



GEORGE LATIMER. Westchester County Executive

Date: February 27, 2020 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contact: Catherine Cioffi Communications Director Office - (914) 995-2932 Cell- (914) 954 -5579 <u>CCioffi@westchestergov.com</u> Caren Halbfinger Office - (914) 813-5013 Cell - (914) 224-7651

HEALTH COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO SERVE ON PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL ACADEMIES COMMITTEE

Sherlita Amler, MD, Will Help Develop Workshops to Improve Human Services After National Disasters

(White Plains, NY) – The Westchester County Department of Health is pleased to announce that Westchester County Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, has been asked to serve on a prestigious planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are private, nonprofit institutions that provide expert public policy advice on some of the most pressing challenges of the day. The committee will develop a series of three workshops focused on critical areas in the coordinated delivery of human and social services programs following federally declared natural disasters. The workshops are to be held this summer in Washington, D.C. Each workshop will focus on a different area, including children and youth in disasters; disaster displaced populations; and data and information sharing for disaster human services.

Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "I am honored and humbled to join such a distinguished group of professionals in this important effort. I look forward to working together to develop educational workshops that will advance our ability as Americans to mitigate the human impact of disasters on our most vulnerable residents."

A pediatrician and former CDC physician, Dr. Amler has served as Westchester's health commissioner since October 2011 and held the same post in Putnam County for seven years before that. She is a licensed physician (MD), licensed registered nurse (RN), and certified emergency manager (CEM) with 39 years of public health experience at the federal, state, and local level. Dr. Amler is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Disaster Medicine in the School of Health Sciences and Practice at New York Medical College in Valhalla. She is a past president of the New York State Association of County Health Officers.

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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