

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC) MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – January 10, 2024

Yns Birkhead	
Signed	Date 2/14/24
PAC Chair	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	 Welcome New Members: Karis McGregor (not present) Lana Pasek (not present) Monica Diamond-Caravella Recent relocation from Long Island (LI) to Westchester, teaching at Mt St Mary School of Nursing, interest in PH started when she worked with asthma coalition of LI, and did a lot of research of kids living in high risk communities, taught PH in nursing education, long time NYSPHA member Lucy Zheng is now our PAC intern: medical resident at Mt Sinai internal medicine, originally was in DC. Interest in PH generated from conversation with people in community: interested to see how policy can trickle down to impact patients 	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	Any issues contact Gus and Carol (strategy123go@g mail.com)
Legislative Update	Gus: We supported at least 8 different bills that the Gov signed Among Bills that NYSPHA supported, the Governor signed 1. S.1196A.Biomarker bill. Requires health insurance policies and Medicaid to cover biomarker testing for certain purposes (ex. BRCA) 2. A.7429. Birds & Bees Protection Act. Prohibits neonicotinoid insecticides in NYS including coated seeds. Effective date in the next couple of years. 3. S.599-A/A.1707-A to increase transparency around prescription drug prices. 4. S4548. Provides for automated identification of people eligible for utility affordability programs. They must work with people behind in payments to avoid shutoffs	

- 5. A3706-A. Allows increased use of simulation up to 30% in nursing education.
- 6. A. 6275-A Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act to not include medical debt on credit reports. Medical debt major is a common cause of bankruptcy. Several other states have done this. National level effort as well.
- 7. S211 Clean Slate Act expunges the criminal record of certain non-violent offenders after a period of time with no further violations. Other states have done this.
- 8. A6798 bans the sale of sodium and nitrate and nitrite to those under the age of 21. It is apparently used for suicide.

Among Bills that NYSPHA supported, the Governor vetoed

1. A.5960 – Taskforce to identify evidence-based solutions to reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACES). Reason: Gov's office says we know the causes for ACES already, we cannot afford a Task Force. Gov. office reached out to NYSPHA for comment on bill again this year, and Gus answered that we NYSPHA supported it last year and saying you veto it again, at least show you are doing SOMETHING (paraphrased). 2. S629A – Provided additional duties of the community gardens taskforce to determine if community gardens on public property are eligible for designation as Critical Environmental Areas. Not sure reason for veto.

Bills NYSPHA supported that didn't pass the legislature

- 1. A3281 Expand Absentee voting (without needing an excuse)
- 2. S4364 Healthier food guidelines for state facilities (state purchases much food. This is repeatedly not acted on by Leg)
- 3. S2127-A. To establish emission reductions plans for megawarehouse facilities.
- 4. S1531. Opt-out Reporting of adult vaccinations to the state immunization registry.
- 5. S2441 Ban on flavored tobacco products including menthol

Now in 2nd year of 2 year legislative term. These 5 bills could still go somewhere, are still active bills. They may need to be referred back to committee per Crissy from NYSACHO.

PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates

State/local:

Gus reviewed recent state/local actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at https://nyspha.org/NYS-Policy-and-Advocacy

• 12/13/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Governor urging her to sign into law S.599-A (Salazar) same as A.1707-A (D. Rosenthal) to increase transparency around prescription drug prices. She did sign it.

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.

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	Federal: Gus reviewed recent federal actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy • 01/08/2024 - NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the Coalition on Human Needs urging the Congressional leadership to assure that Congress passes a final FY2024 budget and not a Continuing Resolution that would result in drastic funding cuts for non-defense discretionary funding. • 01/03/2024 - NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by Action on Smoking and Health urging United Nations member states to include anti-tobacco provisions in the next UN Pact for the Future. • 12/20/1023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the CDC Coalitions to the Congressional Leadership urging that they pass a FY 2024 federal budget including \$11.581 billion for CDC. • 12/19/2023 - NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by the Friends of HRSA to the Congressional Leadership urging that they pass a FY 2024 federal budget including \$10.5 billion for HRSA.	If you have a bill of interest, also let Gus know.
Federal/State Budget Update NYSACHO Update	 Federal budget – we need Congress to pass a budget and not CR to prevent drastic PH cuts State-of-the-State high points (you can download it here: https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochuls-2024-state-state-our-new-york-our-future) Maternal mortality/Perinatal health initiative new funding will be in proposed budget. Draft budget may be released next week. Suicide prevention Legislative Budget Hearing – anticipated in February. Crissy from NYSACHO then said it may be much earlier, perhaps a week after draft budget release. Health hearings may be early in cycle: per heads up from external lobbyist, may be Jan 22-23. Gus will prepare something earlier than planned initially because of this. Crissy: 2 PH department specific changes in regs - thrilled about carve outs from licensure certification requirements Under Article 28 for clinical services, revised and amended PH regulations for a limited PH services clinic. chapter amendment implementation in 2 years no longer will require PH depts to be licensed to make limited core PH visits such as limited MCH or TB care coordination or lead poisoning coordination visits. Also working closely with state and Env. Health in regard to dealing with commercial vaping violations. Draft bill, but not introduced yet 	

Changes in local Boards of Health physician specific requirements, currently says 2 physicians required. This will be amended to allow other practitioners such as NPs, or physicians from out of county who do primary or substantial work in the county. LHDs were having trouble finding enough physicians for the BOHs. Looking at leg to get community health assessments regulations to be consistent with NYS PH prevention agenda State of the State also included: swimming safety and access, extreme weather and flooding, adding coverage for A/Cs under essential plan, safeguarding drinking water, proposal for expanding coverage for ACES screening for Medicaid eligible adults, expanding training and access for workforce shortages (NYSACHO wants to ensure PH workforce is included), healthcare scope language, for LHDs, and lots more: see actual wording of State of the State address for more State got approval on 1115 waiver, details of implementation not yet An intern from U Albany SPH starting next week, and a remote student from Emory-Rollins Univ, who is a law student. Very exciting to have this support. Climate Change Susan Harris: State of the State was very disappointing on climate If you want to join Special Interest issues. "Gov acted like there was no climate emergency". The \$1 the Climate Group (SPIG) billion that was requested was not mentioned. No mention of the Workgroup contact update Superfund Act. The Just Energy Transition Act was not mentioned. Susan at "We have a lot of work to do". "PH effects of Climate Change need sharri6g@gmail.com more attention." HEAT Act was supported: cap of 6% of income for utilities. Rules and regs will be updated to stop supporting fracking. Namita has joined the Climate special interest group and is going to do a literature review Youth Climate Resource Guide almost ready to distribute. Susan, Gus and NYSPHA leadership had a call with the Health Commissioner who agreed to review it carefully and to give distribution suggestions to get it out through the state. He is a pediatrician so seemed to have a special interest in what youth can do. For more information, contact Susan. CRETF Climate and Resilience Education Task Force: have worked on a bill S.278A: to amend education law to require climate education Pre-K through HS. Modeled on NJ curriculum. Lobby days Jan 23, Jan 30, Feb 6 in Albany. Susan will be there. Gus will distribute information to group. The CRETF (Climate and Resilience Education Task Force) intergenerational Policy Group worked with State Senator Andrew Gounardes to rewrite and reintroduce Bill S.278A. It amends Education Law to establish a course of instruction, learning expectations, and teacher training on climate change for all public schools, pre-K through high school, across all disciplines. Jan 19 12-1 next meeting of Climate group. Contact Susan for agenda.

Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities	 NYSARH Policy Forum mostly on workforce. Wednesday, Jan 17, 2-4pm. Gus will participate. Mandy said PAC can be invited, so Gus will circulate the info. (NOTE: after the call it was decided that Gus would not participate because the PAC has not had any involvement in healthcare workforce development, recruitment and retention, which are the focuses of the Policy Forum.) NY Renews Mass Call. Monday, Jan 22, 06:00 PM Gus will circulate registration info. The HEAT act will be discussed. Park Advocacy Day. Tuesday, Feb 27, in person at the state Capitol Gus will circulate information 	
Bills NYSPHA is supporting	 S. 4747 International Debt Relief – Melissa has taken the lead with Lucy's help. A. 6425 Epinephrine Affordability. Assemblyman O'Donnell requested a memorandum of support. Lucy. After the budget We will continue to follow and stay on: Climate Change Superfund Act Just Energy Transition Act HEAT Act Flavored vape enforcement S.278A – Requires climate change curriculum for K-12 schools in NYS. Other Bills of interest to PAC members: we can revisit after budget discussion. 	Let Gus know if you have other bills of interest that you recommend PAC support
Policy Statements	Suicide prevention policy statement still in progress.	
NYC PAC update	 New 2-year NYC Council term is beginning. Adrienne Adams was unanimously reelected as Council Speaker on Jan. 3, and they will announce changes in committee leadership/membership at the next Stated Meeting on Jan. 18. CM Rita Joseph is reintroducing the menthol ban bill. Professor at NYU and Kavitha working on Bill and Melinda Gates grant. Not sure it can be submitted in time. Contact Kavitha for more information. No next meeting announcement yet. 	If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com
Other business	Next PAC meeting is Wednesday February 14	Let Gus know of any issues you want to address with Gov or Legislature.

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	х		х	х	х	х	x					
Maryam Albarakati	х					х						
Grace Ayoub	х			х								
Nadia Banks	-											
Nisha Beharie	х			х	х							
Lindsay Black	-											
Kelly Bonnar	-											
Claudia Calhoon	-			х	х	х						
Natalie Charles	-											
Sofia Charles												
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-											
Ava Choi	-											
Sally Courtright	-											
Pennie Cuevas	х			х	х	х	х					
Kavitha Das	х			х		х	х					
Jalika Diallo	х				х		х					
Monica Diamond-Caravella							х					
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	-		х	(Rob ert Viets) x			х					
Sarah Evans				х	х	х	х					
Phillip Gioia	-		х		х		х					
Karree-Lyn Gordon	-								_			

Sean Haley	-								
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt									
Susan Harris	X		x		х	х			
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Naomi Harris Tolson	-								
Emily Hayes	-			х		х			
Lovina John	x	х	х	х		x			
Adriann Johnson	x		х			x			
Leana Kalinowsky	-								
Diane Kolak	-								
Namita Kulkarni (intern)			х			х			
Kayla Liszewski	-								
Karis McGregor									
Sarah Merritt	-								
Heather McGrane Minton	х	х		х		x			
Ellen Morehouse	-								
Abagail Mosenthin	-								
Nika Norvila	х	х							
Lana Pasek									
Alayza Penn-Williams			х						
Sylvia Pirani	-	х		х		х			
Melissa Puicon-Healey	х	х			х	х			
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	х		х	х	х	х			
Mel Ray	х				х	х			
Judy Rightmyer	-								

Craig Rijkaard	х	x	x	x		x			
	^		^	^		^			
Marie Sonia Saint Rose- Bienvil			х		х				
Marc Rosenblatt	-								
Carol Ryan	х		х	х	х	x			
Ashanda Saint Jean	-								
Jean Sale-Shaw	-								
Andréa Sonenberg	х	х		х	х	х			
Marie Sonia	х	х							
Daniel Tam	-								
Muhammed Teks Tekanyi	х	х		х					
Carol Wanyo	-					х			
Patti Wukovits	х								
Namrata Yadav	-								
Rick Yang									
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	-								
Jamie Zelig	х		х		х	х			
Lucy Zheng (intern)						x			