



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health & Personnel Committee
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ULSTER COUNTY LYME DISEASE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 1st MEETING HELD

Legislator Robert Aiello (R-Saugerties), Chairman of the Legislature's Health and Personnel Committee introduced a resolution in March to create a Lyme Disease Advisory Committee which was adopted unanimously and subsequently signed off by Ulster County Executive Michael Hein.

The Committee held its 1st meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2012, and is charged with reviewing the County's policies dealing with the disease and reporting its findings and recommendations to the Legislature, the County Executive and the Department of Health within six months. The eight-member Lyme Disease Advisory Committee includes the County Public Health Director or his/her designee, the County Executive or his/her designee, the Chairman of the Legislature or his/her designee, Chairman Robert Aiello and Legislator Jeanette Provenzano (D-Kingston), Deputy Chairman of the Legislature's Health and Personnel Committee, a member of the Ulster County Board of Health chosen by the Director of the Department of Health, a representative of the health/scientific community with expertise dealing with Lyme disease, and a County resident infected with Lyme disease, both chosen by the Health and Personnel Committee Chairman.

Legislator Aiello learned that in 2009 and again in 2010, Ulster County surpassed neighboring Dutchess County in the number of Lyme disease incidences. Dutchess County, according to the US Centers for Disease Control, previously ranked fourth in the nation for confirmed cases of Lyme disease.

Legislator Aiello commented, "The Committee will provide the County Health Department with a group of experts devoted to a single issue. He has heard numerous horror stories of people who have become debilitated after going too long before being accurately diagnosed with Lyme disease." He added, "We're going to work to make progress with a debilitating illness through the use of volunteers."

The Ulster County Lyme Disease Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on the following dates: Thursday, May 10, 2012 and Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 1 PM, in the 2nd Floor Conference Room, Department of Health, 300 Flatbush Avenue, Kingston, NY.

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