on August 19, 2020 to be chaired by PHHPC member Ann Monroe.

There will be one two hour session between 9:30-11:30 am for panelists to present, discussions among presenters, opportunity for 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 that will become part of the meeting record.

Questions to be addressed by the Panelists:

Reflecting on your recent and current experience:

1. What are the major needs of your patients/communities that you are looking to address?
2. Who are the key collaborating partners and how have you come together?
3. What progress and achievements do you credit to this initiative?
4. What barriers (e.g., institutional, regulatory) are you encountering?
5. What steps can be taken in the future to facilitate efforts like this to make them sustainable and, potentially, more widely available.