

Hochul's proposed FY25 budget provisions reforming the State Hospital Financial Assistance Law by incorporating the following additional protections outlined in S1366B/A6027A (the Ounce of Prevention Act) and A8170/S7778 (the Stop SUNY Suing Act) into the one-house budget proposals.

- **2/9/2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to NYS legislators sponsored by the Physicians' Committee on Responsible Medicine in support of S996 (Hoyleman-Sigal) / A3708 (Rajkumar) to ensure public schools in New York provide plant-based meal options upon request.
- **1/19/2024** – NYSPHA signed onto a memo of support by the Climate and Resilience Education Task Force for Bill S278A/A1559A to establish a course of instruction and learning expectations on climate education in all of New York State's public elementary and secondary schools.

Federal:

Gus reviewed recent federal actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at <https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy>

- **02/05/2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by APHA and Trust for America's Health to the House leadership urging that they not use the Prevention and Public Health Fund (Prevention Fund) as an offset for H.R. 485, the Protecting Health Care for All Patients Act of 2023. (However, has been cut in Continuing Resolution - CR.)
- **02/02/2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the EPA sponsored by the Action Network in support of proposed regulations to remove lead pipes from drinking water supplies.
- **02/01/2024** – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to all Senators urging them to pass provisions of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024.
- **01/27/2024** – NYSPHA joined over 1000 other organizations signing a letter to the congressional leadership urging that they pass a final Federal budget for 2023-2024 and not make drastic cuts in discretionary funding including public health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget item: proposed cuts to NYS Children’s Environmental Health Centers. – Sarah Evans. Link provided by Sarah: https://nyscheck.org/. Proposed cut was from \$4 million to \$2 million. Funds come from Environmental Defense Fund which still is receiving the same total, so it is the allocation to this center specifically that was cut. Gus stated we could put the letter on NYSPPHA letterhead and Sarah will help with tweaking it. • Also Sarah announced that there are available internships with nyscheck, please contact her for information. 	
<p>NYSACHO Update</p>	<p>Crissy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to NYSACHO budget testimony: https://www.nysacho.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/NYSACHO_submitted_health_budget_testimony_24.pdf • Focus has been around proposed cuts, specifically, elimination of funding for required rabies activity of \$1.4 million (new proposal this year). • Another concern was a specific cut for AIDs epidemic reduction to the tune of \$15 million to NYSDOH budget • Enforcement of sales of illicit vaping products is a very significant challenge for LHDs. Also serious safety issues for inspectors. Judy Rightmeyer stated that store observations has confirmed that many retailers, even near schools are selling these products (in Schenectady, 52% of stores observed) • From Cristina: “A.8232 (Paulin) amends public health law regarding the medical representative requirement on county boards of health from the current requirement of the appointment of three physicians, to allow that at least one physician appointment be required, but the remaining two seats can be filled by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant. The legislation further amends the county residency requirement to allow a board of health member to be a resident of a contiguous county who performs substantial work within the health district and has a background in a health-related field. A8232 passed the Assembly on January 22, 2024. We anticipate similar legislation will be introduced in the Senate with some negotiations regarding final language. NYSACHO initiated this legislation due to challenges many local health departments are facing in finding adequate numbers of physicians who reside in the county and are willing to serve on the board of health.” • Please look through full testimony. 	

<p>Climate Change Special Interest Group (SPIG) update</p>	<p>Susan Harris:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks for the putting together the budget testimony on climate issues • CRETF bill (climate resiliency and education task force). Still working on supporting this K-12 climate education curriculum requirement. NYSPHA has signed onto support for that bill. This is a requirement already in New Jersey. CRETF is creating a hub for NY for teachers to submit educational resources to teach about climate change. Susan will be on the hub advisory committee. Should be available for next school year. • Working with committee and intern on the youth climate focus groups which she mentioned on the last call. So far 5 focus groups have been held. She thinks 10 are needed, to cover all geographies and cover diversity of youth. Young people experiencing the effects of climate change. Susan read some comments from youth. The youth are advocates. Stay tuned for more and for the report. • From Sarah: On 2/27 Just Green Partnership is also holding an Environmental Health Advocacy Day in Albany to support priority bills related to EJ, Beauty Justice, and PFAS. Registration: https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/5KY7rQXgZZyaQUP8I1z0pQ?t=1706118612 	<p>If you want to join the Climate Workgroup contact Susan at sharri6g@gmail.com</p>
<p>Healthy School Meals For All Advocacy Day in Albany</p>	<p>Melissa Ray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a universal school lunch advocacy nutrition day. Effort is to get this included in the budget. Attended a Press Conference, and met with 3 senators. There were several organizations attending. “Healthy School Meals for All” bill. There was no pushback. Seems to be bipartisan support. This was her first experience like this, she wants to attend more in future. 	
<p>Upcoming Advocacy Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Advocacy Day. Tuesday, Feb 27, in person at the state Capitol. Gus circulated the registration link. • NY Renews Climate Action Day. Wednesday March 20, 10 am to 4 pm in Albany. Gus distributed the registration link on 2/9. • NYS HPV Vaccination Summit on Thursday, April 4th, from 9am-12:45pm via Zoom 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYSPHA received \$5,000 in advocacy money from APHA, actions are pending on this, will be covered/reported on next call. 	
<p>Bills NYSPHA is supporting with Memoranda of Support</p>	<p>The following memos of support are completed and will be posted to the website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. 4747 International Debt Relief – Melissa has taken the lead with Lucy’s help. • A. 6425 (O’Donnell). O’Donnell requested a memorandum of support about .Accessibility to epinephrine pen treatment costs Lucy drafted. Lucy requests members take a look at the draft wording and send any suggestions. Will be posted on NYSPHA website. • S.278A (Gouardes) / A1559A (Simon) Climate Education Curriculum for All Public Schools • S.2129-A (Krueger)/A.3351-A (Dinowitz) Climate Change Superfund Act • S.2935-C (Parker)/A.4866-C (Kelles) Just Energy Transition Act • S.2016-A (Krueger) /A.4592-A (Fahy) New York Home Energy Affordability Transition (HEAT) Act. <p>We need memos to be written for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.8531 (Hoylman-Sigal/ A.9110 (Rosenthal). Close enforcement loopholes to end the youth e-cigarettes epidemic in New York State. We will tweak NYSACHO’s letter and turn it into a letter from NYSPHA. <p>Other Bills of interest to PAC members: Let Gus know if you have any bills of interest to you for NYSPHA to advocate for .</p>	<p>Let Gus know if you have other bills of interest that you recommend PAC support</p>
<p>Policy Statements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide prevention policy statement still in progress. Gus will present it to the NYSPHA Board at its 2/28 meeting to finalize 	
<p>NYC update</p>	<p>Kavitha: NYC has an oversight committee on gender issues, women’s health and disparities https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=36526&GUID=B1AE598A-5DC1-43C6-B447-6F42D0DF1E60</p>	<p>If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com</p>

	<p>Kavitha thinks perhaps a policy statement on women’s health disparities from NYSPHA could be considered. Lucy offered to help.</p> <p>If you are interested in learning about health budgeting in NYC, here is info about a zoom meeting: https://mailchi.mp/ef34fea41bdf/register-now-town-hall-with-kristina-yarrow-usaid-14091306?e=5063f82bb7</p>	
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next PAC meeting is Wednesday March 13, 2024 	

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	x	X				
Maryam Albarakati	x					x						
Faith Angels (NYSACHO intern)								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	-											
Sally Courtright	-											
Pennie Cuevas	x			x	x	x	x					
Kavitha Das	x			x		x	x	X				
Jalika Diallo	x				x		x					
Monica Diamond-Caravella							x					

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