



**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – Feb 8, 2023**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ *Gus Birchhead* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 3/15/23  
 PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions.</li> <li>• New member, Kelly Bonnar, is a Professor of Public Health at SUNY Potsdam</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes from Jan meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<p><u>State:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 01/11/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the American Cancer Society to the governor requesting that she restore funding for the NYS Cancer Services Program. It was not included in Governor’s budget.</li> <li>• 01/11/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the NYS Rural Health Association to the governor requesting ...Not included in Governor’s budget, still working to get it restored through legislature</li> <li>• 1/19/23 - Kavitha Das, NYSPHA’s NYC PAC chair, represented NYSPHA at a sponsored by the Flavors Hook Kids Coalition to pass the proposed legislation that would restrict the sale of menthol cigarettes in New York City. (see <a href="#">Intro 577</a> to read the bill). Kavitha attended a city hall meeting with NYC council members, and the group has put out op eds and made other public education efforts, working to get this passed. Kavitha will keep us posted.</li> </ul> <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>	<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>NYSPHA Climate Workgroup</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Susan Harris joined NYSPHA with the intention of starting a “climate committee” and she is leading the climate workgroup. States “it’s the single most important pervasive public health issue on our horizon right now.” Created mission statement and action plan.</li> <li>• Purpose of the workgroup: education, advocacy, joining with like-minded organizations, taking action (for example, sponsor tree plantings in urban areas), join with businesses-aligning values with investments (there will be an impact assessment webinar March 15- details will be provided)</li> <li>• NYSPHA Policy statement on climate change link: <a href="https://nyspha.org/resources/Documents/NYSPHA%20Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf">https://nyspha.org/resources/Documents/NYSPHA%20Climate%20Change%20Policy%20Statement%20FINAL.pdf</a></li> <li>• Kavitha was part of the policy statement development for climate change: Kavitha suggests the people involved in that might join the workgroup and Kavitha would like to join as well. Names of people who participated in the climate change policy statement development are in the document, linked above.</li> <li>• Cristina suggests NYS DEC Tree Nursery as a resource for seedlings and support: they sell seedlings (sale right now: <a href="https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html">https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9395.html</a>) and encourage tree plantings.</li> <li>• Other tree resources provided by members in chat during call: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ From Cristina Dyer-Drobnack: <a href="https://www.americanforests.org/">https://www.americanforests.org/</a></li> <li>○ From Sylvia Pirana <a href="https://www.nationalforests.org/">https://www.nationalforests.org/</a></li> <li>○ From Kavitha Das: <a href="https://tree-nation.com/">https://tree-nation.com/</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>If you are interested in joining or have questions, contact Susan Harris at: <a href="mailto:sharri6g@gmail.com">sharri6g@gmail.com</a></p>
<p>NYSACHO Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYSACHO supports:</li> <li>• Proposed amendment to PH law for public health departments to exempt LHDs from having to meet the same licensing requirements for home visits as non public health home visiting companies</li> <li>• Proposed language to close several loopholes in law that are creating barriers to locally implementing and enforcing the flavored vape ban</li> <li>• Lead poisoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Proposed tri-annual inspection for landlords for lead hazards and requirements for abatement.</li> <li>○ Proposed \$58 million of funding. Some counties have funding but not enough.</li> <li>○ Proposal for increasing health professions workforce.</li> <li>○ Carol brought up that there has never been funding to support temporary lead free housing for families while abatement is done. These families are often low income and cannot afford to relocate.</li> <li>○ President announced in SOTU about lead pipe infrastructure replacement. Sylvia shared information about this program: <a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/27/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-and-progress-to-protect-communities-from-lead-pipes-and-paint/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/01/27/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-actions-and-progress-to-protect-communities-from-lead-pipes-and-paint/</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• There is more on climate, affordable housing, scope of practice for medical professionals, modernization of EMS, etc: NYSACHO still looking at proposed</li> </ul>	<p>Contact Cristina for more details if you have questions</p> <p>Cristina will provide language for NYSPHA members to support these topics</p>

	budget language.	
Proposed Executive Budget update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Executive Budget proposal wins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase tobacco tax</li> <li>Ban menthol cigarettes</li> </ul> </li> <li>Maximizing federal aid to replace lead pipes in drinking water supplies</li> <li>Expansion of Hep C screening for adults</li> <li>3<sup>rd</sup> trimester syphilis screening for pregnant women</li> <li>Not included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 6 restoration</li> <li>Lead poisoning prevention funding</li> <li>Increased funding for Cancer Services or Tobacco Control programs</li> <li>Rural health funding restoration</li> </ul> </li> <li>Universal school lunch</li> </ul> <p>There is a public hearing on Health for the budget on February 28 (see below):</p> <p><b><u>Joint Legislative Public Hearing on 2023 Executive Budget</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Proposal: Topic Health/Medicaid</u></b></p> <p><u>Hearing Room B</u></p> <p>Tuesday, February 28, 2023 @ 9:30 AM</p> <p><a href="#">Will Stream Live</a></p> <p><b>All public hearing schedules found here: <a href="https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/legislature-announces-2023-joint-legislative-budget-hearing">https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/liz-krueger/legislature-announces-2023-joint-legislative-budget-hearing</a></b></p>	
NYSPHA 2023 Legislative Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the 2/8/23 draft NYSPHA priorities document sent to PAC members with the materials for this meeting.</li> </ul>	Send any input to Gus
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NYCPAC subcommittee meets monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 12 noon -1 PM.</li> <li>Kavitha has a speaker who will discuss the effort to ban menthol in tobacco for the next NYC PAC meeting</li> <li>If you are interested, contact Kavitha at <a href="mailto:kpd2102@gmail.com">kpd2102@gmail.com</a></li> </ul>	
Other busin ess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday, March 8, 2023. 12 noon-1 PM</li> </ul>	

### 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				
Judy Rightmyer,	x		x	x	x	x	x	-				
Laura Agnew	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Nisha Beharie	x		x	-	x	ex	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				
Jalika Diallo							-	-				
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				
Naomi Harris Tolson	x		-	x	-	-	-	x				

Lovina John						x	x	x				
Diane Kolak	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Kayla Liszewski			x	x	x	x	x	-				
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x	-	-	-	x				
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	x	x	x	-	x				
Nika Norvila							x	x				
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex	x	ex	x	x				
Christine Podolak	-		x	x	x	-						
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Mel Ray							x	x				
Craig Rijkaard	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	-				
Marie Sonia							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				
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