

ALLEN BEALS, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner of Health

ROBERT MORRIS, PE
Director of Environmental Health



MARYELLEN ODELL
County Executive

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1 Geneva Road, Brewster, New York 10509
845-808-1390

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 29, 2013

Contact: Barbara Iardi, Public Information Officer, (845) 808-1390

**Community Input Wanted:
Hospital and Health Department Partner on Survey to Select Priorities**

Brewster, NY — Community members have an unequalled and immediate opportunity to make Putnam County a better place to live and work. In a first-time move the Putnam County Department of Health and Putnam Hospital Center have developed a “community asset survey” to gain insight into what the public feels are the greatest strengths of the community and where resources would best be spent to develop a healthier community. The quick, easy-to-complete survey is launching this week and everyone, who lives or works in Putnam County is encouraged to voice their opinions. The survey is accessible on the homepage of the Putnam County website at www.putnamcountyny.com and will run until June 30. (The direct link is www.putnamcountyny.com/lhp/survey)

“This is really an unprecedented opportunity for community members to speak their mind about quality of life issues that are important to them,” explains Allen Beals, MD, JD, Commissioner of Health for the Putnam County Department of Health. “This is not just a health survey,” Dr. Beals continued. “It’s much broader, covering all sorts of issues, such as neighborhood safety, recreational activities and transportation.”

The two-page survey has just four questions. The first two ask respondents to check off four strengths, and then four weaknesses, from an inclusive list. The third question inquires about most important health-related issues; the fourth is about one’s usual healthcare location.

The survey is part of an overall, community-wide strategic planning process to prioritize issues and

-more-

improve the health of the community so residents and those who work in or visit the county, can enjoy better, more fulfilling lives. A formal and continuous process called MAPP, short for Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships, is being used and the first step in mobilization is community engagement. Input is being collected from both individuals and organizations. Nearly two dozen community organizations, both large and small, are already involved in this focused planning process. Organizations that wish to participate can still do so and are encouraged to call the Health Department at 845-808-1390.

The Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of Putnam County residents through prevention of illness and injury. Core services include community health assessment, disease surveillance and control, environmental health protection, family health promotion and health education. For more information, please visit our website at www.putnamcountyny.com; or visit our social media sites on Facebook at www.facebook.com/putnamhealth and Twitter @PutnamHealthNY.

###

Contact: Barbara Ilardi, Public Information Officer, (845) 808-1390