

Dutchess County Government Begins Multi-Year Transformation

*Several Departments and Divisions will have
new names*

Poughkeepsie. . . Effective January 1st, 2013, several Dutchess County Government department and divisions will undergo consolidations, restructuring and/or name changes as part of the multi-year transformation of county government. These consolidations and restructurings are a key component of the 2013 budget, saving more than \$2.5 million.

“As we all celebrate and welcome the new year, 2013 is year one of our multi-year effort to transform county government,” said Dutchess County Executive Marcus J. Molinaro. “The 2013 adopted budget doesn’t merely re-align and rename departments; in partnership with the County Legislature, we repurpose and restructure many county agencies enabling us to reduce the size, scale and cost of county government while achieving greater efficiency in the delivery of core services.”

Molinaro continued, “Dutchess County is fortunate to have a dedicated workforce, committed elected and appointed officials and a resilient community. Today, we remind residents, businesses and families alike of some of the changes January 1 brings to county government. As we begin this new year, let us also imagine what we can accomplish by working together to better serve our residents, enhance our shared quality of life and make government smaller, smarter and more successful.”

The following is an overview of the county department and division changes that will go into effect on Wednesday, January 1st. The County’s website, www.dutchessny.gov, has been updated to reflect the new changes.

Reorganization of Services for Aging, Veterans and Youth

The Department of Services for Aging, Veterans and Youth (SAVY) has been reorganized to better balance available resources with the unique needs of seniors, veterans and young people.

Veterans Services

The Division of Veterans Services will now be affiliated with the

Department of Health. Veterans' Services maintains its unique identity and is now located in self-contained office space at 85 Civic Center Plaza, where the Department of Health will be relocated to in 2013.

Division of Youth Services and the new Department of Community and Family Services

The Division of Youth Services becomes a separate division within the Department of Social Services. The entire department is being renamed the Department of Community and Family Services (DCFS) to reflect youth services as well as the overall department's focus on providing assistance leading to long-term independence and sustainability for individuals and families. Youth Services is currently located at 27 High Street in the City of Poughkeepsie. The division will be relocated to the DCFS location at 60 Market Street in the City of Poughkeepsie by the end of January.

Return of Office for the Aging

The Division of Aging Services will once again be a stand-alone department, known as Office for the Aging (OFA). Funded almost entirely by state and federal revenue streams, there are very specific requirements for the Office for the Aging to be an independent agency. OFA will remain at its current location at 27 High Street in the City of Poughkeepsie.

Consolidation of the Office of Computer Information Systems & Central Services

The Office of Computer Information Systems and the Division of Central Services are merging and will now be known as the *Office of Central and Information Services (OCIS)*. Offices will remain in current locations at 27 High Street in the City of Poughkeepsie and 503 Haight Avenue in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

Multi-Year Reorganization of Public Works

As part of the reorganization of the Department of Public Works, the Highway and Engineering divisions are consolidating into one division. Also as part of this effort, the County's Auto Center, currently part of Central Services, is merging into Highway and Engineering Division. The division will remain at the 626 Dutchess Turnpike location in the Town of Poughkeepsie.

More information about the consolidations and reorganizations of Dutchess County Government, including initiatives in the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office, is available in the County Executive's 2013 Budget Message which can be viewed here: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Budget/22098>.

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