



**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – July 19, 2023**

Signed *Gus Birckhead* Date 9/13/2023
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<p>Welcome</p> <p>New NYSPHA Board members (Gus invited all in case they would like to become familiar with PAC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian Gloria – not present • Melissa Puicon-Healey, RN, new NYSPHA Board member beginning this month. Supervising Public Health Nurse in Schenectady County • Muhammed Teks Tekanyi, MD, new NYSPHA Board member Public Health physician, people with developmental disabilities in NYC • Dan Schrank (student rep) - not present • Other new members: • Grace Ayoub: Just received MPH, has worked in hospital administration, excited to do more PH work • Adriann Johnson invited by Craig to join, excited to be here today 	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<p><u>State/local:</u> (Gus reviewed again how system works with bills awaiting Gov's signature)</p> <p>NYSPHA wrote to the governor on these topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Passed last year but Gov vetoed it: Legislature passed again this year.) NYSPHA Recommends the Governor sign A5960/S8320 (Solages/Brisport) to establish a task force to identify evidence-based and evidence-informed solutions to reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences. Click <here> to read the letter. • NYSPHA recommends the Governor sign the Clean Slate Act S211/A1029 (Myrie/Cruz). Click <here> to read the letter. • NYSPHA recommends the Governor sign the Biomarker Legislation S1196/A1673 (Persaud/Hunter). Click <here> to read the letter. <p>NYSPHA signed on to the following letters:</p>	<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, also let Gus know.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner letter to NYC Mayor Adams urging him to support banning the sale of menthol cigarettes. City council has taken up this issue. State Legislature has not taken it up. If passed in NYC, a major first step toward eventual uptake by Legislature. • Partner letter recommending the Governor sign the Biomarker legislation. • Partner letter to the Department of Environmental Conservation with comments in response to the Draft New York State Solid Waste Management Plan (2023 – 2032) (“SSWMP”). • Partner letter sponsored by NYSACHO to the NYS Cannabis Management Office containing submitting comments on the updated Adult Use Cannabis regulations, especially about labelling and packaging not being attractive to kids, being considered for adoption. • Partner letter to New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) providing comments on pending Cap-and-Invest Regulations focusing on inclusion of agricultural emissions to meet New York’s economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets under the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner letter coordinated by the Alliance for a Green Economy, along with community and environmental organizations submitting comments on National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation’s (“National Fuel” or “the Company”) revised long-term plan. <p><u>Pending issues:</u></p> <p><u>State:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The governor’s office has requested comments on whether she should sign bills that passed the legislature banning the sale of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite to persons under age 21 years because they present a suicide risk.(A6798/A582) Jamie and Heather will work on this. Gus will also ask if NYSPHA President Brett Harris, who has an interest in suicide prevention, has anything to add. • APHA has reached out to NYSPHA to ask us to support NY State legislation that would require private creditors based in the state to provide debt relief to Global South countries on par with public creditors. The legislation is called "The New York Taxpayer and International Debt Crises Protection Act (S. 4747 Hoylman-Sigal/A. 2970 Fahy)." This would constitute a state-level action parallel to the international-level actions envisioned in APHA policy statement 20222, “A Call to Expand International Debt Relief for All Developing Countries to Increase Access to Public Resources for Health Care,” adopted at the AM last year. Gus will educate himself on this and requests others who will assist with a response. Memo of support will be due in January. 	<p>gus.birkhead@gmail.com</p> <p>Gus is looking for PAC members who could draft a couple of paragraphs on these issues to be contained in a letter to the Governor or a memorandum of support to the Legislature. Contact Gus at: gus.birkhead@gmail.com</p>
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NYSPHA 2023 Legislative Priorities Update	<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 wrote to the Governor to urge that she sign the legislation. • Environmental bills that passed (we may need to write letters of support to Gov): <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. • Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act passed. Prohibits medical providers from reporting patient debts to a consumer reporting agency. NYSPHA may be asked to write a letter of support. <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. • NY HEAT Act, the Climate Superfund Act, and the Just Energy Transition Act, passed the Senate, but not the Assembly. • Bills to permit absentee voting for any reason <p>Susan Harris was asked to comment on climate bills: All buildings have to go fossil free, all new buildings have to have renewable energy. Limit to 6% of family income to be paid on utilities, but was not passed. Will be worked on next year. NY Renews working on draft regulations to provide to state. Fossil fuel emissions should be lowered, there was some “give” but “did not meet the guardrails”</p>	<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>gus.birkhead@gmail.com</p> <p>For more information, contact Susan Harris at sharri6g@gmail.com</p>
NYSACHO Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crissy Dyer-Drobnack: not present 	
APHA 2023 Policy Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Harris attended virtually June 15, was nominated by NYSPHA to attend; she is very grateful. She gave a thorough summary from her notes and learnings, (very detailed, too much to add all here). She found it very interesting. Themes focused on environmental equity and social justice. Shortages in research, personnel, investment in R&D, manufacturing, etc. Crises in the making which were highlighted by the pandemic. She thinks NYSPHA can play a big part and tell these stories and humanize them. Nika mentioned that she also attended the first day of the APHA and in person and said she would be happy to share her summarized notes if anyone is interested. “Some of the speakers do really amazing work”. 	<p>For more on what happened during this institute, contact Susan Harris at sharri6g@gmail.com or Nika Norvilla at nika.norvila@gmail.com</p>
Climate Change Workgroup update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Harris: she thinks there should be a young peoples’ communication pathway. Look to extracurricular climate education. Planning an extracurricular updatable resource guide on climate educational opportunities: camps, workshops, anything fun. There are 	<p>If you want to join the committee or have feedback for Susan, contact Susan Harris at</p>

	<p>some existing programs like this throughout the state. The climate committee just successfully applied for a paid intern from SUNY Albany .</p> <p>Other goals: Want to start youth to workforce pipeline. Consumer education and empowerment.</p>	sharri6g@gmail.com
Policy Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaping policy group: Kavitha Das, Jamie Zelig worked on the very detailed vaping policy statement assisted by intern Prashad Mehta. Some edits were made in response to NYSPHA board member comments and the final statement is being posted on the website. • Statements still being discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventing and treating substance use. - Suicide: Heather and Jamie working on suicide prevention statement and waiting for feedback from NYSPHA President Brett Harris 	Let Gus know if you have any suggestions for policy statements (and are willing to work on one). gus.birkhead@gmail.com
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kavitha: looking to reorganize the NYC PAC, will keep everyone posted. Adrienne and Kavitha will be having a call to figure out how to make NYCPAC more impactful. Survey will be going out to assess member needs, areas of interest, etc. to grow the NYCPAC and find ways to make it work better. Will announce more in September. Kavitha has access to some grant money and will be submitting some proposals. 	If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com
NYSPHA 2024 NYS Legislative Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of a possible NYSPHA member survey to ask for their legislative priorities. If anyone is interested in helping Gus develop a membership survey, he would like help, especially if you have experience with survey instruments (example: Qualtrics) 	Contact Gus if you want to help. gus.birkhead@gmail.com Kavitha will also work with Gus on NYCPAC survey
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of July 28 3 - 4 PM APHA Webinar: “Advocacy vs lobbying: what can you do? + Q&A.” Zoom Info: https://apha.zoom.us/j/3739184447 Meeting ID: 373 918 4447 • Andrea mentioned that the clinical simulation and nursing education act passed. • Gus stated that the advocacy tool thanks to Andrea is getting closer to roll out. • Proposed regulations for birthing centers: contact Andrea if you want to make a public comment: asonenberg@pace.edu (Gus says NYSPHA can sign on if Andrea develops a letter). ABC news has contacted Andrea and a colleague for comments about maternity deserts. • There will be no August PAC meeting. Our next monthly PAC meeting is Wednesday, September 13 from 12 noon-1 PM 	

