



NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – Mar 15, 2023

Signed *Gus Birkhead* Date 4/12/23
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions. • Jalika Diallo – NYMC SHP MPH. Dr. Tahara recommended her to join. • Leana Kalinowsky – U Buffalo MPH student, interest in drug policy • Maryam Albarakati – New York Medical Collage/Touro. Dr. Tahara also recommended she join the PAC. • 	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<u>State:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/07/23 – NYSPHA sent an alert to all NYSPHA members asking them to send an email to their legislators asking the to support the Governor’s proposal to increase the cigarette tax and ban flavored tobacco products including menthol, and additionally to request an increase in the health department’s Tobacco Control Program. • 02/09/23 – NYSPHA sent a letter to all members of the state legislature asking that they sign on to a letter by Senator Persaud and Assemblymember Rosenthal. The letter calls for the health departments Cancer Services Program budget to be increased to \$26.8 million in Fiscal Year 2023-2024. The additional resources will allow the program to better serve its current patients and increase its reach to more New Yorkers who need help getting access to lifesaving cancer screening. • 2/12/23 – NYSPHA PAC member Sean Haley was lead author on a paper in the International Journal of Environmental Research on Public Health titled Neighborhood Alcohol Outlet Density, Historical Redlining, and Violent Crime in NYC 2014–2018. The paper showed that the violent crime experienced by 	<p>If members hear about other opportunities for PAC to support, or 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, let Gus know.</p>

	<p>formerly redlined communities in New York City is likely related to a legacy of racialized housing policies and may be associated with state policies that allow for high neighborhood alcohol outlet density. Read the paper here: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/20/4/3212</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2/13/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by NYSACHO to New York State Office of Cannabis Management Executive Director Alexander providing comments on revised Adult-Use Cannabis regulations and expressing our concern that the state is not fully prioritizing public health and safety by including public health protections within the regulations. • 02/17/23 – NYSPHA sent a letter to 103 member of the state legislature providing them with NYSPHA’s Memorandum in Support for the Executive Budget proposals to increase the cigarette tax, ban flavored tobacco products, and tighten up enforcement of the current e-cigarette ban. • 02/28/23 – NYSPHA submitted testimony to the Joint Legislative Budget Hearing on Health providing NYSPHA’s comments and recommendations for the final enacted budget. • 03/08/23 – NYSPHA PAC members Susan Harris and Judy Rightmyer, along with NYSPHA ED Erin Sinisgali and staffer Lauren Sears attended a press conference in the state Capitol by a consortium of public health and anti-tobacco groups in support of the Governor’s proposal to raise the tobacco tax and ban flavored tobacco products. PAC chair Gus Birkhead was quoted in a press release sent out after the event. <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/13/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to U.S. ERA Administrator Regan in support of proposed regulations to limit pollution from oil and gas operations that are necessary to mitigate the immediate and long-term health risks resulting from the extraction, transportation and storage of oil and gas. • 03/20/23 – NYSPHA signed on to the CDC Coalition’s FY 2024 appropriations letter to U.S. House and Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee leaders in support of \$11.581 billion for CDC. 	
<p>NYSPHA 2023 Budget and Legislative Priorities Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As mentioned above, Susan Harris, Judy Rightmyer, and other NYSPHA members attended a press conference at the Capitol on March 8 on the flavored (menthol) tobacco ban, increased cigarette tax and increased Tobacco Control Program funding. Susan described the speakers, including Dr. Hazel Dukes from the NAACP as being very powerful. • The Senate and Assembly “one house” budget bills have been released. The included the increased tobacco tax and increased TCP funding but not the flavored ban. Attention now shifts to the joint Governor-Legislative budget negotiations. NYSPHA will stay very involved with a consortium of public health and civic organizations that are supporting all three proposals. • There was also support in the legislature for enhancing enforcement of the current flavored vaping ban. • Susan Harris forming a working group to develop a NYSPHA Policy Statement on the dangers of flavored vaping and vaping in general. Jamie Zelig, Jalika Diallo, Ellen Morehouse and an intern volunteered to work on the statement. 	<p>Send any input to Gus</p>
<p>Climate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Harris provided an update. There is a national day of action on next 	

Workgroup Update	<p>Tuesday March 21 organized by group called Third Act which will protest demand banks stop funding Big Oil and other groups worsening the climate crisis. In New York, these will occur in Albany, Brooklyn, Ithaca, NYC, Poughkeepsie, and Rochester. More information is available at https://thirdact.org/national-day-of-action/. Susan will attend the one in Albany Sign up at https://www.mobilize.us/thirdact/event/548911/.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSPHA will host a webinar on Socially Responsible Investing. Information will go our shortly to the full NYSPHA membership. 	
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYCPAC subcommittee meets monthly on 3rd Wednesday from 12 noon -1 PM. • If you are interested, contact Kavitha at kpd2102@gmail.com 	
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday, April 12, 2023. 12 noon-1 PM 	

Attendance Log

Names	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	x	x			
Laura Agnew	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Maryam Albarakati									x			
Nisha Beharie	x		x	-	x	ex	x	x	x			
Lindsay Black								-				
Kelly Bonnar								x				
Claudia Calhoon	-		-	x	-	ex	x	-				
Ava Choi							x	-				
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Kavitha Das	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x			
Jalika Diallo							-	-	x			
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x				

Natalie Charles	-		-	x	-	-	-	-				
Sally Courtright							-	-				
Pennie Cuevas	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Samantha Fandl, intern								-				
Sean Haley	-		-	x	-	-	-	-				
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-		-	-	-	-	x	-				
Susan Harris							x	x	x			
Naomi Harris Tolson	x		-	x	-	-	-	x				
Lovina John							x	x	x	x		
Leana Kalinowsky									x			
Diane Kolak	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Kayla Liszewski			x	x	x	x	x	-				
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x	-	-	-	x				
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x			
Nika Norvila							x	x				
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex	x	ex	x	x	x			
Christine Podolak	-		x	x	x	-						
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	ex			
Mel Ray							x	x	x			
Judy Rightmyer	x		x	x	x	x	x	-	x			
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Marc Rosenblatt	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Carol Ryan	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x				

Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-	-	-	-	x				
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	x	x	x	x	x	x			
Marie Sonia							x	-	x			
Jesus Vasquez	x		-	x	-	-	-	-				
Daniel Tam	-		x	-	-	-	-	-				
Carol Wanyo	x		-	-	-	-	x	-				
Patti Wukovits	x		-	x	-	x	x	x				
Namrata Yadav	-		-	x	-	-	-	-				
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	x		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Jamie Zelig	x		x	-	x	x	x	x	x			