

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/12/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the budget director and health commissioner to take steps to close the e-cigarette law enforcement loopholes. Already banned but still widely available. The fine is not prohibitive enough for store owners to remove them from shelves. • 12/11/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the Lets Get Immunized NY campaign urging the Governor to prioritize immunization access and investment in the FY 2024-25 State Executive Budget. Proposes opt out for adults inclusion of immunization records instead of consent to include. Also includes funding for immunization promotion. • 12/06/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the Feeding New York campaign urging the Governor to support the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) and Nourish New York (NNY) programs in the Executive Budget Proposal. (We are hearing next year there will be a huge deficit. Don't expect funding increases, may be budget cuts.) • 11/30/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the State Attorney General and the State Agriculture Commissioner urging them not to take an overly expansive position in a lawsuit with New York City that would limit the ability of counties and localities to address the climate, labor, health, safety, or animal-welfare consequences of agricultural production, a sector that accounts for one-third of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. Not legislative issue: it is in the court system. • 11/30/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by New York Renews to the Governor urging her to include \$1 billion for climate justice in the Executive Budget for the FY 2024/2025 via the People's Climate Justice Budget and the accompanying legislative initiative, the Climate, Jobs, and Justice Package (CJJP): the NY HEAT Act, Just Energy Transition Act, and Climate Change Superfund Act. <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <p>Gus reviewed recent federal actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/13/2023 – NYSPHA sent an APHA Alert to the entire NYSPHA membership allowing members to email their U.S. Representative urging that the House not pass a continuing budget resolution with cuts to public health programs. • 12/11/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to Congress sponsored by the Coalition For Human Needs sign urging them 	<p>alerts to share, or if you hear of mentions of NYSPHA advocacy positions, let Gus know.</p> <p>If you have a bill of interest, also let Gus know.</p>
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	<p>to expand the Child Tax Credit (CTC), focusing on low-income children. One of the most effective ways to combat child poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/06/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the National Consumer Law Center urging the Director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to not delay Fair Credit Reporting Act rulemaking including banning the reporting of medical debt on credit reports. • 11/10/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter urging Congress to pass a continuing resolution to keep essential government services running, including emergency funding to address urgent domestic funding needs including nutrition services such as WIC, child care, energy assistance, and the substance use crisis. This issue will recur in January after a CR expires. 	
<p>Climate Change Special Interest Group update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Harris: Expressed thanks to Gus for his advocacy efforts. • The recurring group is now meeting monthly, Fridays after PAC meeting, starting Friday Dec 15 at noon: Dean of Albany Law School Dean Cinnamon Carlarne, , author of "Climate Change Law" will speak. Gus will send link. Susan is very excited about this. There will be time for Q and A after her presentation. Responsibility for climate change law has devolved to the states. The presenter will go into detail on this. • NY Renews reached out to Susan requesting an op-ed about public health effects of climate change. Susan will share her draft with PAC membership. If you have contacts with local papers, let Susan know. Several members expressed that they have various contacts. • Kavitha spoke about “Smart Cities” funding (“google it”). • In November, right before the COP in Dubai, Susan attended the youth climate summit in the Adirondacks at the Wild Center (https://www.wildcenter.org/). Susan wrote an article about the summit for the Lake George Mirror: if you want to see the article, Susan can provide it. Summit was a very exiting prototype for the young people. • Susan proposed to do Focus Groups with youth regarding their interest in climate change. It would be done working as partner with “Third Act”. Susan helped found the upstate chapter. • Gus said there is a call with NYS Health Commissioner McDonald on Friday to discuss NYSPHA’s efforts on Climate Change work. • Excellence in Climate Leadership award presented to NYSPHA at APHA, including acknowledgement of Youth Climate Resource Guide (an evolving document). • Legislative session starts Jan 3, Gov State of State, Jan 9, and NY Renews will be having a press conference the day before. If you live in the area, you can attend. 	<p>If you want to join the Climate Workgroup contact Susan at sharri6g@gmail.com</p>
<p>Policy Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide prevention policy statement still in progress. 	

NYC PAC update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavitha: It has been low key, NYCPAC has not met in 3 months. Still working on the survey gathering info on peoples' interest in meeting, in person, or virtually, and when are the best times to meet. Hoping something by Jan 15 will be up and running. • Kavitha is working on the annual letter to the Mayor identifying NYC Public Health priorities, please email Kavitha with thoughts and ideas for the letter if it is pertinent to you. • Ban on menthol cigarettes in NYC has died. Plan is to reintroduce bill in January. If you have ideas of how to improve engagement and attendance and membership, let Kavitha know. 	If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd term of this Legislature will be starting in Jan. Bills do not need to be reintroduced. Proposed Gov's budget will be released after and dependent on the priorities in State of the State. • Next PAC meeting is Wednesday January 10 at noon-1 PM • Happy Holidays to everyone and Happy New Year! 	Let Gus know of any issues you want to address with Gov or Legislature.

Attendance Log

PAC Members	Jul '23	Aug '23 No mtg	Sept '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Gus Birkhead, chair	x		x	x	x	x						
Maryam Albarakati	x					x						
Grace Ayoub	x			x								
Nadia Banks	-											
Nisha Beharie	x			x	x							
Lindsay Black	-											
Kelly Bonnar	-											
Claudia Calhoon	-			x	x	x						
Natalie Charles	-											
Sofia Charles												
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-											
Ava Choi	-											

Nika Norvila	x		x									
Alayza Penn-Williams				x								
Sylvia Pirani	-		x		x							
Melissa Puicon-Healey	x		x			x						
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x			X	x	x						
Mel Ray	x					x						
Judy Rightmyer	-											
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x							
Marie Sonia Saint Rose-Bienvil				x		x						
Marc Rosenblatt	-											
Carol Ryan	x			x	x	x						
Ashanda Saint Jean	-											
Jean Sale-Shaw	-											
Andréa Sonenberg	x		x		x	x						
Marie Sonia	x		x									
Daniel Tam	-											
Muhammed Teks Tekanyi	x		x		x							
Carol Wanyo	-											
Patti Wukovits	x											
Namrata Yadav	-											
Rick Yang												
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	-											
Jamie Zelig	x			x		x						