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# PATTERN FOR PROGRESS

*Improving the Quality of Life through Regional Solutions*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PATTERN FOR PROGRESS COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY KICKS OFF AGENDA**

### ***Hudson Valley's County Jail System among Committee's First Issues***

*Newburgh* – At the initiative of Pattern for Progress, an Intergovernmental Committee chaired by Orange County Executive Edward Diana met May 30 at the Orange County Government Center to begin to establish a regional agenda to achieve greater economy, efficiency and effectiveness of governments in the Hudson Valley.

“We are here to envision a Hudson Valley agenda for local government reform,” said Diana. “We need to design ways to contain or reduce costs, and thus to reduce the burden on local property taxpayers.”

“This group will generate ideas for change from within the region, and will also draw upon the proposals recently made by the Governor’s Commission on Efficiency and Competitiveness in Local Government,” said Jonathan Drapkin, president and CEO of Pattern for Progress, and a member of the commission. John Clarkson, the commission’s executive director, presented the findings and recommendations of the commission to the group.

The first issue addressed by the group was the county jail system in the region, where some counties are being forced to spend tens of millions to construct correctional facilities while there is ample space available at other county correctional facilities. The group agreed that establishing a cost-effective, regional approach to the incarceration of prisoners at the county level will be a priority to bring before the governor, state legislators and regulatory agencies.

Elected officials from local governments throughout the region’s nine counties were present at the initial meeting. Among those attending with Diana and Drapkin were Nicholas Valentine, mayor of Newburgh; Ira Cohen, Sullivan County treasurer; Jonathan Rouis, Sullivan County Legislature chair; John Valk, Town of Shawangunk supervisor; Michael Hein, Ulster County administrator; Joan Pagones, Town of Fishkill supervisor; John Tully, Putnam County deputy county executive; and Gerald Benjamin, director of the SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach, who serves as the group’s advisor.

Pattern for Progress plans to bring together separate, issue-focused groups to address specific concerns, while the intergovernmental committee meets on a regular basis to give oversight and direction.

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