



Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

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Committee Assignment	
HUMAN SERVICES	-L

October 4, 2024

To The Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
Rochester, New York 14614

Subject: Confirmation of the Appointment of the Commissioner of Public Health

Honorable Legislators:

I recommend that Your Honorable Body confirm the appointment of Dr. Marielena Vélez de Brown, M.D., M.P.H. as the Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to Section C6-12(F) of the Monroe County Charter and Article 3 of the New York State Public Health Law, for a six (6) year term to commence on November 23, 2024.

Dr. Vélez de Brown has been serving as the Acting Commissioner of the Department of Public Health since March 19, 2024, and has eight prior years of experience as the Deputy Commissioner. Additionally, Dr. Vélez de Brown has served as the Medical Director for the Department of Public Health's Starlight Pediatric Clinic since 2017. A copy of Dr. Vélez de Brown's resume is attached for your review.

The specific legislative action required is to confirm the appointment of Dr. Marielena Vélez de Brown, M.D., M.P.H. as the Monroe County Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to Section C6-12(F) of the Monroe County Charter and Article 3 of the New York State Public Health Law, for a six (6) year term to commence on November 23, 2024.

This confirmation will have no impact on the revenues or expenditures in the current Monroe County budget.

I recommend this matter be referred to the appropriate committee(s) for favorable action by Your Honorable Body.

Sincerely,

Adam J. Bello
Monroe County Executive

MARIELENA VÉLEZ DE BROWN MD, MPH

Public Health Leadership Experience

- Mar 19, 2024 - Present Acting Commissioner of the Monroe County Department of Public Health
- Oversee expanded DPH opioid crisis response efforts, including media campaign
 - Oversaw submission of 2024-25 annual Budget of ~\$83, 300,000+
 - Directing CURE Violence initiative to reduce Firearm related injuries
 - Medical consultant for FEMA/NYS observed Ginna Power Plant Exercises
- Oct 2016 – Mar 2024 Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Monroe County, NY
- Opioid Crisis response, involved in grant-writing, state and private grant funder reporting, collaborations with local law enforcement, Overdose data collection, reporting, and presentation on dashboard
 - Initiated Trauma Informed Organizational Transformation Pilot; Modified curriculum to fit DPH context, brought no-cost educational resources to Early Childhood Development division; directed policy changes to imbed Trauma informed principles in program
 - Liaison to DEI office, author of department Diversity Action and Language Access plans
 - Intimately involved in COVID-19 pandemic response; as contact tracer; data analysis and public-facing dashboard manager; mass vaccination site planner (including writing and modifying policies/scripts), clinical supervisor, vaccinator, and data manager; Bilingual community educator about masking and vaccines; Educator to Health Care Providers about offering vaccines in their PCP offices, crafted policies around schools, businesses, work-from-home; addressing health disparities by using data to target highly impacted and poorly vaccinated groups
 - Corporate Compliance Officer, review and address workplace violence and blood-borne pathogen incidents, confidentiality, privacy, and HIPAA breaches
 - Head of educational programming for the County Department of Public Health
 - Manage learning agreements/contracts with colleges/universities
 - Oversee resident physicians and other learners in the department
 - DPH representative to community workgroups: Maternal-Child Health advisory group, Community Health Improvement Workgroup, Latino Health Coalition, African American Health Coalition, Breastfeeding Friendly Coalition, Unintended pregnancy prevention
 - Respond on department behalf to state, regulatory and other surveys
 - Significant experience with live and pre-recorded radio and television media events/education, in both English and Spanish
- Jul 2014 – Jun 2016 Preventive Medicine Residency, University of Rochester Medical Center
- Chief resident July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016
 - Monroe County Dept of Public Health Emergency Preparedness experience
 - Extensive experience reviewing/evaluating methodology within scientific literature in preventive services, environmental, nutritional, and occupational epidemiology for population health applications
 - Trained in Grant-writing

Clinical Experience

- Mar 19, 2024 - Present Acting Commissioner of the Monroe County Department of Public Health
- Medical Director for DPH Clinics, Physician of Record for standing orders in: Immunization, Sexual Health, Naloxone/Narcan Initiative
 - Continue role as Medical Director of Starlight Pediatrics
- Oct 2016 – Mar 2024 Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Health, Monroe County, NY
- Experience responding to Measles, Hepatitis A, Monkeypox, Syphilis, COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical Director (Since 2017) and Primary Care Physician at Starlight Pediatrics, providing holistic, trauma-informed, primary and psychosocial care to children in the foster care system - QI program director, managing adjustment to information blocking regulations, personnel hiring and supervision, supervisory/collaborating physician for NPs in the practice, shepherded transition to new EMR
Jul 2014 – Jun 2016	<p>Preventive Medicine Residency, University of Rochester Medical Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cared for underserved, medically complex and vulnerable populations at Tuberculosis, Immunization, STD, Foster Child Pediatric, Rural/Migrant Worker, and Preventive Cardiology clinics in interdisciplinary teams - Behavioral modification clinic using Self-determination theory for tobacco cessation and dietary modification for weight and cholesterol control
Jul 2010 – Jun 2013	<p>Family Medicine Residency, Christiana Care Health System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hospital and Outpatient primary health care to 6-12 medically underserved patients/day
2007-2010	<p>Clinician and translator at Quarterly Spanish Health Fair as Medical student through Breast Cancer Clinic at MetroHealth Hospital, Cleveland OH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided clinical breast exams and medical translation supervised by Dr. Jean T. Stevenson MD, Breast Surgeon

Community Health Education and Outreach Experience

Continuous	Invited lecturer/Grand Rounds presentations regarding: COVID-19, Climate Change impact on Health, Congenital Syphilis trends, the Opioid Epidemic and Response, and more
Mar 2020 - Feb 2021	Adjunct Assistant Professor of Public Health Sciences, University of Rochester, School of Medicine and Dentistry
Since 2017	Opioid Epidemic in Monroe County and Narcan training in the community
Since 2016	Invited guest on <i>Connections with Evan Dawson</i> and <i>Su Hora Informativa</i> Radio shows about Colorectal Cancer screening, Ticks/Lyme Dz, Breastfeeding, Early Intervention, HPV Vaccination, unintended pregnancy, COVID-19 disease, COVID-19 vaccination, Rabies
Jan-Apr 2016	Educated community members about Advance Care Planning during recruitment events for MPH Thesis survey, Rochester NY
Oct 2014 - Jan 2015	Collaborated on <i>Family Food and Fun Program</i> bringing nutrition and physical activity classes to Section 8 housing locations in inner city of Rochester, NY
Nov 20, 2014	American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester NY Educated hospital staff and visitors/family members regarding smoking cessation
Sept 6, 2014	Women's Health Fair, Rochester Public Market Offered community education regarding free smoking cessation assistance
Aug 19, 2014	Invited speaker at community "Walk with the Doc" event. Discussed reading nutrition labels to make healthier food choices at Westside Farmers Market, St. Monica Church.

Memberships and Affiliations

2019-2020	Board member of Causewave Community Partners (formerly the Ad Council)
2018-2020	Board member of Latinas Unidas, Rochester NY
2018-Present	Co-Chair of the Creating Breastfeeding Friendly Communities Initiative
2017-Present	Member of the National Center for Deaf Health Research Community Advisory Group
2017-Present	Community Health Improvement Workgroup member
2017-Present	American College of Preventive Medicine
2017-2019	Board of Advisors of the American Cancer Society, Rochester Chapter Health Services Subcommittee
2016-2020	Admissions and Residency Advisory Committee, Preventive Medicine and Public Health Residency Program, University of Rochester
2016-Present	DPH representative to the Community Health Improvement Workgroup

Awards/Scholarships

Aug 23, 2024	Rochester Business Journal	2024 Power List for Health Care
Nov 2019	Rochester Business Journal	Forty under 40 Leaders award
Jan 2019	Conference Attendance & Travel Award	Behavioral Institute for Public Health Officials, MH conference
May 2017	Berg Award for MPH	University of Rochester Public Health Sciences Department
Feb 2015	Medical Faculty Council Trainee Travel Award in Clinical Science Research	University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
2002	Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society	Swarthmore College
2000 - 2004	W.W. Smith Foundation Scholarship	Swarthmore College
2000 - 2004	National Merit Scholarship	State Farm Insurance Company
2000	Hispanic Heritage Youth Award for Leadership and Community Service	Ronald McDonald House Charity HACER Fund

Education and Training

Mar-Apr 2024	Fundamentals of Financial Management Course, Nat'l Asso. of City and County Health Officials
Jan-Jul 2023	Adaptive Leadership Fellowship through National Association of City and County Health Officials
Jan-Mar 2022	Building Expertise in Administration & Management Certificate, University of Miami
Mar-Oct 2019	Health Business Academy Fellowship, Northstar Network
2014 - 2016	Preventive Medicine and Public Health Residency, University of Rochester Medical Center
2014 - 2016	Masters of Public Health, University of Rochester, Division of Public Health Science
2010 - 2013	Family Medicine Residency, Christiana Care Health System
2006 - 2010	Doctorate of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, School of Medicine
2000 - 2004	Bachelor of Arts in Biology, Swarthmore College

Licensure and Board Certification

Medical License	New York State #277680 (2014-present, active) Controlled Substance (DEA) License (2016-present, active)
Board Certification	Board of the American College of Preventive Medicine (2017-present)