




NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – June 14, 2023

Signed  _____ Date 7/19/23
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome• New members: none	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<p><u>NYS Legislative Session:</u> ended evening of June 9. The Assembly may reconvene to take up some issues unrelated to public health, including casino issues with the Seneca Nation, and other business. Bills approved by the NYS Legislature will be brought to the Governor for signature over a 6 month period: the order these bills are brought is internally coordinated. Last year NYSPHA was asked to comment about bills but not this year. Gus may still send comments on some bills, including the biomarkers bill S1196a/A1673a (see “NYSPHA Legislative Priorities 2023 Updates” below).</p> <p><u>State:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYSPHA wrote a memorandum of support for A.3291 (Dinowitz)/S.7046 (Fernandez), which would make permanent absentee voting due to the risk of contracting or spreading a disease rather than subjecting it to annual renewal by the legislature. Gus will check if it passed; he does not think so. <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/13/24 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to Congress in support of the Endorse the OH SNAP Close the Fruit and Vegetable Gap Act (GusNIP funding increase bill). GusNIP is a key program in the Farm Bill that	<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>tackles nutrition insecurity amongst low-income people by providing incentives for purchasing fruit and vegetables. It leads to higher fruit and vegetable consumption, leading to better health outcomes for participants. It also boosts local economies by providing markets for fruit and vegetable growers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6/12/2023 - NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the Trust For America’s Health in support of a bill in Congress that would create a Core Public Health Infrastructure Program at CDC to help modernize public health at every level to ensure every American is served by a 21st century health department: • 5/18/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to Congress urging responsible budgeting and debt policies to reject efforts to take away assistance from people with low incomes or impose administrative barriers that make it harder for people to access needed assistance. <p><u>Concerns:</u></p> <p>CDC’s budget is already taking a hit based on unspent COVID funds. We still don’t know what the effect of the debt limit agreement will be on public health issues and agencies. Going forward, there are concerns about federal support for CDC and related programs.</p>	<p>Gus will post updates on the letters of support from NYSPHA for budget issues going forward.</p>
<p>NYSPHA 2023 Legislative Priorities Update</p>	<p><u>Legislative wins:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills S1196a/A1673a, to improve access to biomarker testing passed both houses of the legislature. NYSPHA is writing to the Governor to urge that she sign the legislation. Gus has sent a communication to NYSPHA PAC and Board encouraging all to contact Governor to sign this. • Environmental bills that passed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Build Public Renewables Act, - the All-Electric Buildings Act, - the launch of New York’s Climate Action Fund. <p>Gus will consult with Susan Harris about the climate bills and any further recommendations for action. He probably will send a letter to Gov urging signature.</p> • Already passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor: A3076-A (Lupardo)/S447-C (Stavisky) - Clinical Simulation Bill. This new law allows up to 1/3 of nursing student experience to be by clinical simulation. Nursing students, according to this legislation, include LPN, RN, and NP students. Andréa has been an advocate for, and has worked actively on promoting the passage of this bill. Thanks to Andrea! Press Release from Governor Hochul’s office: https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-signs-legislation-strengthen-health-care-workforce. <p><u>Legislative losses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A7154, McDonald/S1531, Hoylman-Sigal, to require opt-out reporting of adult vaccinations to the state/city immunization registries passed the Assembly but not the Senate. This was despite multiple mass emails to NYSPHA members enabling them to contact their 	<p>NYSPHA supports legislation and policies that are important to members. If there is an area you feel passionate about and want it brought to PAC’s attention, please send information about it to Gus including any bill numbers, if applicable.</p> <p>A NYSPHA member survey may be developed to identify highest priority public health items for NYSPHA to support going forward.</p>

	<p>Senator/Assemblypersons to urge passage of the bill in both houses. Gus spoke about “Let’s Get Immunized New York” (https://www.letsgetimmunizedny.org/), an advocacy initiative that includes a large numbers of partners, not just in health, but also in business. NYSPHA will continue to support this effort in the future. The public response to COVID protections (interpreted by some of the public as restrictions to individual freedoms) may have been responsible and may, in the future, not be so much on top of mind for that sector of the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY HEAT Act, the Climate Superfund Act, and the Just Energy Transition Act, passed the Senate, but not the Assembly. 	
Policy Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaping policy group: Kavitha Das and Jamie Zelig worked on the very detailed vaping policy statement and were also assisted by intern Prashad Mehta. The policy statement was reviewed during the meeting, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition, Kavitha and Jamie developed an article on vaping for submission to the peer reviewed Journal of the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. https://aapiusa.org/jaapi/ ○ The submission has been reviewed by the editor and so far, things look good for potential publication, but they are awaiting further news. If published, it will be this summer. Congratulations! • Gus reviewed the format of NYSPHA policy statements. If you have any topics you feel passionate about and if you are willing to put work into a policy statement, let Gus know. 	<p>If you have input on the draft vaping statement, let Kavitha or Jamie know within the next week. kpd2102@gmail.com Jamie.Zelig@nycmc.edu</p> <p>Gus would like to have it ready to submit to the NYSPHA Board for approval in 2 weeks.</p>
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavitha: The last meeting only had 3 participants. Attendance has dropped off: it used to be 7-9 people. Kavitha will be presenting some ideas to increase attendance at the next meeting in a brainstorming session. Perhaps reduce meetings to every other month? Gus and Andréa offered Kavitha a couple of suggestions from the Board perspective. Kavitha was interested in a regional meetup for NYC (an idea by the Board). Gus will follow up by connecting Kavitha with others in regard to this. Next NYCPAC call: Wed 6/21 at 12 PM. 	<p>If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com</p>
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our next monthly PAC meeting is Wednesday, July 17, 2023 (note: this is the <i>third</i> Wednesday of the month). 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	x	x	x
Laura Agnew	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryam Albarakati									x	-	x	-
Nadia Banks										-	x	-
Nisha Beharie	x		x	-	x	ex	x	x	x	-	x	-
Lindsay Black								-	-	-	-	-
Kelly Bonnar								x	-	-	-	-
Claudia Calhoon	-		-	x	-	ex	x	-	-	x	-	-
Ava Choi							x	-	-	-	-	-
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kavitha Das	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	x
Jalika Diallo							-	-	x	-	-	-
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	ex
Natalie Charles	-		-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sally Courtright							-	-	-	-	-	-
Pennie Cuevas	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x
Samantha Fandl, intern								-	-	-	-	-

Carol Ryan	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x	ex	x	x	x
Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Marie Sonia							x	-	x	-	-	-
Jesus Vasquez	x		-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Daniel Tam	-		x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carol Wanyo	x		-	-	-	-	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	-	x	x