

# NEWS:



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## **Orange County Hosts SUNY New Paltz's CRREO Study on Jail Consolidation** *Counties in Hudson Valley review recommendations*

**(Goshen, N.Y.)** – Orange County Executive Edward A. Diana today hosted researchers from SUNY New Paltz's Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) as they announced their findings at the County's Emergency Services Center in Goshen from a study they authored called "A Collaborative Approach to County Jailing in the Hudson Valley: Investigating the Potential for Collaboration amongst the County Jails in Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster Counties."

"In these trying economic times, I believe it's more important now than ever to look at ways where we as a County may continue to provide quality services to our residents, while being mindful to the taxpayer who is paying the bill," said County Executive Diana. "This study allows us to do just that, keep an open mind on how to operate in the future."

This research by Dr. Gerald Benjamin, CRREO Director and Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement, and Mr. Joshua Simons, CRREO Research Associate, was spearheaded by Orange County, in a joint collaboration with Ulster and Sullivan Counties, with representatives from Putnam, Rockland, Dutchess and Columbia Counties participating.

Dr. Benjamin and Mr. Simons discussed their findings from the study, providing suggestions on how counties in the Hudson Valley may benefit by working together, ultimately reducing jails costs.

"We are grateful for the advice and support given this study by county leaders and jail administrators from across the Hudson Valley. We are especially grateful for the leadership for this process provided by the Office of the Orange County Executive and the Orange County Sheriff's Office," said Dr. Benjamin.

Orange County Sheriff Carl E. DuBois said, "This report is a first step in determining baselines of the multiple governmental entities involved, and implies the multiple challenges that are faced when attempting to affect a measure of sharing or consolidation." He continued, "Many of the recommendations contained in the report were initiated by the Orange County Sheriff's Office and are currently operational."

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Benjamin further added, "We hope to work with the counties to advance the ideas we've identified to achieve greater efficiency in the use of jails through inter-county and county-state collaboration and also opportunities to reduce costs while assuring justice through reforms elsewhere in the criminal justice systems in the Hudson Valley."

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress served as a project partner with CRREO on "A Collaborative Approach to County Jailing in the Hudson Valley," while the New York State Department of State funded the study through their Local Government Efficiency Grant Program.

Pattern for Progress also authored a case study on the region's oldest jail, "The Sullivan County Jail: What does the History of the State's Oldest Jail Suggest for its Future?"

"We welcomed the opportunity to be part of this study seeking to find greater efficiencies through collaboration among the region's jails," said Jonathan Drapkin, president and CEO of Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. "It is our intention that this case study stimulates greater discussion to help Sullivan County find an affordable, regional solution to a problem that has vexed it for decades."

CRREO conducts and publicizes research on regional topics; creation/direction of select institutes that focus on specific topics of regional interest; outreach to local governments, non-profits and for-profit organizations to initiate reforms and enhancements to best service their constituents; work to foster community collaboration. For more information on CRREO, please visit <http://www.newpaltz.edu/crreo>

Pattern for Progress is a regional policy and planning organization that seeks to improve the quality of life for Hudson Valley residents by conceiving and promoting regional solutions. Pattern is based in Newburgh and works within the nine-county region that includes Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester. For more information on Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress, please visit <http://pattern-for-progress.org>

Please visit [http://www.newpaltz.edu/crreo/jail\\_study\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.newpaltz.edu/crreo/jail_study_final_report.pdf) to view the report in its entirety.

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