



A Newsletter for Community Planning in the Berkshire Region

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Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and
Berkshire County Selectmen's Association

Annual Meeting & Reception

Thursday, October 5, 2023, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Berkshire Hills Country Club, Pittsfield

Kusik Awardee: Ilana Steinhauer, Executive Director, Volunteers in Medicine

**Guest Speaker: Anne Gobi, Director of Rural Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\$25 per person registration @ [Eventbrite](#)
or call Kate, 413-442-1521, extension 10
by Friday, September 22

2023 Charles Kusik Awardee

Ilana Steinhauer, FNP

Executive Director, Volunteers in Medicine



Ilana Steinhauer, FNP, the Executive Director of [Volunteers in Medicine](#), will be honored with the [Charles Kusik Award](#) at the Annual Meeting.

The Kusik Award recognizes outstanding contributions to Berkshire County. Ilana has led Volunteers in Medicine (VIM) since 2014. Under her leadership, VIM has increasingly considered the social determinants of health (housing, education, food security, employment, childcare, etc.).

Volunteers in Medicine serves 1,300 uninsured and under-insured patients annually, 90% of whom are immigrants. Their patient population has grown 40% per year, with 400 new patients last year and an expected 500 new patients in 2023. VIM manages this patient load with 15 staff members and more than 170 clinical and non-clinical volunteers who donate more than 10,000 hours annually.

VIM launched a strategic planning process to create additional capacity in Great Barrington and Pittsfield and created Care Works: The VIM Impact Campaign, a \$10 million campaign to open a VIM Care Center in Pittsfield, renovate and expand the Great Barrington center, and establish a fund to ensure VIM's impact for years to come. Allegrone Construction has begun renovations at 199 South Street in Pittsfield, with plans to open in November.

Despite the demands of running Volunteers in Medicine and spearheading the new campaign, Ilana works with numerous organizations to ensure collaboration, reduce duplication, and fill gaps. She is a founder of The Berkshire Alliance to Support the Immigrant Community (BASIC), a

group of 15-20 agencies in the Berkshires working with the immigrant community. She is also a board member of the Southern Berkshire Rural Health Collaborative, Berkshire Taconic Foundation, Public Health Institute of Western Mass, and a member of the County Health Initiative (CHI), among other organizations.

2023 Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference Tuesday, October 10

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll invites you to the 2023 Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference for municipal officials and staff, co-hosted by the [Massachusetts Regional Planning Agencies](#) (MARPA) and Division of Local Services (DLS). The event will be held at the [College of the Holy Cross Campus Center, Worcester](#) on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023. Register [HERE](#).

Lt. Governor Driscoll and a panel of Cabinet members, to be announced, will kick off the morning. Breakout sessions will focus on a wide array of issues and opportunities facing the Commonwealth, facilitated by subject matter experts from across Massachusetts, including:

- Climate Resiliency and Climate Action Plans
- Building Livable Communities
- Post-Pandemic Public Health
- Rural Empowerment
- Federal Funding Opportunities

The attendance fee is \$20 and can be paid online via PayPal or credit card. Checks can be mailed to the [Metropolitan Area Planning Council](#). *Day-of payment is by check only.*

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission
www.berkshireplanning.org



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