




**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – Jan 11, 2023**

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_ Date 2/8/23  
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions  Roll call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions.</li> <li>• New members: Susan Harris: History of teaching Public Health and Public Health Ethics. Feels climate change is biggest threat. Joined NYSPHA and formed climate committee. Was invited by Gus to join PAC. Sally Courtright: Not present Mel Ray: Americorps Vista coordinator at Sienna College. Nika Norvila: CUNY SPH Student. Works for NYSDOHMH. Jalika Diallo: Not present Ava Choi: A high school junior interested in public health and working within her community. Marie Sonia: MPH student at Hofstra University</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes from the last meeting	Approved after one correction noted by Carol Ryan (“desert” was misspelled as “dessert”: has now been corrected)	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<u>State:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/9/23 – NYSPHA signed on in support of the American Cancer Society biomarker campaign to support legislation that which will ensure New Yorkers covered by state-regulated insurance plans, including Medicaid, have coverage for biomarker testing for cancer and other conditions when medically appropriate.</li> <li>• 12/19/22 - NYSPHA signed on to letter by the Center for Science in the Public Interest urging the Governor to issue an executive order to establish healthy food service guidelines for all state facilities and state-supported programs and to include funding for the NYSDOH to lead</li> </ul>	<p>If members hear about other opportunities for PAC to support, or alerts to share, please let Gus know. Also, if you hear of mentions of NYSPHA advocacy positions, let Gus know.</p> <p>If you have a bill of interest, we can weigh</p>

	<p>implementation of healthy food service guidelines in the FY2024 Executive Budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12/19/22 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the Let’s Get Immunized NY campaign urging the Governor to prioritize immunization access and investment in the FY 2023-24 State Executive Budget.</li> <li>• 12/(day uncertain)/22 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the Association for Energy/Affordability urging the Governor to adopt policies to electrify 90% of buildings by 2050 while prioritizing the most vulnerable communities for healthy, affordable housing and energy, as well as good, green jobs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	in; let Gus know.
NYSACHO Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be watching for expanded primary prevention overall, and at environmental protection activities: example: rental owners to have properties inspected for lead and required to abate it, with periodic inspections and certificates that properties pass lead inspection every 3 years.</li> <li>• Some concerns from environmental health directors re: funding in rural areas</li> <li>• Outreach from NYS Association of Counties and Senator Martinez about reducing vape flavored products: enforcement is difficult. Business owners may continue to sell vap products and see fines (for which there is no bottom amount) as just a cost of doing business. NYSACHO and environmental health staff will meet with the Senator.</li> <li>• Concerns about legislation on lead inspection of water systems</li> <li>• Gov. Hochul has until Feb 1 to introduce first executive budget proposal because it is her first full term. Hopeful because in her state of the state message she had a focus on social determinants of health such as housing</li> <li>• NYSACHO working on revised cannabis regulation comments, especially because there was more movement to support the industry. Cristina will share those comments. Also discussion on concerns that marketing for flavors could spill over to tobacco products</li> <li>• With NYCDHMH, NYSACHO will be pushing for funding restoration including for costs of response to lowered actionable lead poisoning level</li> <li>• Increased infusion of dollars to public health also could result in a desired reopening of the Capital Region office of NYSDOH.</li> </ul>	
Review of NYSPHA bill signing recommendation to the Governor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Legislative Session calendar: <a href="https://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/docs/session_2023_calendar.pdf">https://www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/docs/session_2023_calendar.pdf</a></li> <li>• Click <a href="#">here</a> for the status of bills, which NYSPHA supported (this was the first year comments were requested).</li> </ul>	

State-of-the-State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The text of the Governor’s address is <a href="#">here</a>. Many public health issues were addressed, including impact of the pandemic, gun safety, mental health, the need for equity in housing opportunities, electrifying buildings to cut down on fossil fuel pollution, etc. The housing focus was a major part of her address.</li> </ul>	
New York State Rural Health Association 2023 legislative agenda. Mandy Qualls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mandy will email her update to all. NYSARH is drafting a letter to Gov. Hochul on the Rural Healthcare Access Development Program and the Rural Health Network Program requesting to restore funding. Let Mandy know if you want to sign on: <a href="mailto:mqualls@binghamton.edu">mqualls@binghamton.edu</a></li> <li>NYSARH met with Congresswoman Stefanik’s office to request increased funding for a variety of rural public health concerns. The Congresswoman has been supportive in the past about rural needs although it is unknown if her rise in the GOP hierarchy will impact her priorities</li> <li>Here's the link to register for the meeting on January 18th to learn more about Rural Health Networks: <a href="https://nysarh-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scO2trjluHdMqfxEQ3g4ZQcuDfdUfDn57">https://nysarh-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0scO2trjluHdMqfxEQ3g4ZQcuDfdUfDn57</a></li> </ul>	Let Mandy know if you have questions: <a href="mailto:mqualls@binghamton.edu">mqualls@binghamton.edu</a>
NYSPHA 2023 Legislative Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gus reviewed last year’s submitted Legislative priorities. We need to review and update this for submission to the Governor in 2023. We will add rural health funding restoration as one additional priority.</li> <li>Andrea spoke about lobbying for nursing simulation hours to be counted toward clinical hours. A full simulation will be set up at NYS capitol lobby for demonstration. This can be added to the priorities.</li> </ul>	Send any input to Gus.
NYSPHA Policy Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opioid Use Prevention</li> <li>Cannabis Adult-use program</li> <li>Suicide prevention.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Other possible topics: public health workforce, maternity care deserts, and the library defunding proposal in NYC</li> </ul>	<p>We are looking for volunteers to work on policy statements.</p> <p>All statements rely on volunteer leadership and efforts. You are encouraged to suggest other items that require a policy statement and hopefully be ready to work on them.</p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering on any statement listed, or have a new topic to propose, please contact Gus.</p>
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NYCPAC subcommittee meets again 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed in February. Let Gus know if you are interested in attending and he will let Kavitha know; she could not make it today.</li> </ul>	If you are interested in joining the NYC PAC, contact Kavitha. NYC PAC meets 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every

		month from 12-1 PM.  Kavitha's email: kpd2102@gmail.com
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday, February 8, 2023. 12 noon-1 PM</li> </ul>	

**Attendance Lo**

-	Jul '22	Aug '22 No mtg	Sept '22	Oct '22	Nov '22	Dec '22	Jan '23	Feb '23	Mar '23	Apr '23	May '23	Jun '23
Gus Birkhead, chair	x		x	x	x	x	x					
Judy Rightmyer,	x		x	x	x	x	x					
Laura Agnew	-		-	-	-	-	-					
Nisha Beharie	x		x	-	x	ex	x					
Claudia Calhoon	-		-	x	-	ex	x					
Ava Choi							x					
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-		-	-	-	-	-					
Kavitha Das	x		-	x	x	x	-					
Jalika Diallo							-					
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	x		x	ex	x	x	x					
Natalie Charles	-		-	x	-	-	-					
Sally Courtright							-					
Pennie Cuevas	x		x	x	x	x	x					
Sean Haley	-		-	x	-	-	-					
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-		-	-	-	-	x					
Susan Harris							x					
Naomi Harris Tolson	x		-	x	-	-	-					

Lovina John						x	x						
Diane Kolak	-		-	-	-	-	-						
Kayla Liszewski			x	x	x	x	x						
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x	-	-	-						
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	x	x	x	-						
Nika Norvila							x						
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex	x	ex	x						
Christine Podolak	-		x	x	x	-							
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-	-	-	-						
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x	x	x	x						
Mel Ray							x						
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x	x	x						
Marc Rosenblatt	-		-	-	-	-	-						
Carol Ryan	x		x	ex	x	x	x						
Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-	-	-	-						
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-	-	-	-						
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	x	x	x	x						
Marie Sonia							x						
Jesus Vasquez	x		-	x	-	-	-						
Daniel Tam	-		x	-	-	-	-						
Carol Wanyo	x		-	-	-	-	x						
Patti Wukovits	x		-	x	-	x	x						
Namrata Yadav	-		-	x	-	-	-						
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	x		-	-	-	-	-						

Jamie Zelig	x		x	-	x	x	x					
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