



**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – October 12, 2022**

Signed *Gus Birchhead* _____ Date 11/9/22
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and Introductions. 	
Roll call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attendance at end of minutes 	
Approval of Minutes: 9/14/2022 PAC meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<p><u>State:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/22/2022. NYSPHA signed on to a joint letter by New York State public health, environmental health, patient advocacy, healthcare, nursing, and physician organizations, declaring the burning fossil fuels in our buildings to be a significant climate and health risk. The letter calls for immediate action to protect the health of New Yorkers and mitigate the current and future impacts of air pollution and climate change. <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/20/2022: NYSPHA signed on to a letter to U.S. Senators in support of the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404/S. 4556). 9/21/2022: NYSPHA signed on to a letter to U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Rohit Chopra urge that CFPB begin the process of issuing a rule that would prohibit medical debts from appearing on credit reports if the debts arose from medically necessary services. 	<p>If members hear about other opportunities for PAC to support, or alerts to share, please let Gus know. Also, if you hear of mentions of NYSPHA advocacy positions, let Gus know.</p> <p>If you have a bill of interest, we can weigh in, let Gus know.</p>

<p>NYSPHA Budget recommendation letter discussion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean – suggested not recommending SBIRT for drug use because there is not evidence base. Also add alcohol, including wine, and firearms tax. Gus requested info on the firearms tax. Sean also suggested asking for funding for a coordinated pandemic and climate change response. Gus said that NYSPHA is already participating in a climate change coalition that is providing comments on the NY climate action scoping plan that DEC is preparing (see our comments on the State Actions and Alerts page under the PAC webpage.). Ellen – suggested including tax on all alcoholic beverages. Also suggested saying prescription drug misuse, not abuse. Nisha – suggested following FDA’s proposal to allowing ‘healthy food’ labeling of processed foods. Gus said this would be added to NYSPHA’s participation on a health food coalition since it is not a NY budget issue. Kavitha – suggested adding increasing non-nicotine vaping products tax in the proposal. Also, add that the SSB tax would improve oral health. Finally, can we add anything about funding for the homeless. Naomi will find out from the advocacy team at her organization what the state budget housing priorities are. Claudia – will research a possible immigrant health coverage expansion and provide language. <p>Gus will incorporate edits. Please get any language or additional suggestions to Gus by Wednesday October 19.</p>	<p>If there are additional topics you feel should be addressed in priorities please contact Gus.</p>
<p>NYSPHA Policy Statements</p>	<p>These policy statements were approved at the September NYSPHA Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assured Access to Reproductive Health Services Support for Public Health preparedness Supporting Oral Health <p>In progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drug Policy – this will be split into 3 policy statements on 1) opioids, 2) cannabis, and 3) alcohol. Kayla, has shared the final draft of the alcoholism statement with the subcommittee (Sean, Naomi, Nisha, and Ellen). There will be call next week to discuss. Suicide Prevention – Jesus has drafted a statement based on the APHA statement. He will share with Heather and Brett, and will invite the 3 SUNY Binghamton students on the call today to participate. 	<p>We are looking for volunteers to work on policy statements.</p> <p>All statements rely on volunteer leadership and efforts.</p> <p>If you are interested in volunteering on any statement listed, or have a new topic to propose, please contact Gus.</p>
<p>NYC PAC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next call coming up is Wednesday Oct 19 at noon. The speaker is from Green Guerillas, a NYC food advocacy group. Email Kavitha if you are interested and need the link. 	<p>If you live in NYC and are interested in joining the NYC PAC, contact Kavitha. NYC PAC meets 3rd Wednesday of every month from 12-1 PM.</p>

Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x								
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	-								
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex								
Christine Podolak	-		x	x								
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-								
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x								
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x								
Marc Rosenblatt	-		-	-								
Carol Ryan	x		x	ex								
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-								
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	x								
Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-								
Jesus Vasquez	x		-	x								
Daniel Tam			x	-								
Carol Wanyo	x		-	-								
Patti Wukovits	x		-	x								
Namrata Yadav	-		-	x								
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	x		-	-								
Jamie Zelig	x		x	-								
Intern Kayla Liszewski			x	x								