

## Public Health Summit Convenes Record Number of Community Partners

More than 78 public health partners from 47 different community agencies convened at Putnam Hospital Center (PHC) on Tuesday, June 6, for the Sixth Annual Public Health Summit, organized by the Putnam County Department of Health with support from the hospital. The event serves as an opportunity for community health partners to discuss progress on the Community Health Improvement (CHIP) plan, and to learn of new developments concerning the county's various health priorities.

Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell praised Putnam's public health system, saying "The silos are being eliminated. Partnership was one of the things that impressed the Public Health Accreditation Board when the health department received national accreditation earlier this year. It's wonderful to see the collaboration between the health department, county mental health services, Putnam Hospital Center and all other community agencies—with a common goal of keeping our residents healthy." PHC president James Caldas,

Open Door President and CEO Lindsay Farrell, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health Michael Piazza, and Interim Health Commissioner Michael Nesheiwat, MD, were among the other attending public and healthcare leaders.

The format for the half-day event was streamlined from previous summits, with an initial data presentation by Erin Pascaretti, the health department's epidemiologist, followed by panel presentations and discussions by community partners on current interventions, many of which were evidenced-based programs.

Nearly three dozen community interventions were highlighted by panel presenters who were

convened to tackle the two CHIP priorities—promoting mental health and reducing substance abuse, and preventing chronic diseases. Mental health interventions in place include mental health first aid training; safeTALK, suicide prevention training, CIT (crisis intervention team) training for law enforcement; ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training); anti-stigma



PROVIDED PHOTOS

Edward Murphy, president of the Putnam Chapter of the National Association of Mental Illness, casts his vote for promoting mental health and preventing substance abuse as the top health priority.

media campaigns; Text4Teens initiative; Lifelines curriculum in most school districts; and peer-to-peer mental health programs. Substance abuse initiatives were discussed such as the Communities That Care (CTC) Coalitions, whose work brings together multi-sector disciplines including community organizations, schools, and government entities to work on substance abuse prevention strategies. Chronic disease initiatives including work-site wellness programs, school gardens and tobacco prevention and cessation strategies were also discussed.

Preventing chronic diseases, along with promoting mental health and reducing substance abuse, have so far remained the top health priorities in Putnam. With the

growing opioid addiction problem in the county, similar to what other communities are experiencing nationwide, Putnam formally incorporated substance abuse prevention into its CHIP last year and Putnam's priorities now mirror exactly those crafted by the New York State Department of Health's Prevention Agenda 2013-2017.

Putnam residents and those who work in the county can also participate in the CHIP process, by taking the online community asset survey, accessible through the homepage of the Putnam County website at [www.putnamcountyny.com](http://www.putnamcountyny.com) until July 31. The direct link is [www.tinyurl.com/Community-Asset-Survey](http://www.tinyurl.com/Community-Asset-Survey).



Lindsay Farrell, president and CEO of Open Door, and Diane Russo, executive director of Putnam Family & Community Services, discuss plans for improving mental health resources in the county.



Michael Nesheiwat, MD, Interim Commissioner of Health, left, welcomed Raymond Phillips, MD, member of the Board of Health to Public Health Summit VI on June 7 at Putnam Hospital Center.

## Barnum Financial Group named one of 2016's Best Companies to Work for in NYS

Barnum Financial Group, an office of MetLife is very pleased to announce that it has been named one of the Best Companies to Work for in New York State for 2016.

"Being named the #9 Best Company to Work for in New York State took a superb, ongoing effort and commitment by all of our employees—including our financial advisors, as well as our managerial and support staff," said Michael Bucci, Barnum Managing Sales Director. "It is an honor to work for a company that has built a culture that emphasizes a team approach and a dedication to helping our clients achieve their financial goals."

Barnum Financial Group provides a full range of investment and risk management products and services to over 250,000 clients, including individuals

and their families as well as small businesses, corporations, government entities, not-for-profit organizations, and their employees. Offices are located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Rhode Island.

Barnum Financial Group was established in 1950 and has been under the management of Managing Director, Paul Blanco, since 1993.

The 2016 Best Companies to Work for in New York State Awards are presented by Ryan, LLC, as well as supporting sponsor Anchin, Block & Anchin LLP. The program is a partnership of NYS-SHRM, The Business Council of New York, Best Companies Group and Journal Multimedia Corporation.

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"Reaching the level of performance required to be Firm of the Year took an unrelenting commitment to all of our clients," said Michael Bucci, Managing Sales Director. "It is an honor to be a part of a firm whose culture puts client's first, and focuses on in-depth financial planning, and financial education."

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