

NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – September 14, 2022

	Grus	Birkhead			
Signed _	0.,		 Date	10/12/2022	

PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions Roll call	 Welcome and Introductions. Welcome to new NYSPHA intern for PAC Kayla Liszewski from Univ of Buffalo. She is in her last semester of her MPH program. Interested in epidemiology and also public health policy Thrilled to be here. Welcome to Daniel Tam, a student from Univ of 	
11011 0411	Binghamton who has joined us for learning and experience. He is very happy to be here as well.	
	See attendance at end of minutes	
Approval of Minutes:	Approved	
7/13/2022 PAC meeting		
PAC Update:	State:	If members hear
Actions since the	• 8/14/2022. NYSPHA submitted comments on draft state regulations	about other
last meeting, and	(NYCRR 9, Parts 128 and 129) on Adult-Use Cannabis Packaging and	opportunities for
related updates	Labeling and Marketing and Advertising. NYS in progress of developing	
	use, marketing, advertising and packaging regulations: NYSPHA has	alerts to share, please
	been weighing in, based on a lot of NYSACHO's work. We suggested	let Gus know. Also,
	also that there be no cannabis company sponsorships of sporting events.	if you hear of mentions of
	All comments be posted on website with Kayla's help. 7/1/2022: NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the New York State Energy	NYSPHA advocacy
	Research and Development Authority, with comments on the Draft	positions, let Gus
	Scoping Plan in Support of Direct-to-Consumer Zero Emission Vehicle	know.
	Sales.	
		If you have a bill of
	<u>Federal:</u>	interest, we can
	• 7/25/2022: NYSPHA wrote to the federal Food and Drug	weigh in, let Gus

	Administration in strong support of the proposed rule to prohibit mentho cigarettes (Docket No. FDA-2021-N-1349). This is also a NAACP priority (NYS and Federal) as tobacco companies have been targeting people of color (POC) with advertising. Disproportionate impact on POC regarding health consequences. • 6/10/2022 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter sponsored by Earth Justice providing technical Comments to NYS Climate Action Council Scoping Plan on the Draft Climate Roadmap
	 8/24/2022. NYSPHA recommends signing A9348 to establish a fentanyl abuse and overdose prevention task force to conduct a comprehensive study on fentanyl abuse and overdose prevention and to report on the findings and recommendations, with suggested modifications. 8/19/2022. NYSPHA recommends Gov sign A7357 to establish a pilot program to create an assistance hotline for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and complex behavioral needs. (Jesus authored) 8/19/2022. NYSPHA Recommends signing A9080-A/S8046-A (Hevesi/Mannion) relating to a study of the number of children in foster care who have a developmental disability, with suggested improvements. (Pennie authored). Gus thanked Pennie. The state was relying on diagnosed disease but there is a lot of undiagnosed disabilities in this underserved population. 7/12/2022 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Governor by the End Medical Debt Coalition recommending that she sign: S6522A/A7363A will ban medical providers from using wage garnishments or taking out liens on a patient's primary residence, and S2521C/A3470C bans facility fees for all preventive care.
NYSACHO Updates (Cristina)	 NYSACHO commented on Cannabis regs, and many thanks to Gus and Ellen Morehouse for help and coordination in suggesting ways to strengthen regulation. Focusing on workforce recruitment and retention. Challenges at local level to fill vacancies. Some LHDs working on Continuation of Operations plans because of severe workforce shortages. Working on budget priorities for next year. Working on implementation of current health worker bonus. Law did not authorize specific titles in LHDs for bonuses. Part of a PARSE coalition to move forward recovery friendly work initiatives. Working developing hiring policies to encourage and incentivize to hire, putting together employer tool kits, not sure what format all of this will take. Still lots of questions to address. For example, where will the department be housed at state government? Carol asked if they are working on recommending hiring practices for encouraging employment of people with past justice involvement (prison, criminal records) etc. since prisons are full of people with substance use issues that caused them to commit crimes

Not yet specifically addressed by the coalition. Immunize NY: Tool kits being developed for vaccine hesitancy for different audiences. Policies: pushing to codify immunization by expanded professions that had happened on a temporary basis during the Pandemic. Recent ending of Gov Pandemic emergency powers does not impact this. NYSPHA Looking at what priorities we should recommend. We were very successful last year but there is still work to do: Budget recommendation Last year's priorities that weren't adopted: letter discussion Fully restore the COLA for Department of Health programs which was If there are additional topics vou feel removed in the 2018-2019 State Budget. should be addressed Provide 100% reimbursement for the first full year of any new and/or in priorities please significantly expanded mandates emerging from law, rule or regulation contact Gus. including reimbursement of salary and fringe expenses under the Article 6 state aid appropriation (ie: lead poisoning changes) Restoring Article 6 funding Judy will ask for Increase funding for behavioral health services, resources, and supports. draft for draft Assure the long-term sustainability of the Public Health Corps (there budgets and priorities may be Federal sustainability support: we will decide whether this needs from AHA, ACA, to stay in) ALA. Fellowship Program and similar public health and behavioral workforce initiatives. Generate additional revenue with direct public health benefits - Increase the tax on cigarettes and other tobacco and vaping products - Sugar Sweetened Beverage tax. We need to look for other partners if we want to recommend these again. NYSACHO priorities (draft): Public Health Infrastructure Funding specifically to Recruit and Retain Professionals within Local Public Health Workforce. Requesting 2 year retirement bonus to address the extra hours local Public Health professionals devoted to addressing the Pandemic. May propose some statutory salary ranges for LHD professional positions. Appropriate Adequate Funding for Childhood Lead Prevention Funding, especially because actionable level may be again lowered, previously was 10, then to 5 without additional reimbursement to handle workforce impact and cost, and now will be going to 3.5 Supporting the Early Intervention and Preschool (4410) Special Education Programs. Really challenging: if reimbursement rates are low. hard to find people to serve. Higher reimbursement will be challenge for localities. Hard to address the right balance. Coroner & Medical Examiner Expenses 50-50 State Local Share. Now 100% local cost. Exemption or Alternative Licensure of Public Health Article 28 (hospitals, clinics) and Article 36 (home care services). LHDs still held to requirements for hospitals and large medical clinics and practices and larger home care businesses. Onerous, expensive and unrealistic to

	Attendance Log	
Other business	Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday, October 12, 2022. 12 noon-1 PM	
NYC PAC	Next call coming up is about banning menthol in cigarettes in NYC. Email Gus or Kavitha if you are interested and need the link.	If you live in NYC and are interested in joining the NYC PAC, contact Kavitha. NYC PAC meets 3 rd Wednesday of every month from 12-1 PM. Kavitha's email: kpd2102@gmail.com
	 In progress: Drug Policy – this will be split into 3 policy statements on 1) opioids, 2) cannabis, and 3) alcohol. Kayla, our intern will working on these along with Sean, Naomi, Nisha, Ellen. A call is scheduled for 9/16. Suicide Prevention – Brett Harris, NYSPHA President, is taking the lead basing the statement on the APHA statement. Heather and Jesus are also signed up to help. 	
	 you to all who worked on it. Supporting Oral Health: Kavitha P. Das, Carol Ryan, Jesus Vasquez, Jamie Zelig, Gus Birkhead. Suggestions that will be acted on: Will add bullet to recommend fluoridation as that can be controversial and is sometimes being rolled back in some communities. Will add a bullet about recommending Medicare coverage of dental care. Will add bullet about maintaining a sufficient dental health workforce. 	If you are interested in volunteering on any statement listed, or have a new topic to propose, please contact Gus.
	 Assured Access to Reproductive Health Services: Jesus Vasquez, Jamie Zelig, Heather McGrane Minton, Ashanda Saint John, Mandy Qualls, Gus Birkhead. Thank you all. Support for Public Health preparedness: Crissy Dyer-Drobnack, Robert Vietz, Jesus Vasquez, Jamie Zelig, Kavitha Das, Gus Birkhead. Thank 	All statements rely on volunteer leadership and efforts.
NYSPHA Policy Statements	be realistic for allowing the safety net work. The first three policies below are available in final draft for final comments today. They will be presented to the full NYSPHA board in two weeks.	We are looking for volunteers to work on policy statements.
	meet the strict requirements designed for large organizations and imposed on LHD services. The LHDs still need oversight but it needs to	

Attendance Log

Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
'22	'22	'22	'22	'22	'22	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23	'23
	No										
	mtg										

Gus Birkhead, chair	х	х					
Judy Rightmyer,	x	x					
Laura Agnew	-	-					
Nisha Beharie	х	х					
Claudia Calhoon	-	-					
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-	-					
Kavitha Das	х	-					
Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	х	х					
Pennie Cuevas	х	х					
Sean Haley	-	-					
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	ı	-					
Naomi Harris Tolson	х	-					
Diane Kolak	-	-					
Heather McGrane Minton	х	х					
Ellen Morehouse	х	-					
Sylvia Pirani	ı	х					
Christine Podolak	-	х					
Alejandra Puerta	х	-					
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	х	х					
Craig Rijkaard	х	х					
Marc Rosenblatt	-	-					
Carol Ryan	х	х					
Jean Sale-Shaw	-	-					
Andréa Sonenberg	х	-					

Ashanda Saint Jean	x	-					
Jesus Vasquez, intern	х	-					
Daniel Tam		х					
Carol Wanyo	х	-					
Patti Wukovits	х	-					
Namrata Yadav	-	-					
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	х	-					
Jamie Zelig	х	х					
Intern Kayla Liszewski		х					