

STATE OF THE COUNTY-2009

Good evening everyone. Chairman Reynolds, lawmakers, thank you for this opportunity. Department heads, Broome County residents, members of the media, thank you all for coming out tonight for this report on the state of our county.

This is such a difficult and unique time in our nation's history. It is hard to believe that our nation and our community would be facing such an uncertain time.

I choose to believe that we will make it out of this dark time. And when we emerge, we all will have learned lessons on how to do things better.

Our community and our economy are hurting but they are not broken. Our spirit is diminished but it too is not broken.

We are a resilient community. We have withstood almost two decades of economic decline in our region and yet we have a solid economic foundation that is now more diverse and in some regards stronger than it has ever been.

We withstood not one, not two, but three major floods in a very short period of time. The largest one in 2006 hit us hard, but again we were not defeated.

A lot has been said about our region and its struggles over the years but one thing that has not wavered is the strength and courage of its people.

We must identify what is good in our country and our community and build upon that. And we must determine what is wrong with our country and our community and their respective economies and work to fix those problems and never repeat the same mistakes.

We have worked these past four years to protect our county taxpayers from roller coaster tax increases. We have been cautious and realistic about the services we can afford. Each year we have asked our department heads to make sure we are operating as cost efficiently as possible. As a result, our budget strategies have been effective.

Although this is not the budget message, I feel it is important to provide you all with a financial briefing of our current situation. We are in the financial fight of our lives. In 2008, we saw the economic downturn depress our sales tax receipts rapidly after substantial gains. In the end, our sales tax revenue was approximately 2.86% higher than our 2007 figures. In 2009, Medicaid has increased by approximately 1 million dollars. At the same time, the state is proposing to reduce our reimbursement revenues by 5 million dollars for social service programs, inmate reimbursement, public nursing homes, CASA and youth programs.

Simply put, spending on mandatory services has gone up while the proposed revenue for these services has gone down. At this time it is still too early to tell what we can expect from the State or Federal Governments, the national economy, oil companies or the stock market. It's too premature for us to panic or state that we will make it through without sacrifice. I

want you to know that we understand our economic environment and we are prepared for whatever comes. We will continue to have this financial dialogue with this body and the public, not just at budget time, but throughout the year. Finally, and so importantly, we will focus on the decisions made at the state and federal levels to stimulate local companies and economic expansion.

REINVESTMENT AND RECOVERY ACT

I want to assure this community and this body that we are poised to take advantage of a number of programs that will result from our nation's recovery and reinvestment act.

We have placed a handful of shovel ready economic development projects before our state leaders and we will lobby hard for our fair share. We have programs that will see increased funding opportunities like BC Transit, Workforce Development, Public Works and Medicaid, just to name a few.

In fact, while nothing is set in stone, thanks to Senator Schumer's insistence in providing direct Medicaid relief to counties, Broome County stands to receive a substantial amount of money to offset rising Medicaid costs. This is significant and I am making the vow today that any funds received will be applied to just what they were intended to be applied to, relief and investment. We will provide relief for taxpayers, we will reinvest in our infrastructure and we will stabilize taxes for the future. It is important to understand that this funding, although helpful is only one time assistance. It

helps, but it is in no way the answer to the ever rising Medicaid costs.

Again, it is a little early to know the full extent of the recovery and reinvestment act but we are anxious to go after the opportunities and we will do all that we can to bring these dollars back to our community and invest them to help sustain our economy.

PREPARING FOR THE WORST

While cutting services is never an attractive option, neither is raising taxes on our hard working families. If costs start to outpace revenues, we have no choice but to cut services.

We are not there yet but we have to be prepared for whatever this economic downturn throws our way.

Cuts hurt the individuals receiving services. Cuts hurt individuals who lose their jobs because the services no longer exist. And eventually cuts damage our community's quality of life.

However, raising taxes excessively is not an alternative and as long as we all agree on that fact, we can all pledge to work together to make cuts that will spread the pain and allow us to maintain our core services.

We all need to work harder and more creatively. We are a nation of creative thinkers. We are a community known for its innovation and ingenuity. We can make it work as long as we

all are working together on solutions and sharing the collective pain.

CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS REMAIN A PRIORITY

In addition to making financial stability a major focus of my administration, we have also spent a lot of time pushing, studying and actually following through on a number of consolidation and shared service initiatives.

From educating our community about the possibilities associated with police consolidation, to the potential impacts of community dissolution, we have made consolidation a cornerstone of this administration.

To that end, I am proposing an overhaul in the way this community deals with economic development. It has been my goal from the outset to work under one umbrella, as one economic development organization. A one-stop, if you will. That concept frankly has not been an easy one to achieve. However, I feel now is the right time to bring these organizations together to collectively work for our community's best interests.

Before I go any further, I want to state upfront that this reorganization effort will be cost neutral to the taxpayers at the very minimum. And ideally, it will save taxpayers money in the near future.

I am proposing the creation of an economic development organization that incorporates our industrial development

agency with our business development and tourism marketing efforts, and our community development outreach. It will be an organization that will also focus on leading the charge for technology transfers out of Binghamton University and beyond.

We have been working together with our partners these past four years. And I am proud of the relationships and partnerships we have been able to forge, however, there has been something missing.

There was and is a cohesive effort, however, it has been disjointed at times simply because of geography and the lack of being in direct communication at all times.

I have made the decision to promote Darcy Fauci from Economic Development Director, to my Deputy County Executive in charge of human and administrative services. She and I have been working on a plan to direct all local economic development efforts under one roof, combined into one organization and in partnership with our allies in the private sector.

This has been something our community has been asking for. This is something I believe our community needs to remain competitive with other areas in New York State and the United States.

If we thought things were competitive before, they are only going to get more competitive going forward. Everyone's

resources, from government agencies to business and industry, are going to be tighter than ever.

We need to make some fundamental changes in the way we operate and it would seem to me that now is the perfect time to begin making some of these transformative changes.

In addition to overseeing administrative and human services within Broome County, Darcy will be tasked with overseeing the creation of this new organization. She will do this in partnership with Dick D'Attilio of the Broome County Industrial Development Agency.

This administration and the IDA have forged a strong working relationship that has demonstrated multiple successes including; the Charles St. Business Park, the Impress deal which is bringing a Pennsylvania company to Broome County, and the Brandywine Corridor redevelopment efforts.

We also successfully partnered on marketing campaigns including the Data Disaster Recovery and Data Center campaign, as well as the effort to promote our area's modeling and simulation companies. These are just a few examples of this productive collaboration.

We have had successes but both the leadership of the IDA and my administration agree that more can be done to coordinate our area economic development efforts and that is what we aim to accomplish with this consolidation effort which we will undertake this year.

No one is backing away from economic development. That is not what is happening here. That would be ridiculous. Instead, we are positioning ourselves to be more competitive, more flexible and definitely more focused.

Some will be critical of making change in the midst of this economic crisis. It is my strong belief that we must make this kind of change because of this economic crisis. Communities all across New York State operate with an economic development association or agency leading the way. It will be a mixture of the public and private sectors. It will be more than a partnership in name only. It will require investment by our private sector partners who want to play a role in the direction this community will take in the decades to come.

But do not presume that government will step away from the process. It will not. Because after all, this legislature will still oversee a good amount of the operating funds for this agency and will have a seat and a strong voice at the table, as will the administration of the county executive's office, no matter who is in office.

Not a week goes by that my office, or someone else in economic development, hears from a constituent about the confusion that exists regarding where to turn for assistance. This reorganization effort aims to go a long way towards resolving that issue, an issue I feel hampers economic development.

This initial consolidation phase will not be the final steps necessary to consolidate all economic development

efforts...but it will be a major step. We will start by coalescing many of the efforts here in the county office building. However, going forward, I would like to see this group move off of government property and into the community. And one day, I would like it to be physically located in the same building as other economic development service providing groups like the Chamber and possibly the Small Business Development Center.

But that is down the road a bit. The first goal is to get all of the business development and tourism marketing efforts together and part of one agency. And that can be accomplished and finalized this year with your support.

We will be providing presentations on our reorganization plans in the coming weeks and months. But I ask that you support our efforts at this most crucial time.

This administration remains committed to consolidation whether it is in the area of economic development, law enforcement, labor relations, tax collection, payroll and the list goes on. Basically everything is possible as long as all parties are willing to talk and willing to listen.

I want to thank lawmakers for their support of the resolution seeking state funds to study the amalgamation of law enforcement. I also want to thank you for your support of the resolution that would provide implementation dollars if and when one or more police agency agrees to consolidate.

The state has been extremely aggressive about providing communities support in pursuing consolidation efforts. They have provided financial resources as well as guidance to communities seeking information on consolidation. It is incumbent upon us to take advantage of those resources. That is what we have done and will continue to do as we seek out more efficient and effective ways to provide services to our residents.

There are those who do not want to even use the word “consolidation”, let alone enter into a productive dialogue. That is their prerogative. But we do not have to sit by and wait for them to join the discussion. We will move forward and we will produce successful results and hopefully they will be convinced in time. We will not be distracted and we will not slow down our own consolidation efforts. Our constituents want it and the times dictate that we all do a better job of providing our services more affordably.

NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

In addition to finding new ways to reduce spending, we are always looking for ways to tap into new revenue sources. That’s why you have been hearing a lot from this administration regarding the Marcellus Shale and the natural gas play that is upon us. Many think it is a new topic for our area; however, Broome County has had natural gas leasing activity for many years. Historically, natural gas companies offered land owners 5 dollars to 50 dollars per acre. That is no longer the case.

Everything changed last summer. The industry knows that our area is rich in this resource and they now know how to extract it more efficiently.

Suddenly, at least to the public, the development of natural gas in the Marcellus Shale has become much more economically attractive. As a result, Broome County has experienced a burst of natural gas lease speculation. Just last year, some lease offers were in the range of \$2,500 per acre and up.

It became clear that there was great potential with the Marcellus Shale and with tremendous potential comes great concern.

We are anxious to see what develops with the natural gas play in our region but we are not simply standing by and letting whatever happens, happen. We want to be out in front of this natural gas development to make sure we balance the benefits with the risks.

We are working on answers to the following questions:

- This type of drilling activity involves heavy truck traffic. Should the county try to regulate that truck traffic?
- Broome County has almost 200,000 residents. What can the county do to protect and educate those residents?
- What kind of economic impact will all this have?
- And finally, Broome County has experienced many examples of ground water contamination caused by

industry over the years. What can we do to prevent that from happening again?

We are not absolute “experts” on this industry and all of its moving parts, but we have spent a lot of time and energy educating ourselves on the drilling companies, their practices, the environmental concerns, and the potential economic impacts. We are also hiring additional experts to make sure we do everything right.

I want to recognize County Attorney Joseph Sluzar as well as Deputy County Executive Patrick Brennan on the work they have done to wrap their arms around this issue. They have also been proactive in providing the information they have gathered to anyone who has been willing to listen.

My office has created a natural gas information page on our go-broome-county website. I encourage you all to check out this webpage and educate yourselves about all of the developments related to this natural gas play.

We have also proposed an ordinance to address the question of how we protect our roads. This is not the final say on how we will handle gas companies and our roadways. It is a starting point. And we look forward to working with our towns, villages and city to ensure orderly and safe development.

Again, we believe that working together, we can confront many of these challenges and we can take advantage of the opportunities as well. In the end, we will all be in a better

position, if we try to confront these issues together because there is strength in numbers.

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At this time, I would like to review some of the many accomplishments achieved by Broome County Government in the last year. And by government, I mean my administration, this legislative body, our department heads and their employees. Again, a government is only as good as the people who work there. And I think Broome County Government is pretty awesome!

- The George Harvey Justice Building is three quarters of the way towards being completely renovated. County workers can begin moving in by the end of 2009. Outstanding work by Pat Brennan and Steven Elko to keep this project on target and under budget!
- Buildings will soon be demolished to make way for the Intermodal Transit Terminal which will begin construction later this year.
- The En-Joie Golf Course was in the black this past year and the improvements at the course, under the supervision of Michael Deuel and Andrew Cain, have provided our community the luxury of hosting the Dick's Sporting Goods Open for the last two years. The event will be held again this summer and hopefully we will be hearing something soon about the long term plans for the Dick's Open at En-Joie.
- In other consolidation efforts, we are making progress in our efforts to try to transfer Broome County's

employees from a self insured program for health benefits to the New York State Health Insurance Program. We feel strongly that this will be a positive move for all county employees, and if and when this takes place, we would hope our towns and villages would follow our example and join as well.

- We have implemented Phase I of our new ERP system and from all reports it has been a successful transition. There is still another phase of implementation taking place but we moved the payroll to the new system at the beginning of 2009 and there have been only a few minor issues. This system will allow us to work with local municipalities to consolidate their payroll and back office functions with the county, producing savings and creating efficiencies for all.
- Our Greater Binghamton Innovation Center opened in late 2008 and I am happy to report that we are almost full. This is our high tech business incubator that is located at 123 Court St. The incubator is home to 11 separate businesses! It is our goal to provide these small businesses with an affordable, nurturing environment so that they can improve upon their ideas, products and services, and have a better chance of creating new jobs for our local economy.
- Broome County and Broome Community College announced in 2008 that we were moving forward with the construction of a new Science and Technology building on the BCC campus. We are taking monies leftover from the reconstruction of the George Harvey Justice Building and dedicating them to the project. New York State will provide matching dollars to this

important capital program and in the end our community college students will have a state of the art facility to study science and technology. It will also begin the long process of renovating other buildings on the BCC campus. We have all known what needs to take place at the campus, but it was important to wait for the Master Plan to be completed. Once that was done, we could apply resources in the best manner in order to provide the college with a building that meets the needs of a technology focused curriculum while also protecting our taxpayers.

- Broome County in partnership with the City of Binghamton has finally filled the hole that existed in our local GIS system. Because we partnered and invested in this effort, the GIS is now 100 percent complete and represents all of Broome County.
- And starting this week, new hybrid buses will finally arrive in Broome County. We are expecting 6 new buses over the next several months. We have an aging fleet that is being held together well and taken care of by George Bagnetto and our BC Transit staff. We need these new buses to simply replace the older, often unreliable vehicles on the road and more importantly the hybrid buses are better for our environment and the fuel will cost less in the long run. It really is a win-win for everyone associated with the transit system. I did want to take a quick moment to thank George, his staff and all of his drivers for their patience and excellent work in adapting to all of their new junctions this past year. We had to move things from Hawley St. because of the construction at the George Harvey Justice

Building. Then the Court St. location proved too dangerous and finally we settled on some newly acquired county property further down on Hawley St. From all accounts, things seem to be running smoothly. To George, the drivers and everyone else, thank you for working with us on the best solution. It seems to be working well and soon you will have your long promised Intermodal!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A few quick notes on economic development successes in 2008:

- The Charles St. Business Park came to fruition and Emerson Network Power is about to open its new headquarters.
- Impress, a Pennsylvania company announced in 2008 it was coming to Greater Binghamton, and work on their new facility in the Broome Corporate Park in Conklin is about to get underway. I want to thank Supervisor Debra Preston and the Conklin Board for all of the work they have put into this effort and the support they have dedicated to this project.
- Endicott Mayors Joan Pulse and John Bertoni are to be acknowledged for all of their work to raze the former Endicott Forging site. Broome County played a small role in this effort by dedicating \$50,000 in occupancy tax dollars so the Village could secure more than three quarters of a million dollars in Restore New York funding.

- Broome County, thanks to the efforts of Senator Libous, received two economic development grants last year. The first 4 million dollar grant will support our airport corridor redevelopment efforts and the second 4 million dollar grant will help us secure and clear the site on the Greater Binghamton Health Center Campus to make way for a new county nursing facility. The latter project is a complicated one, but it is moving through the state approval process and soon we hope to be able to break ground on a new state of the art nursing home so that we can take better care of some of the most vulnerable members of our community.
- Broome County has also been at the forefront of lobbying efforts to convince the state not to go back on its word to companies certified in the Empire Zone program. We acknowledge that the program needs to be reviewed and possibly revamped but allowing New York State to go back on its commitment to companies would be devastating. I have told the governor's office this and as President of the New York State County Executive's Association, I have also delivered this message to our state lawmakers by testifying before the state's Joint Finance Committee.

BC STOP-DWI

As with every State of the County report, we cannot include every single accomplishment of our individual departments but we did want to highlight a handful of departments and their successes in the past year.

Jim May and our STOP-DWI program and staff have reason to be proud again this year. Broome County experienced one DWI related fatality in 2008. 2008 represents the safest year in Broome County since the inception of the STOP-DWI Program in 1981. During the 1980's, on average, 13 people died each year due to drunk driving.

Unfortunately, that single fatality last year involved one of our own. Aldo Rossi, a former Broome Security Officer, who was on duty for the Port Dickinson Police Department, was killed by a suspected drunk driver last summer.

While we will never be completely successful or completely happy until there are no drunk driving related accidents or fatalities, one incident is a milestone and hopefully the numbers will remain low for years to come.

Much of the awareness of the dangers of drunk driving is a direct result of the Broome County STOP-DWI program. The program under the direction of Jim May and with the assistance of his staff Michelle Dickerson and Rick Westfall, goes above and beyond in its attempts to incorporate the important drunk driving message with community events.

2008 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Chris Thater Memorial which recently received the third highest ranking out of 36 diverse races across the country from USA Cycling. This is no small feat considering the Chris Thater was compared to races with \$100,000 dollar purses and those held in larger metropolitan areas like Chicago.

A few months ago, over 10,000 athletes and fans attended the 17th Annual STOP-DWI Holiday Classic at the Arena. Many enjoyed watching our local teams perform as well as some of the best high school teams in the nation.

With all the success our STOP-DWI program has garnered, it is fitting that in 2008 our STOP-DWI Coordinator Jim May, who also serves as the Chairman of New York State STOP-DWI Coordinators Association, was recognized by the American Legion as the Citizen of the Year. Jim, I want to congratulate you once again for this distinction and thank you for your unwavering commitment and dedication to our community.

BROOME SECURITY

Jim Dadamio and all of the staff at Broome Security do an excellent job day in and day out, providing the members of our public as well as our employees a safe and secure environment at our county facilities. In addition, as many of you are aware, the Security Division is also responsible for maintaining integrity within our social services programs through the efforts of the Case Integrity Unit.

These are difficult times and many of the most vulnerable members of our community rely on these benefit programs now more than ever. We are entrusted to ensure these hard earned taxpayer dollars go to the people who truly deserve them. There are many however, who unfortunately will go out of their way to take advantage of these programs. To those

who think they can get away with welfare fraud, you should know that Broome Security is on top of this.

Let me share some statistics from 2008 to confirm their success. When I heard these figures, I was astounded and proud. In 2008, the Security Division criminally charged 98 individuals with violating various welfare fraud statutes. In addition to these arrests, 428 individuals were also disqualified from receiving future social services benefits for a minimum of six months due to their committing an act of fraud.

As these disqualification penalties prohibit an individual from receiving future benefits, this action alone saved the taxpayers of Broome County now and in the future nearly 330 years of underserved social services payments. Through their efforts in 2008, the Security Division saved Broome County nearly 6 million dollars through our fraud detection program. Excellent job! I thank you and our taxpayer's thank you!

As always, I encourage all of you to review the accomplishments of all of our departments in 2008. They are listed in the back of the State of the County message. Again, I want to recognize and thank our valuable public employees. You make all of the accomplishments outlined here today possible!

We are in the midst of some very difficult times. This will be a very tough year and I once again encourage our department heads and their staffs to be working together with my administration and our lawmakers on creative solutions going forward.

I am optimistic that Broome County will once again weather this difficult time but I am not immune to the realities of our situation.

In the last four years, we have taken important steps to protect the financial integrity of our county budget all while preserving vital county services. And we will continue on this path.

We are a state and a community that provides many services to its young children, its working families and its vulnerable, elderly population.

We cannot eliminate programs across the board but we can work creatively together to find ways to scale back on some of these services or simply deliver a service more efficiently and effectively.

Let us not be afraid. Let's be courageous. Let us not be too cautious. Let's be bold. And let us not be stagnant...let's be progressive. We can do and be all of this, if we work together!

Thank you!

Barbara J. Fiala
Broome County Executive

2008 DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

BINGHAMTON METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION STUDY (BMTS)

- Completed the Binghamton Regional Freight Study, which identifies potential improvements of both rail and highway systems to improve goods movement; and economic development opportunities in the region based on freight capacity.
- Played an important role in getting Amtrak to agree to do an operational feasibility study of Binghamton-based passenger rail service.
- Completed a study of the feasibility of Broome County establishing a Binghamton Downtown Circulator bus service when the Intermodal Transit Terminal opens.
- Worked with the Broome County Health Dept on programs that encourage physical activity through promoting and providing safe facilities for walking and cycling. Work with local school districts on “Safe Routes to School” programs is an example.
- Transportation Analyst John Sterbentz and Senior Transportation Planner Scott Reigle achieved certification as Professional Transportation Planner, joining Director Steven Gayle who was certified in 2007. PTP is a nationally accredited certification under the auspices of the Transportation Professional Certification Board.

BROOME/ TIOGA WORKFORCE

- Broome Tioga Workforce NY (BTWNY) served over ten thousand jobseekers last year. Over 75% found employment.
- 90% of the young people between the ages of 16-21, out of school, seeking education or employment returned to school, attained their GED, updated their skills and found employment.
- BTWNY partnered with BCC and worked with local companies to upgrade the skills of more than 400 workers so that they had the necessary skills to retain their jobs.
- The economy has changed since July 2008 and BTWNY has seen an increase in jobseekers at the Career Centers.
- Rapid Response services have been conducted at Coca Cola, Microdync, Shop-Vac, Ascendia and others.
- Many laid-off employees from these and other companies have taken advantage of the retaining funds available through BTWNY and are pursuing new careers through training local institutions such as BOCES, BCC, Ridley Lowell, BU. Since September 2008 more than 269 individuals have been enrolled at these institutions.
- Nearly sixty contracts have been written to provide On-the-Job training with local employers. (*OJT reimburse 50% of employee’s wages to the employing company*)
- Collaborated with Central NY Area Health Education Center (CNYAHEC) to provide upgrade training to Willow Point employees.

- Partnered with GB Chamber's On the Job Training Program to coordinate efforts efficiently and expand opportunities to local employers.

CASA

- CASA Director Michelle Berry is a member of the New York State Department of Health Long Term Care Restructuring Advisory Council.

- Community Enhancement: CASA is the lead agency in Broome in coordinating the NY Connects initiative sponsored by the state departments of aging and health. Using grant dollars from this initiative we produced a notebook for seniors: "*My Little Book...A Health Diary*". In 2008 we tested the book in the community with a group of seniors. Using this book they can keep track of their medications, diagnosis, test results and hospital admissions. We hope to expand this project to the general public in 2009.

- Speaking Engagements: As the director I am often requested to speak. In 2008 I presented to the NYS Bar Association in their forum: Long Term Care Restructuring in New York State: Current Status and Future Directions on Wednesday, February 27, 2008. Also on the panel were Mark Kissinger, NYS DOH and Gail Koser, NYS SOFA. On November 12th I traveled to Saratoga to participate in a presentation sponsored by NYS OFA. Also on the panel were Kathy Bunnell, Donna Lupardo and Ann McNichols to describe our efforts to promote BC as a Livable Community.

- Sponsored a grant application to the Weinberg Foundation out of Baltimore for caregiver initiatives. There were over 300 applicants nationwide and we were one of the 50 agencies invited to submit a full proposal. (will be notified end of February 2009.)
- OFA Nursing Home Diversion Grant: Broome County was selected by SOFA to be one of only 3 counties in NYS (Broome, Oneida, Onondaga) to participate in a grant to demonstrate our ability to delay nursing home placement to a non-Medicaid population.

CENTRAL FOODS

- New cook chill equipment was purchased with capital improvement funds including 2-100 gallon kettles, a new 1000# Cook Tank, Tumbler Chiller and a Combi Oven. All of the other equipment had a 15 year life and we were on year 20. Each piece will improve our efficiencies as we look into expanding programs.
- A badly damaged dish machine was replaced at the Public Safety Facility that will use less water and electricity. Also replaced 3- twenty year old heating units on the roof at Central Foods
- Providing an additional 70 meals a day to Binghamton Housing Authority at the Carlisle and Saratoga Housing units for a Gang Prevention Program.

- Changed the tray supplies for Willow Point to Black and Cranberry (ie; coffee cups, dessert bowls, entrée domes) to improve appearance, instead of the mix and match items that were in use. Received positive feedback from residents and their families.
- Cut back portion sizes at the Public Safety Facility from 2-3 oz items to 1-4 oz item to cut costs and switched to a Milk Substitute at a cost savings of \$33.60 for one meal each day for a total cost saving of \$12,264 per year.
- Willow Point modified menus and supplements. A fortified pudding recipe replaced the pudding items on the supplement bid at half the cost.

COUNTY CLERK

- Implemented pilot program with Courts to make Civil Actions and Criminal Files available on the intranet and internet.
- Continued with e-filing of court related documents. Over 100 documents recorded.
- Continue to process passports. Realized over \$23,000 in revenue in 2008.
- Held Passport Fairs throughout the county.
- Continue to refurbish archival books and maps and make them more available to the public.
- Made County Clerk's portion of the County website more user friendly. Added information for small business owners, e-filing, passports and how to avoid identity theft.
- Automated all required state and county monthly reports.
- Computerized Court & Trust records.

- Worked through Real Property and the towns to let County residents know that by renewing DMV transactions locally 12.7% of the cost of each transaction stays in Broome County.

Department of Motor Vehicles

- Continued mobile unit operation in Conklin & Whitney Point.
- Continued to offer more hours than any other NYS DMV
- Documentation Scanning Workstations are operational in the Endicott and Clinton Street offices for the implementation of the federal Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) Program (Enhanced Driver's License)

Records

- Took in over 1,400 cubic feet of freeing up approximately (233) 4-drawer filing cabinets in county departments.
- Legally and confidentially destroyed over 800 cubic feet of records. Accepted 250 cubic feet from county offices to be legally destroyed.
- Prepared, scanned and quality checked over 470 cubic feet of departmental record series.
- Created over 150 original CD's for more convenient and less time consuming departmental access and storage of records.
- Transferred 212 books of Mortgages and Deeds from the County Clerk's office and created microfilm from the digital images to insure long term preservation of permanent land records.
- Applied for a Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant for an Electronic Needs Assessment for all county departments.

ELECTIONS

- 2008 Presidential Primary, Primary & General Elections completed. The use of two voting systems in place due to State Judge's decision resulting in a court order for every county in NYS. Lever Machines can no longer be used without a voting system for the disabled.
- New Voting Machines ordered (Ballot Marking Devices) and training was performed for all inspectors, technicians and staff.
- Operation costs increased significantly due to the Presidential Election, high number of new registrations, new voting machines, two systems for two elections and double training.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- NY Alert System implementation- Broome County was one of the first in NY State to sign onto this state of the art emergency public notification system began by the state emergency management office. Thus far, NY Alert has been used successfully to make notifications several times for events such as severe weather.
- Emergency Operations Center upgrade- A multi level visual display system and information sharing system for the emergency operations center and 911 emergency communications center was installed to help in sharing and disseminating information/briefings more efficiently during disasters and major emergencies.

GREATER BINGHAMTON AIRPORT (BGM)

- The Department of Aviation secured an \$8.5 m federal grant to construct a full parallel taxiway, which will provide efficient access for corporate, commercial and privately owned aircraft to our primary runway. This federal issuance was the single largest individual grant for any airport in all of New York State in 2008.
- Other capital improvements included the completion of the Parking Lot Improvement Project, which is the final phase of the public side development program. This \$2.0 m project, paid through state and airport funding, included new pavement, lighting, self pay equipment and signage. In addition, the airport completed a comprehensive Master Plan Update that charts the course of the airport over the next 10-15 years. This document focused not only on air field development, but also on strategies for industrial development on airport property.
- To the thrill of tens of thousands of spectators, the Greater Binghamton Air Show was held with military jets and professional aerial performers taking to the skies over Binghamton. Excellent attendance, sound planning and the cooperation of Mother Nature lead to a successful event and it convinced the United States Blue Angels to decide to participate in our show in 2009.
- Although boardings fell by 12% (2008 vs. 2007), each individual airline reported an increase in passenger traffic from BGM. BGM also bucked the nationwide of flight capacity reductions by maintaining their flight schedule during 2008. The airport is aggressively pursuing expansion to local air service options.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Fiscal staff collaborated with grant managers to claim \$3,923,974 out of a possible \$3,998,145 leaving less than \$74,171 or 1.86% of grant funds left unspent. Of this amount, \$63,837 was reserved by the state for patient services on the Integrated Cancer Services grant.

Emergency Preparedness

- Health Department staff rapidly and successfully responded to the Binghamton University GI illness outbreak.
- In conjunction with other departments/community agencies, launched the Be BC Ready Website and conducted 3 community presentations on all-hazards preparedness.
- Health Department organized and conducted the largest Point of Distribution exercise in Broome County history serving 912 patients in 3 hours or 1 shot every 12 seconds.
- The Vulnerable Populations Preparedness Outreach Project (VPPPOP) reached over 600 Broome County residents and discussed individual emergency preparedness.

Tobacco Control Program/ Tobacco Free Broome

- Broome County Legislature signed a resolution supporting reduction of tobacco advertising at tobacco retailers in Broome County. Three tobacco retailers signed a policy to remove/reduce tobacco advertising. One retailer does not post any ads and has agreed to continue this policy. The other two retailers have agreed to refrain from posting exterior Marlboro ads. Four non-profit organizations (including one festival

and two theatres) signed policies to refuse tobacco company advertising, sponsorship and promotion. Smoke-free housing policy was implemented for SEPP housing in Broome County in April 2008 (limited income and disabled housing) which included six apartment buildings.

- Smoke-free outdoor policies were enacted and signage provided to the Discovery Center (children's museum) and a "Celebration Day" was held to publicize the new policy with about 150 people in attendance.
- Began distribution of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to residents, beginning with low-income populations targeted through the free clinic, STD, TB, WIC and immunization clinics located at the Health Department.

Traffic Safety Program

- 184 car seats and 844 bicycle helmets were distributed.
- Eighteen child passenger safety education programs and 20 bicycle safety education programs were given.
- Ten new child passenger safety technicians were certified for a total of 24 technicians in Broome County.
- Traffic Safety Coordinator received the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Chairman's Award at the NYS Fall Highway Safety Conference based on the above efforts and for developing a new and innovative program called "Keeping it Real Behind the Wheel" – a teen safe driving presentation focused solely on distracted driving. To date, 6 presentations have been conducted and 181 students have received the program. Presentations have been given to Susquehanna Valley SADD students, Windsor High School, Homer High

School, Broome Community College driver's education students and for the general public.

Cancer Services Program

- Received the Model of Integration Award from the NYS Department of Health for having a partnership that incorporates all components of the Cancer Services Program into daily programming, acts as a model for other partnerships across the state, excels in recruiting providers, partners and clients and for maintaining optimal staffing and fiscal performance.
- 120 presentations on cancer services offered; 1,438 clinical breast exams performed; 975 mammograms performed; 1,100 pap tests and pelvic exams performed; 209 colorectal screening tests performed and 17 colonoscopies.
- Medicaid Treatment Act Applications are applications for Medicaid coverage during treatment for those diagnosed with breast, cervical or colorectal cancer or pre-cancerous conditions of the cervix. There were 18 new breast cancer diagnosis; 30 re-certifications for women previously diagnosed but still undergoing treatment; 24 new pre-cancerous or cervical cancer diagnosis; 2 new colorectal cancer diagnoses; and 1 certification for a client previously diagnosed but still undergoing treatment.
- Broome County was asked to be lead agency to oversee another contract for the Cancer Services Program of Chemung and Schuyler Counties based on experience and performance.

Southern Tier Diabetes Coalition

- Through Broome County Mission Meltaway Programs, approximately 620 individuals at high risk for developing diabetes were educated about diabetes prevalence, risk factors, pre-diabetes, testing, symptoms, prevention, and complications.
- Fourteen 8-week Mission Meltaway and Simply Health Programs were conducted in Tioga, Delaware and Chenango Counties, educating 149 individuals at high risk for developing diabetes.
- Financial assistance was offered to five uninsured individuals to attend diabetes self-management classes in Chenango County.
- Staff promoted Mission Meltaway through the Lourdes and United Health Services Hospitals newsletters, reaching approximately 525 health care professionals in Broome County. 32 new Mission Meltaway facilitators were trained in Chenango and Delaware Counties. Staff assisted with the planning and hosting of free community education forums in Broome and Chenango Counties, and distributed educational materials to approximately 178 people at these events.
- Staff sent diabetes awareness press releases/PSAs to media in Broome, Tioga, Chenango, and Delaware Counties.

Early Intervention Program:

- 46% of children in the Early Intervention Program diagnosed with a developmental delay in one or more of five domains resolved the condition, becoming age appropriate prior to preschool entry.

- 811 children served by the Early Intervention Program with 1,019 services being provided in the home.

Preschool Program

- Preschool Program database is completed, able to retrieve statistical data.

Steps to a Healthier Broome County

The Steps granted concluded on September 22, 2008. 5

year highlights include:

- 12 Broome County School Districts implemented Wellness Policies.
- Over 80,000 adults and children enrolled in the BC Walks Program.
- City of Binghamton and Town of Union legislated complete the streets policies that are designed and operated to enable safe access for all users.
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities must be able to safely move along and across a complete street.
- Established resolution, Young Lungs at Play, that calls for tobacco free playground areas in eleven Broome County and twenty-three City of Binghamton parks;
- In collaboration with the Broome County Office for Aging, over 10,000 pounds have been lost through the success of Mission Meltaway Programs. Statistically significant changes were seen in participants' blood pressure and Body Mass Index (BMI) indicators. An article on Mission Meltaway appeared in the National Partnership for Prevention's Keeping America Healthy: A Catalog of Successful Programs.
- Hosted a visit from the NYS Health Commissioner, Dr. Richard F. Daines, during 2008 Public Health Week to

unveil the Prevention Agenda and showcase successes of Steps sustainable chronic disease prevention projects.

- At special request from the NYS Department of Health Commissioner's office, the Broome County Public Health Director and Steps Coordinator provided a historical account of Broome County's integrated chronic disease programming success for several CDC prevention leaders; including the Director of National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.
- Broome County school districts (35 schools and close to 15,000 students) were educated on healthy fruits and vegetables grown in New York State. Give Me 5 posters, daily announcements and menus featuring the Give Me 5 logo were used to reinforce the message. Incentives and education materials were provided to children. 46 Worksites conducted the Give me Five challenge and approximately 2,470 employees participated. Local Farmer's Market incentive coupons were distributed to participating worksites.
- Broome County was declared a We Can County (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition) by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health.

Clinics

- 7,034 Broome County residents received care in 10,801 visits.
- 1,777 children and 115 adults received dental health education, 530 children received dental screenings, 184

- children had prophylactic care and 358 children (784 teeth) received dental sealants.
- Cooperating with the Office for Aging and Emergency Preparedness, 2,675 influenza and 52 pneumonia immunizations were administered this season.
- 1,525 patients were seen in 1,955 TB clinic visits.
- The population of incoming international students, most from highly endemic areas of the world, increased again this year at Binghamton University. Broome County Health Department TB Program staff interviewed 169 (28%) students with latent TB infection and prescribed appropriate treatment.
- There were seven confirmed active TB cases in Broome County requiring 91 directly observed therapy sessions and contact investigations involving 92 residents.
- Completed a total number of 2,063 STD screens. 28% of Gonorrhea, 31% of Chlamydia and 33% of Syphilis cases were diagnosed and treated at the Broome County Health Department.
- 2,670 HIV tests and counseling sessions were conducted at Broome County Health Department, Southern Tier AIDS Program, drug and alcohol treatment facilities, homeless shelters and outreach events. Over 5,100 individuals were educated and counseled about STDs, HIV, AIDS and harm reduction in 75 presentations. More than 2,000 individuals in medical offices, Planned Parenthood, Crime Victims Assistance Center, middle and high schools, BCC and BU nursing students received STD/HIV education from our staff.

- 399 Broome County employees and volunteer firefighters received education, counseling and referrals for obesity, smoking, breast and cervical health at pre-employment physicals and annual health assessments. Immunizations were reviewed and 446 were administered.
- There were 775 Immunization Clinic visits and 1,880 vaccinations given. 362 children were immunized; 38% of the children were uninsured or underinsured.

Maternal Child Health

- Healthy families Broome Support Workers home visited 146 families. A total of 1,913 visits were completed with 100% of visits addressing parent/child interaction, 94% child development, 82% health care, 95% family functioning, 57% self sufficiency, 52% program activities, 16% concrete activities.
- 1,102 home visits were made, including 241 antepartum, 309 postpartum follow-up, 491 infant/child visits, 27 health guidance, and 28 lead visits. All visits include assessing for ways to improve maternal and child health, reduce infant mortality, substance abuse, smoking, and immunization status as appropriate.
- The Maternal Child Health team received 22 bereavement referrals and two visits were made.
- 57 visits were made to daycare centers with 1,356 records being reviewed for immunizations, physicals and lead screenings. 510 daycare employees received education and training on 29 various topics. Child Health Promotion Specialist staff certified 58 providers in medication administration.

WIC

- The WIC Program served 4,800 clients in 2008.
 - Preparation was made for new food package prescriptions..
 - Two additional staff were trained as certified lactation counselors and passed the examination.
 - Staff received training in motivational interviewing techniques to elicit behavior change.
- Child Fatality Review Team*
- Health Department was awarded an Office of Children and Family Services grant for the development of a Child Fatality Review Team. The team has been developed and has met regularly to develop procedures for reviewing cases.
 - The team reviewed death statistics for child deaths in Broome County (2007 thru July 2008).
 - An archive of studies (library) was created; relevant prevention literature collection has begun.
 - Nursing students collected information on county prevention programs.
 - A Policy, Procedure and Protocol Manual was formalized and is being reviewed by NYS Office of Children and Family Services.

Environmental Health

- The water supplier supervision program is responsible for assuring compliance with Federal and State requirements. For example, during 2008 staff and the water suppliers implemented the radiological rule. Water suppliers began to collect the data needed to determine if the levels of radiological parameters exceed levels that impact human health when

- consumed. 165,000 Broome County residents are served by 192 public water supplies. Staff performed 415 inspections and sampling visits. There were no confirmed waterborne outbreaks in 2008.
- There are 63 Mobile Home Parks operating in Broome County. In 2008 staff worked with the park owners to improve protection of public health by increasing the disinfection contact time with capital improvements.
- Staff responded to almost 100 requests for guidance on potential mold exposure in their dwellings. In recognition of our experience in this area the Director of Environmental Health Services was appointed to the NYS Task Force on Toxic Mold Reduction.
- In 2008 adolescent tobacco use compliance checks showed a 90% compliance rate with sales noted at 18 of 179 stores. The program exceeded the federal target for this initiative of 80%. Staff also responded to 16 complaints on smoking in public places under the Clean Indoor Air Act.
- The Health Department regulates the fire safety aspects of hotels, motels and other temporary residences. Recent new construction has increased the staff demands in this program but all facilities were found to be operating well enough to issue permits to operate in 2008. There are 42 facilities with over 3,000 rooms under permit in Broome County.
- All 70 pools and beaches in Broome County were inspected in 2008 according to NYS Department of Health guidance. There were no reported incidents at pools or beaches.

- Primary care providers have increased their rate of screening children for blood lead each year. Rates for children under six years old are estimated at 65% in 2006, up from 22% in 2000. During 2008, six children were found to have blood levels exceeding 20 ug/dl requiring an environmental intervention.
- 484 calls were handled by Environmental Health Services staff in 2008.
- Food service facility inspections focused on high-risk establishments (those with potentially hazardous food ingredients and complex menu items). 100% of the 92 facilities were inspected at least once.
- Over 1,000 food permits were issued; 2,700 blood lead levels in children were logged; intake and management for 648 animal bites and 122 specimen submittals were handled in the rabies program. 115 humans received rabies post exposure treatment as a result of rabies exposure. 18 animal vaccination clinics were held in 2008.
- Staff again collaborated with the Binghamton University Biology Department to conduct mosquito and bird surveillance for West Nile Virus. There were no West Nile virus positive birds, mosquitoes, mammals, or humans found in 2008.
- The urban core has a rich history of industrial and commercial activity requiring environmental inspections. 22 sites affecting approximately 780 residences were evaluated.
- Reviewed septic system plans for 115 new houses and 87 existing system repairs. With the median value of a

- Broome County home at \$78,000, this program helped assure the viability of \$14,000,000 in housing value.
- Additional Hearing Officers were recruited to strengthen our environmental health enforcement process.
- Staff responded to resident questions on the possible impacts to their water supplies caused by gas well drilling.
- The NYS Department of Health has emphasized the primary prevention model as the preferred mechanism to reduce the public health burden of lead poisoned children. Received a \$172,000 grant to develop and implement a pilot project in the City of Binghamton.
- Staff implemented the Broome County Local Law requiring that AED's be placed in prescribed locations.
- Staff initiated a voluntary Trans fat reduction campaign with Broome County restaurants. Support was provided to restaurants with guidance materials. A baseline survey was also performed.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- Successful implementation of ERP Phase 1 – HR/Benefits and Payroll System: Went live with the new PeopleSoft System for HR and Payroll. As part of the new system business processes were reviewed, updated and documented.
- Additional accomplishments that accompanied this effort include:
 - Printing payroll checks and direct deposit advices from laser printers

- Printing W-2s and 1099s on laser cut paper
Converted payroll reports to view on line via infoW
EB (reducing a lot of paper for the County)
- Implemented two IBM P550 high-end AIX servers
for the project
- Implemented an Oracle database
- Website Content Management Software:
Implemented new software and trained every
department on how to update their section of the
website to keep content current.

- Expanded VMWare : In 2007, we moved the workload of
34 servers onto 3 servers running VMWare. We continued
to consolidate resources to VMWare in 2008. Additionally,
we added a few virtual desktops to explore the possibility
of using this County wide.

- Data Center Work Order Statistics:

- Desktop completed 1312
- Helpdesk completed 799
- Network completed 1497
- Datacom completed 124
- Web support completed 1044

Telecommunication Initiatives:

- Upgraded NetMotion mobile VPN solution for first
responder mobile computing project and implemented new
failover server, providing necessary redundancy capability
for this law enforcement connectivity.
- Provisioned and distributed government emergency
telecommunication services for key county personnel,

further insuring the communications ability of key
personnel during public emergencies.

- Implemented services and infrastructure for new Greater
Binghamton Innovation Center.
- Successfully completed implementation on new online
telecommunications billing portal, which provides
department heads with the ability to more efficiently and
effectively track and manage their telecommunication
services and minimizes related paper use.
- Identified service provider billing errors and successfully
negotiated over \$10K in credit to related accounts.

Print Shop/Mail Room:

- Renegotiated 3-year contract for Heidelberg 9110 black
and white copier at a lower cost that includes higher copy
counts and additional features such as a volume stacker and
booklet making component. Also renegotiated a new
contract for a new color copier/printer for more images that
also includes high volume paper capacity trays and a
folding unit.

- New US Postal regulations were put into place in October
of 2008, which could potentially have cost the County
additional increases in postage due to handling restrictions.
We conducted research in our mailroom to analyze our
situation and put forth a solution to save postage costs.

- Increased volume of jobs from the City of Binghamton due
to informational meetings with new city purchasing agent.

Law Enforcement Projects:

- Supported the Jail Analysis Study
- Setup Tracs Accident Report interface to the AS400
- Setup PC's for the 911 backup center

- Upgraded New World Public Safety System to release 8.06 & 8.07
- Upgraded CAD Mapping to enable aerial photos
- Setup new store & forward sites: Cortland, Chemung, Oneonta, Tompkins County
- Pro Q A setup by Communications
- Establish emailing through New World System rip and run system for Communications paging

LIBRARY

- Implementation of the Symphony automation catalog - After 20 years, BCPL was finally the true central library in the Four County Library System. December 2008, showed a dramatic increase in interlibrary lending between BCPL and 41 member libraries. 100-200 items were requested per day, compared with the previous year of 2007 when 646 items were loaned for the whole year.
- Along with the Symphony system, BCPL switched from the Smartcard system to Envisionware, saving \$15,000 per year in software costs and lower cost of new library card purchases. Envisionware has also been implemented by libraries in Johnson City and Endicott and possibly Vestal in 2009. This adds to the seamlessness of patron Internet access throughout Broome County libraries.
- A better contract was negotiated, switching from Time Warner Telecom to Time Warner Business Class. This meant lower costs but increased bandwidth.
- Email notifications were implemented to patrons, saving postage and paper to 1300 library card holders during the year. This system will continue to be promoted in 2009 to patrons. It is a more efficient way of communicating to

patrons on over due items and items being held on reserve. Endicott and Johnson City libraries are considering this option as well.

- Patron surveys were conducted to help in the long range planning process. BCPL conducted 2 satisfaction surveys in 2008. Two patron requests were implemented: a book discussion group and additional music CD titles. 1600 music CDs were reclassified, to promote easier patron browsing/check-out and 20-30 new titles were added monthly.
- The BCPL book discussion group met monthly with 10-20 people in attendance.
- A knitting group met monthly for new and experienced knitters to enjoy the wide array of books available on the subject and knit for the SOS Shelter.
- In March 2008, a renovation of the Library Gift Shop was completed to add space to the small closet originally converted into the shop. A door was inserted in the front of the room for higher visibility. Foot traffic increased dramatically. The Friends of the Library were able to pay off the original loan from 2001 that started the shop.
- CODE ADAM was successfully implemented twice during 2008, with children found and returned to parents.
- Staff cross-training continued in 2008 to allow greater staff flexibility, i.e. – the Youth Services clerk might need to help at the Circulation desk.
- CPR training was offered by Broome County EMS staff to ensure safe use of the defibrillator.
- A deaf sign language instructor was hired to teach staff to communicate more effectively with deaf or hard of hearing patrons. STIC Instructor, Jonathan Dollhopf, structured the

class to be specifically information oriented to libraries and library staff.

- National PR mentioned BCPL in *Library Hotline* for its staff training to communicate with deaf patrons.
- In August 2008, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo used the library as his venue to speak on cyber crime and children on the Internet.
- 30 Harpursville students were bussed weekly during the school year to allow rural students better access to library materials
- 44 marketing programs outside to YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, and schools
- 8 Specific events tables:
 - IBM Summer Camp Fair – Endicott
 - Earth Day - Roberson Museum
 - Farmer's Market – Binghamton Court House area
 - Juneteenth Celebration – Columbus Park
 - Back to School Fair – Boscov's
 - Garlic Festival – American Civic Association
 - Library Card Sign-up – Barnes & Noble, Vestal
 - Ethnic Festival – Arena

MENTAL HEALTH

- The Adult Mental Health Clinic has an open caseload of approximately 1,236 clients, most of whom have serious and persistent mental illnesses. Adult Clinic staff performed 18,330 hours of therapy.

- Child and Adolescent Clinic has an open caseload of approximately 228 clients. Our Children's Unit staff provided 6,380 hours of therapy to children (most of whom have serious emotional disturbances) and their families.
- On behalf of the Broome Area Network in Disaster (BAND) Commissioner Johnson and John Spencer (retired Executive Director of the Broome United Way) received the Governor's Award for Excellence in long term disaster recovery efforts on September 16th, 2008 at a State Emergency Management Conference in Syracuse. This award was given for BAND's efforts related to the flooding of 2006.
- The Department received notification on October 2nd, 2008 from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services that Broome County was awarded a grant for a Problem Gambling Prevention program starting in 2008 and running through December 31, 2009. This resulted in an additional award of \$120,000 going to this agency. Lourdes Hospital will operate the program.
- The Department's KYDS Coalition project was honored with the SAMHSA Science to Service Award for 2008. This is a very prestigious honor, and we were one of only seven awardees nationally in the category of Substance Abuse Prevention.
- The KYDS Coalition was also awarded a five year renewal of funding from SAMHSA. We were one of 199 of 419 applicants nationwide.
- Dual Recovery Project Coordinator was trained to present the Co-occurring Disorders TIP 42 training by SAMHSA and successfully presented the training in Elmira, with two additional trainings scheduled for Broome County in early 2009. The project hopes to train many of the clinicians in the

County in the TIP 42 which will help us move toward more integrated care in the Mental Health and Substance Abuse fields.

- The Performance Management Unit, operated under contract with Coordinated Care Services Inc. (CCSI), monitored performance measures for 51 programs from 18 contract provider agencies for the Broome County Mental Health Department and DSS. They also performed program oversight, including technical assistance for 27 BCMHD contract agency programs.

OFFICE FOR AGING (OFA)

- The NY State Office for Aging awarded the Broome County Office for Aging a Nursing Home Modernization Diversion grant, one of three such grants offered statewide. This demonstration grant will allow OFA provide intensive services to seniors at imminent risk of nursing home placement with the goals of keeping elders in their homes, and helping them to avoid reliance on Medicaid for care.

- Served nearly 200,000 home delivered meals (popularly known as Meals on Wheels) in 2008, almost 10,000 more meals than the previous year. Over 92% of the seniors receiving home delivered meals reported that the meal service helps them to be able to keep living in their homes. Volunteers, many of them seniors themselves, contributed over 21,000 hours of service in support of the home delivered meals program.

- Senior centers served nearly 118,000 meals in 2008 to approximately 4,000 seniors in Broome County. Besides

meals, senior centers offered a wide array of health, wellness, and educational programs designed to keep people healthy, informed, and integrated in the community. Volunteers continued to make vital contributions at senior centers by donating over 33,000 hours of service last year.

- Provided seniors with over 28,000 hours of in-home care. OFA also supplied 157 seniors with personal emergency response units, safety devices that give caregivers peace of mind when their elderly family members are home alone.
- The OFA Information and Assistance staff handled over 16,000 contacts with more than 4,000 clients in 2008. Through their intervention, the staff educated clients, clarified issues for seniors and caregivers, made linkages with service providers, helped seniors access financial benefits, prevented homelessness and impacted lives in a positive manner.
- Continued need for respite services. The Yesteryears Social Adult Day Care provided caregivers with over 48,000 hours of respite, a 17% increase over 2007. Similarly, OFA also provided over 3,000 hours of in-home and institutional respite, a 63% increase over the previous year.
- The prevalence of diabetes in Broome County's senior population is significantly higher than the national rate. To help combat diabetes, the OFA collaborated with the Southern Tier Diabetes Coalition led by the BC Health Department to provide Mission Meltaway sessions.

- Volunteering in schools and daycare centers, 72 Foster Grandparents gave over 61,000 hours of their time in 2008. Children throughout the county benefited from the grandparents' dedicated caring.
- OFA provided over 8,000 health, wellness, and recreational activities for older adults. OFA also partnered with RSVP to conduct an evidenced-based chronic disease self management program for elders.
- Many people avoid exercising because they find it dull and repetitive. The Office for Aging took advantage of technology in 2008 to make exercise exciting and challenging for seniors. Fitness programs at local senior centers now include the Nintendo Wii® sports packages. Grant in Aid support from Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo made it possible to purchase the Wii systems.
- With the costs of food and energy so high in 2008, and with a continued rise in the price of medications, it is difficult for low-income seniors to afford home repairs. The Office for Aging WRAP program leveraged nearly \$570,000 in repairs and home improvements for low-income seniors and the disabled.
- In 2008, the Health Insurance Information, Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP), funded in part by OFA, provided unbiased information and assistance to over 1,100 seniors. Volunteers trained by Action for Older Persons, Inc. (AOP) provided counseling and help with Medicare, Medicaid, long term care and other types of insurance. The

efforts of the volunteers were supplemented by the work of AOP and OFA staff members.

- Broome Community College students raised over \$800 for a permanent patio pavilion at the Endwell Yesteryears Social Adult Day Care site. The Department of Public works constructed the pavilion and built a fence for safety. Now, seniors attending the program can spend time outdoors enjoying the pleasant weather.

PERSONNEL

- Maintained county's eight bargaining agreements and continued to provide labor relations support to other local governmental entities.
- Completed negotiations of three bargaining agreements in the Village of Endicott as well as the labor agreement with the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facility and CSEA employees.
- Provided ongoing support for grievance and discipline management under those agreements.
- Engaged in discussions to extend these services to the Village of Johnson City. In 2009, the county will be negotiating the contract with the Village's Department of Public Works AFSME bargaining unit.
- Sharing our labor relations expertise has resulted in real savings for local municipalities.
- Implementation of Phase I of the ERP System: human resource management and payroll.
- Eight month project required conversion of all data from our old systems to the current PeopleSoft payroll system.

- All union negotiated rules, benefit plans and payroll requirements were defined and programmed into the new system and tested to insure successful integration.
- Involvement will continue in 2009 with the implementation of the benefits portion of the program and internal system training.

PLANNING

- In conjunction with the Deputy County Executive, prepare and submitted a grant application to the Shared Municipal Service Incentive (SMSI) program for a Police Consolidation study and also an implementation grant.
- Began preparing an SMSI grant requesting funding to study the financial and staffing implications of establishing a County-wide Code Enforcement Office.
- Contract with Market Ventures to do a Year-Round Farmers Market Financial Feasibility Study.
- Attended town of Maine board meeting, surveyed residents along Airport Road to determine interest in having public water and sewer in the corridor. Prepared and submitted \$4.5 million grant for the airport road sewer project.
- Submitted supplemental grant information to the NYSDOS to move the county from being self-insured to the NYSHIP program.
- Completed site and office plan and negotiated the lease to move BC Junction from Court Street to Exchange St.
- Prepared \$20,000.00 grant application to the NYS Assembly for benches for the Court House Square.

Intermodal

- Completed: design and geological assessment subsurface testing.

- Completed the first phase of the Phase 2B of the archaeological trenching.
- Conducted environmental testing of all required properties.
- Purchased all properties necessary to complete the project.
- Prepared bid documents and published requests for bids.
- Completed floor plans for Greyhound's temporary space.
- Construction slated to begin in March – Completion Date is mid-2010

Municipal Contracts

- Conducted six (6) training sessions, free of charge, for all municipal leaders, members of Planning and Zoning Boards and Code Enforcement Personnel. This training meets the requires set by NYS for four (4) hours of training annual for planning and zoning board members and code enforcement personnel.
- Partnered with the Town of Conklin to prepare a grant application for \$449,000 to construct a walking trail. The application was funded. The Planning Department is administering the grant, coordinating project team meetings, etc. Broome County DPW is providing in-kind design and survey work and the Town is providing construction equipment.
- Partnered with the Town of Vestal to prepare and submit an LWRP Grant in the amount of \$96,000 to hire a consultant to prepare a waterways access report that would increase public access to the area's waterways for recreational purposes. The grant was successful and twenty-two (22) municipalities are participating in the study. The County is co-administering the grant with the Town.
- Completed comprehensive plan for the Town of Maine.

- Contracted with the Town of Binghamton to update their comprehensive plan.
- Updated and maintained the Council of Governments website, prepared meeting minutes and meeting notices as well as for the Stormwater Management Coalition.
- Successful in obtaining a \$100,000 grant to prepare a Heritage Area Expansion Plan. This will allow municipalities not currently in the Heritage Area to join and be eligible to receive funding for historic preservation projects.
- Obtained an \$8,000.00 grant to prepare the Historic Chenango Canal Extension Survey. This included parts of the Chenango Canal that went from Vestal to the City of Binghamton.
- Contracted with Binghamton, Johnson City and the Village of Endicott to provide historic preservation and Heritage Area grant application and project services.

Graphic Information Systems (GIS)

- The County maintains and updates GIS services for all municipalities in the County.
- In 2008, the City of Binghamton contracted with the Broome County Dept. of Planning to provide general GIS services, tax mapping services, parcel information services, crime mapping and other services. The “white hole” that used to represent the City of Binghamton now has been filled in. This means that for the first time, persons are able to obtain City of Binghamton tax map and parcel information on line at the County’s GIS website.
- With all tax mapping and parcel information being updated from a single location, the backlog has all but been eliminated and the process is much more efficient.

- All 911 addressing is now done from the County GIS unit.
- Crime mapping information provided to the City by the County has already resulted in the City better being able to deploy staff to areas that show an increase in criminal activity.

Incubator

- Prepared Floor Plan and Oversaw remodeling of the Bern Building for the Greater Binghamton Innovation Center which opened in October. As of February, 2009 the Incubator has 10 tenants with only three cubicles available.

PROBATION

- The Probation Department hosted 2 “Lunch & Learn” sessions in 2008 for Judges, Justices, District Attorney Office County Attorney Office and Broome County Sheriff’s Department.
- Probation Officer Week took place in mid-July, with a variety of activities including an ice cream social, a picnic for all staff and a stress reduction workshop.
- Two sessions of “Ready, Set, Work” were held for unemployed probationers, and included NYS Parole in the fall session.
- Began collaboration with UHS New Horizons and are co-facilitating a criminal justice/substance abuse group.
- Participated in the Broome County IMPACT program and have Probation Officers and Police Officers doing home visits together in the evening hours.
- Hosted and participated in a NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DCPA) “Training for Trainers” for Officer Safety and Survival Training.

- Received certificate from DCPA for 100% staff training compliance and a certificate for completing 95% of the required DNA tests.
- Monies collected:*
- Restitution collected for victims: \$ 327,815- this includes \$ 43,835 for Broome County DSS (Welfare Fraud cases)
 - DWI Fines: \$ 102,090 *
 - DWI Supervision Fees: \$ 30,700 *

PUBLIC WORKS

Highway

- Finishing and utilizing new salt storage facility. Now have capability to store greater quantities of salt needed during the winter season.
- By equipping and utilizing construction 6 large culverts were repaired saving the tax payers at least \$50,000 in contractor's costs.
- Through capital expenditure, 30 miles of highway was repaired, resurfaced and rehabbed.

Building and Grounds

- Active involvement with the Energy Advisory Board, formation of Energy Action Team and initial positive results of awareness, monitoring and conservation efforts.
- Launching of multi-departmental Maintenance Management System and Online Work Requisition System.
- Efficient and responsive buildings, grounds and fleet services and support for State, County, City and public customers.
- Projects included: transit renovation, Junction relocation and DSS carpet replacement.

Engineering

- Started Construction Phase of the George Harvey Justice Building (GHJB) Renovation.
 - Completion of Hooper Road Bridge over Patterson Creek.
 - Completion of Bevier St. Bridge over the Chenango River (Not including Multi-use Trail).
 - The Highway Division with the assistance of the Engineering Division was able to complete all remaining FEMA projects during 2008 that will bring in reimbursements outstanding, revenue estimated at over 2 million.
 - The Highway Division also able to contract with NYS DOT for an additional \$384 thousand dollars in reimbursements for flood work completed on the Federal Highway System roads not originally approved by the State.
- Solid Waste*
- Obtained share of carbon credits.
 - Through efficient waste placement, compaction and cover management the cell will continue to be filled through 2009 (original closure date was slated for 2007)
 - Received approx \$250,000 in grant money from NYSDEC for recycling and HHW programs.
 - Awarded \$800,000 for landfill gas related expenses.

PARKS

- Whitney Point Lake Project at Dorchester Park completed.
 - Beach enhancement
 - Boat launch with dock
 - New pedestrian bridge
 - New beach house
 - New comfort station

- Whitney Point Community and Lake Walkway/Bikeway was completed.
 - New playground projects were completed.
 - Cole Park, Roundtop, Grippen Park
 - Born Learning Play Area at Otsiningo in conjunction with the United Way
 - New bocce court at Otsiningo was installed.
 - New shelter facility at Grippen Park was completed.
- Broome County Veterans Memorial Arena*
- Hosted 2008 AHL All Star Classic “Sold Out”
 - Jeff Dunham April 12th “Sold Out”
 - Celtic Thunder kicked off 50 city tour, 7 days Sept. 22-Oct 3
 - Carrie Underwood Oct. 21st “Sold Out”
 - Increased Revenue by \$50,000.00
 - Hired Assistant Arena Manager
 - New Roof Installed
 - Repaired front entrance steps.
 - Refurbished elevator cabs.
 - Installed various occupancy sensors.
 - Began energy use portfolio and active partner with Energy Advisory Board.

Broome County Performing Arts Center, The Forum

- Exceeded target revenue.
- Hosted “Menopause the Musical” 4 performances
- Successful second season of the Binghamton Summer Film Series
- Participated in first Friday in June and Sept. over 1,500 attendees each event

- Installed new carpeting in entrance foyer.
- Installed new front of house curtains.
- Purchased new carpeting for the seating area.
- Installed new carpeting in the orchestra pit.

PURCHASING

- Opened 90 bids, 21 RFP’s, 17 engineering bids, 2 resolutions, 1 RFQ, processed 188 letter contracts, 701 BAC agenda items and 5,082 purchase order requests.
- Successful auction of surplus property in September grossing \$209,000 for Broome County and the 5 participating schools, 13 towns and villages and BCC.
- Legislature approved the new procurement processing manual and the state approved the changes to the County Charter. The change in the purchasing thresholds should reduce BAC requests as well as resolution requests.
- Chuck Ellsworth, buyer, attended the NYS Association of Municipal Purchasing Officials Conference in May. Implementing new state legislation involving purchasing.
- Toshiba business solutions conducting study of the county’s use of copiers, printers and fax machines. It is hoped the county can generate cost savings by eliminating many of the machines in use. p preliminary results should be known in late January of 2009.
- Continuing to seek environmentally preferred products.
- In March the new visa cards were issued by M&T Bank for use by county employees as procurement cards.
- 40 yearly contracts and several single purchase contracts that are open for use by the political subdivisions.

REAL PROPERTY

- City Real Property System was incorporated into the Countywide Real Property System.
- City of Binghamton maps were updated and added to the GIS system administered by the Planning department.
- A number of long outstanding properties in the city were foreclosed on: 98 MBBA and 11 Howard properties that have been in disrepair for many years. Through a partnership with the city, the MBBA properties will be revitalized by rehabbing homes or demolishing existing buildings which will improve the city and return these properties to the tax roll.
- The county continued to support the ongoing reassessment project taking place in the Town of Vestal.
- Two studies were done through state grants on a Centralized Tax Data Base for delinquent and current tax information and a study on Countywide Collaborative Assessing both will be presented February 12th 2009 to the Legislature and public.
- The first auction of city properties was held in May outstanding taxes were paid and had a net revenue of \$187,000.

RISK AND INSURANCE

Health Insurance

- Moved our 1,100 Medicare-eligible retirees and dependents to the Aetna Medicare Advantage health plan. This results in an immediate annual cash savings of about \$865,000. This also translates to a reduction of our GASB 45 liability of \$37 million.

- Total health plan spend was \$33.1 million, budget was \$37.1. (2007 numbers were \$32.7 and \$36.1 respectively).
- Added Preventive tests (colonoscopies, PSA's, routine ob-gyn exams, Pap Smears) to the Traditional Plan when union agrees.
- Added Rational Med program to our prescription drug plan, which should result in savings of around \$80,000.
- Added Preferred Drug Step Therapy (PDST) program, which will save over \$200,000.
- Began work on a new Medicare Part D prescription drug plan (PDP or EGWP) that could result in another significant GASB 45 liability reduction.

Property/Casualty Insurances

- Negotiated reduction in our Property Insurance premium from \$167,018 to \$159,469. (FY1---2005 premium was \$233,000---we have aggressively negotiated decreases each year since).
- Negotiated no premium increase (\$5,178) for our Crime Policy(*Employee Bond*)
- Negotiated reduction of Aviation Liability insurance premium from \$49,880 to \$36,115. Difference of \$13,765
- Negotiated reduction of Airshow Liability and Weather Insurance from \$9,620 to \$7,170.

Life and Dental Insurances (Guardian)

- Negotiated rates for both life and dental remain the same from 2008 to 2009.

SECURITY

- \$5,869,048 gross dollars avoided and/or recovered due to fraud.

- \$2,125,600 County dollars avoided and/or recovered due to fraud.
- 98 persons were criminally charged with crimes for violating various welfare fraud statutes.
- 428 people were disqualified from receiving future various welfare benefits for a minimum of 6 months due to committing welfare fraud.
- Lastly, due to a \$50,000 Byrne Justice Grant and a \$7500.00 NYS Legislative initiative secured by NYS Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo, the Broome County Government Security Division Computer Forensics Lab was able to expand forensic recovery services to cell phones. With the emergence of new and advanced cell phone technology, many instances are occurring locally where valuable evidence is contained on the cell phone. These initiatives purchased equipment and software for Security examiners to retrieve data from various different cell phone brands and types.
- Spearheaded the “Babies Sleep Safest Alone” campaign in Broome County last April. Joined OCFS, NYC and approximately 36 counties throughout the state in getting this vitally important message out to the public. A press conference, emceed by Commissioner Johnson, was held at Mothers & Babies Perinatal Network in Binghamton and was covered by all of the local news outlets. Posters and brochures continue to be distributed. The campaign was designed to prevent child fatalities related to parents co-sleeping with their babies.
- The Department was awarded a grant from NYS Office of Family and Children Services (OCFS) titled the OCFS’ Portable Technology Project. The Department received 16 wireless laptops to be used by Child Protective Staff. This technology results in a more efficient use of staff time during after hours offsite emergency coverage.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Active participant in NY State’s Medicaid Provider Fraud Demonstration Program in 2008. This demonstration program is an effort to assure that our tax dollars expended on Medicaid are spent wisely. Through the leadership of our Social Services Commissioner, Arthur Johnson & Deputy County Attorney Howard Schultz, this project has actively commenced audits of local area Medicaid providers. In Broome’s first round of audits, over \$35 million in Medicaid claims are currently being audited. For 2009 we anticipate a second round of audits.
- OCFS approved the Department’s application for a grant in the amount of \$236,228 for the Prevention of Detention & Residential Placement on October 17, 2008. The Department is using the funding to enhance after school program activities for at-risk youth, add respite services as an alternative to detention and add a parent educational component to current alternative services.
- Child Protective Services received a total of 3,300 reports of child abuse and/or maltreatment. This was an increase of 524 reports from 2007. The Department moved staff from other services including both Family Services and Adult Protective Services to cover the increased number of reports. In addition,

one staff member from the assistance section was moved into CPS for a period of time.

- The Department applied for and received a competitive Child Protective Staff/Case ratio grant from OCFs in the fall of 2008. This enabled the Department to add 5 additional line staff (1 Senior Caseworker and 4 Caseworkers) and 1 supervisor, creating a 5th CPS unit.
- The Preventive Program, under contract with the Children's Home was successfully launched on April 1, 2008. This program works with children that have been identified as at "imminent risk" of placement. By the end of 2008, the program was serving 119 children. During the 8 months the program has been in place, not a single child in the program was placed in foster care.
- Our Public Assistance Programs improved customer service and reduced customer complaints as a result of our A.I.M. (Attitudes, Initiative, Motivation) initiative spearheaded by **STOP DWI** Cindy Nord. We experienced a 15% reduction in the number of customer complaints.
- All Public Assistance program areas dealt with caseload increases in 2008. Temporary Assistance cases increased by 300 cases, Medicaid by 12,500 cases, and Food Stamps by over 1,000 cases. All program areas processed record high numbers of applications for benefits. A total of 25,254 applications were filed, an increase of 12%, or 2,600 applications over 2007. By January 2009, the HEAP unit had processed 1,300 more applications compared to last year. A total of 152,758 people

presented at the front door in 2008, an average of 12,730 per month.

- The Department's Welfare to Work division placed 780 individuals in jobs and sanctioned 55 individuals for non-compliance with employment activities.
 - DSS continued the "Focus on Values", a DSS initiative to increase recognition for staff that go the extra mile in representing the agency's values. All staff is eligible and must be nominated by a peer. The nomination write up appears in the DSS Hot News and staff receives congratulatory certificates.
 - Deputy Commissioner C. Omarr Evans spearheaded an initiative to replace all of the carpet (90,000 square feet) in the Department's Main Street location. About 375 people were moved at least twice to carpet their area.
- STOP DWI**
- 2008 represents the safest year in Broome County since the inception of the STOP-DWI Program in 1981. Last year marked a dramatic decline in total highway fatalities in Broome County. A total of six people died on Broome County roadways last year and only one of which was caused by impaired driving.
 - During the 1980's on average 13 people died each year due to drunk driving. In the 1990's the annual average declined to 5 per year. Since 2000, Broome County has averaged 3 DWI fatalities each year.

- The Chris Thater Memorial achieved the third highest ranking of cycling events by USA Cycling - the sports governing body. Thirty-six races from across the United States were evaluated to determine the nation's top cycling events.
- 2008 marked the 25th Anniversary of the Chris Thater Memorial.
- STOP-DWI Coordinator James May, was selected as the Citizen of the Year by American Legion Post 80 of Binghamton, New York.
- Broome County Law Enforcement Agencies, the New York State Police and Binghamton University Police deploy dedicated DWI patrols, conduct DWI check points, undertake underage sting operations and video tape DWI suspects in an effort to prevent drunk driving.

- 730 people were arrested in Broome County for DWI in 2008.
- STOP-DWI funded patrol activities produced 193 DWI arrests and 2,044 Vehicle and Traffic tickets.
- The Broome County District Attorney's Office has one of the top conviction rates for drunk driving offenses in New York State (ranks 13 out of 62 counties).
- The Broome County STOP-DWI Program has earned a statewide reputation for its multi-media STOP-DWI public awareness campaign and the numerous community events it promotes to draw attention to the drunk driving problem.
- STOP-DWI sponsored a number of seminars during 2008 including the following topics: server alcohol training for restaurant and tavern owners. NYPTI seminar for police and prosecutors, GTSC seminar Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement, drug impairment training

for education professionals, understanding substance abuse and high risk behaviors of adolescents and alcoholic women assessment and treatment.

- STOP-DWI promoted the 17th Annual STOP-DWI Holiday Classic - a 16 team national invitational high school basketball tournament - recognized as one of the top holiday tournaments in the United States - over 10,000 attend the event.
- Continue to support SADD at the middle and high school levels.
- Will work with the STOP-DWI Advisory Board, local officials and public and private community organizations to develop and coordinate a comprehensive DWI countermeasure program.

TRANSIT

- Fixed route ridership increased approximately 6% in 2008.
- BC Lift and BC Country ridership increased 5% in 2008.
- Relocation of the Junction to Court Street then onto foreclosed property on the corner of Hawley and Carroll Streets.
- The work on the new Junction lot at Hawley and Carroll St is completed. Lighting and shelters (with benches) have been installed. The Junction office is completed and operational. So far everything is working out well. Our department is plowing out the lot when it snows. The drivers and the riding public seem to be happy with the location and how the buses have been set up.
- Bids sought for new overhead garage doors.
- The HVAC system replacement has been installed, and computer has been adjusted for thermostatic control.

Currently evaluating the need for replacement of overhead heaters.

- A new bus wash is currently being installed by Bellinger Inc and Northeast Inc.
- Purchased five (5) small transit cut-away buses from Empire Bus Sales, which are schedule to arrive sometime in June.
- Purchased 6 hybrid busses, the first are scheduled to arrive by the end of February 2009; the remaining five will be delivered in March and April.

VETERANS

- Provided counseling and advocacy to 693 veterans and dependents.
- Developed and submitted 97 claims for monthly benefits.
- As a result of representation provided through this agency, estimated lump sum awards granted to claimants totaled \$1,029,943.
- The Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program, run and operated by volunteers, transported 562 veterans for medical appointments to the Syracuse VA Medical Center and the Binghamton VA Clinic.

WILLOW POINT NURSING HOME

- Increased the complexity of resident care, as measured by an increased case mix from 1.04 to 1.14. It is anticipated this change will have a significant positive impact on reimbursement.
- Change of pharmacy vendor to improve medication delivery, resident satisfaction, and has helped reduced pharmaceutical costs. Installation of Pyxis system to

dispense medication(s) needed for newly arrived residents or recently ordered drugs for existing residents.

- The April 2008 NYS Department of Health annual survey “...the best survey in many years...” quote from Survey Team.
- Closed ten (10) beds on July 1, 2008 complying with Berger Commission mandate. This is the first of a series of closing that will result in the facility closing a total of 83 beds. No residents were displaced as a result of these closings.
- Filed a Certificate of Need Application for building a new nursing home. As part of the Need Application, concept drawings were developed for a new 300-bed nursing home. The Certificate of Need process is ongoing. Through the efforts of Broome county Executive Fiala and Senator Libous the facility received a \$4M grant to make the new nursing home site shovel ready. It is anticipated the grant will cover the cost of demolishing the existing building currently on the site.
- Partnered with Evercare, a Medicare Advantage program, to provide additional services for residents at the facility, preventing unnecessary hospitalizations and increasing revenue for the facility.
- Five (5) of the Facility’s Certified Nurse Assistants were honored at an area Recognition Luncheon sponsored by the Long Term Care Administrators of the Southern Tier.
- Teresa Hampton, Clinical Care Coordinator, was showcased in the Summer 2008 issue of “New York Nurses Network.” Ms. Hampton is an RN and the manager of the Alzheimer’s/Dementia Unit.

- Received grants for CNY-AHEC, to provide educational opportunities for staff and computer equipment for use in training staff in the use of clinical care systems, facility management, and basic computer skills from the NYS Department of Labor and NYS Department of Health.

YOUTH BUREAU

- In February 2008, the Broome County Youth Bureau (BCYB) and four area youth participated in the Association of New York State Youth Bureaus Youth Leadership Conference and Legislative Breakfast. These young people had an opportunity to meet with Senator Libous, Assembly member Crouch and Assembly member Lupardo in their Albany Office. They discussed with each elected official about their youth bureau funded program and what it means to them.
- Sponsored and conducted four Advancing Youth Development (AYD) trainings. AYD Professional Development for youth workers builds knowledge, skills and supports for youth workers, youth serving programs, and organizations. Using a positive youth development approach means that individuals, programs, and/or organizations intentionally guide and support this process with research based practice.
- In April 2008, the bureau partnered with the New York State Police Juvenile Officers Association to sponsor the WHY TRY? training for local school personnel, social workers, probation officers, juvenile officers, youth workers and human service professionals. The training had

over 100 people in attendance and was held at the Binghamton Holiday Inn. The Why Try Program is a strength-based approach to helping youth overcome their challenges and improve outcomes in the areas of truancy, behavior and academics.

- In April 2008, the bureau and the RHY Committee of the Homeless Coalition organized a networking meeting with local school districts to discuss issues surrounding runaway and homeless youth.
- BCYB was awarded \$50,000 in January 2008, from the Office of Children and Family Services to continue the Ready by 21 Quality Counts initiatives locally in our community. We were 1 out of 4 counties selected for this statewide initiative. The funding will be available for 2008 and 2009. This funding will allow for work with High/Scope Educational Research Foundation and the Forum for Youth Investment to align resources to ensure that all young people in our community have quality opportunities, services, and supports.
- In April of 2008, the bureau hosted the High/Scope's Internal & External Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) Assessors training. Broome County had 7 agencies trained in the YPQA Internal Assessment and 4 individuals trained as External Assessors. The bureau has subcontracted with Binghamton University's Center for Applied Community Research and Development (CACRD) to conduct external assessments on the 7 pilot agencies trained as Internal Assessors. Internal & External

Assessments for these 7 agencies will be conducted in Year 1 & 2.

- BCYB Executive Director was elected to serve as the Co-Chair of the 2008 38th Annual Association of New York State Youth Bureaus Conference held in Syracuse, New York.
- In June 2008 and November 2008, in collaboration with FOX WICZ presented the Spirit of Youth Recognition Award to two local young people who are a positive role model and have succeeded with difficult odds. This collaboration will continue in 2009.
- The BCYB and members of the RHY Committee tabled at the Oakdale Mall in recognition of National Runaway Prevention Month to distribute information about issues that surround homeless youth, parents, and schools.
- In November 2008, the BCYB brought in Margo Hirsch, Esq., Executive Director of the Empire State Coalition of Youth and Family Services, to conduct training about the legal rights and issues of runaway and homeless youth. This training was targeted for school district personnel, human service agencies, law enforcement, probation, and youth workers.