



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chairman David B. Donaldson Announces Formation Of Blue Ribbon Panel

Ulster County Legislature Chairman David B. Donaldson today announced the formation of a Blue Ribbon Panel to perform a comprehensive assessment of Ulster County's overall healthcare services.

The panel, which will be chaired by Legislator Joseph P. Stoeckeler Jr., D-Ellenville, will explore options, alternatives and initiatives to preserve and expand quality healthcare services in a cost effective manner.

Members of the Blue Ribbon Panel are Legislator Robert Parete, D-Boiceville, Legislator Joseph P. Roberti, R-Saugerties, Steve Kelley, CEO of the Ellenville Regional Hospital, Tom Dee, CEO of Benedictine Hospital, Michael Kaminski, CEO of Kingston Hospital, Francoise Dunefsky, CEO of Gateway Industries, Abel Garraghan of Kingston, Dr. J. Peter Roberts of Kingston, and Anthony Marmo, Administrator, Northeast Center for Special Care in Lake Katrine.

The ad-hoc advisory committee may also call on the expertise of Dr. Peter J. Liepmann, D-New Paltz, plus Ulster County officials Dr. Kurt Grovenburg, Deputy Medical Examiner; Dean Palen, Director of Public Health, Anne Cardinale, Director of the Office for the Aging, Roberto Rodriguez, Commissioner of Social Services, Cynthia Ruiz, Director of Public Transit,

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Ulster County Area Transit, and Sheree Cross, Director of Golden Hill Health Care Center.

Donaldson credited Parete for spearheading the move to appoint the Blue Ribbon Panel, which has no pre-set terms and will remain on the panel until its work is done. “Long-term health care is an extremely important issue here in Ulster County,” Donaldson said. “Going into the future, we have an aging population. We need to provide a better type of living for the elderly.”

Donaldson hopes that the Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations can be completed in a timely fashion so that the Ulster County Legislature can act on them by the end of the summer. “We need to be partners with private and non-profit groups to deliver the best health care possible in the County,” Donaldson said. “The only way we're going to get it done is to sit down at the same table together.” “I am looking forward to working with and hearing from the various healthcare professionals to assess and develop long-term healthcare policies for Ulster County,” Parete said.