

# Doctor shortage in the mid-Hudson?

## Decline seen in Sullivan, Ulster:

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For the Times Herald-Record

Just the other day, Kathryn R. Reed, MHA, CMPE, the executive director of the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center, was chatting with a Connecticut primary-care physician.

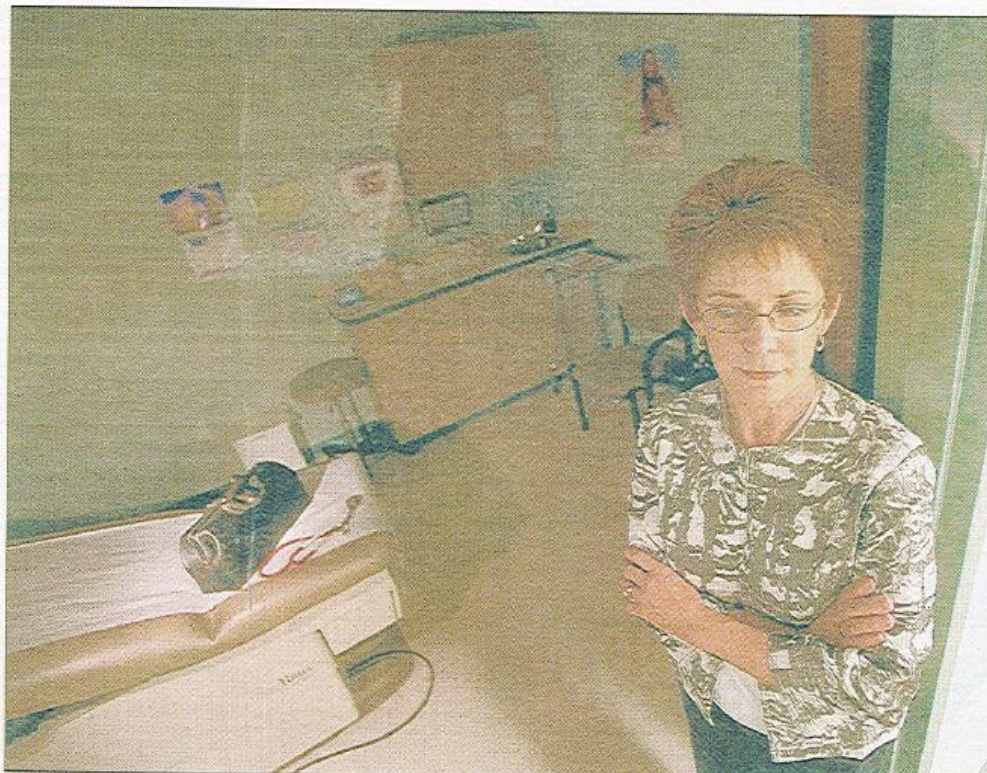
His son is grown. He's flexible now. And he wants to come back to New York. Although he was born in Brooklyn, he's interested in relocating his practice to a rural area.

Could he be one of those needles in the haystack suitable to fill the primary-care physician void in Callicoon?

### Tackle concerns now

The experts agree in general with the 2011 Physician Advocacy Survey, which noted a decline in physicians as well recruitment problems in rural Hudson Valley areas, particularly in pockets of Sullivan and Ulster counties. However, while the whole region is not in the midst of a physician shortage, there is consensus that there are concerns that need to be addressed now to avoid such a predicament in the not-too-distant future.

"New York is a hard place to



JEFF GOULDING/Times Herald-Record

"With fewer primary-care physicians, we definitely need to incorporate more nurse practitioners and physician assistants," says Kathryn R. Reed, executive director of the Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center. "There's a state committee already looking at the expansion of the scope of their practice."

practice," says David Lambert, the executive director of the Orange County Medical Society. "Its malpractice premiums are the highest in the country. The premiums can be as high

as \$150,000 a year. ... Orange County is particularly hard hit because physicians often pay city prices for malpractice premiums, but they're reimbursed (for Medicare and Medicaid) at

upstate rates."

"I know anecdotally of physicians who have moved to Pennsylvania because of malpractice

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