



**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – April 12, 2023**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ *Gus Birkhead* \_\_\_\_\_ Date 5/10/23  
 PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and Introductions.</li> <li>Welcome to new member Phillip Gioia, a retired pediatrician after 40 years of practice. He has been involved in American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) among many other areas of involvement and now he finally has some time to be involved with NYSPHA.</li> </ul>	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<u>State:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>03/30/23 – Gus participated in a press conference at the Capitol in support of the tobacco tax and menthol ban. A number of legislators and African America clergy spoke. Unfortunately there was big pushback from tobacco companies, but a lot of pushback including from the communities impacted. There is some indication that the FDA could ban menthol which would take care of the problem.</li> <li>3/27/2023 - The New York State Senate and Assembly have passed legislation that will help address New York’s nursing shortage. S.447C (Stavisky) / A.3706A (Lupardo) will permit nursing programs to provide up to one-third of a student’s clinical work in a high-tech simulation environment. Andréa has been a champion of this legislation which will help to prepare nursing students and assist in alleviating the severe nursing shortage. This is likely to be signed by Governor Hochul.</li> <li>03/27/23 – Gus and Judy Rightmyer separately published letters to the editor in the Albany Times Union in favor of increasing the cigarette tax and banning menthol cigarettes. Youth, minority and low income are particularly affected by menthol and a tax increase would help to reduce</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>Gus will put out a note to all members regarding interest in membership, since not all are here today. Gus will send out</p>

	<p>use. <a href="https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/letters-17845328.php">https://www.timesunion.com/opinion/article/letters-17845328.php</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 03/18/23 – NYSPHA signed up as a partner organization in NY Renews, a coalition of over 350 environmental, justice, faith, labor, and community groups, and the force behind the nation’s most progressive climate law. See NYRenews.org. Susan Harris says this partnership can have a great impact, gave an example of NY Renews pushback to methane. Susan says there are so many ways to get involved including multiple committees with NY Renews and wants to know NYSPHA PAC’s bandwidth. Gus mentioned this is the same capacity issue for all members in all NYSPHA PAC areas of interest; this is an all volunteer group. For many groups, are many lobby days for areas of interest.</li> <li>• 03/17/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Senate and Assembly leaders in support of including the Prescription Drug Price and Supply Chain Transparency Act in the state budget.</li> <li>• 03/16/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Senate and Assembly leaders in support of including the Ounce of Prevention Act to end medical debt in the state budget. The Act would obviate the need for aggressive hospital collection actions and lawsuits by reforming our state’s antiquated and flouted Hospital Financial Assistance Law. Research shows the most aggressive hospitals fail to offer meaningful financial assistance to their patients, while drawing down millions from the State Indigent Care Pool. It would also stop reporting to credit bureaus about medical debt.</li> <li>• 03/15/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the governor and legislative leadership urging the inclusion of the All Electric Buildings Act (S562A/A920A) during this year’s budget to end the use of gas (and other fossil fuels) in new construction, starting with new permits at the beginning of 2024.</li> <li>• 03/08/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Senate and Assembly leadership urging passage this session of the Clean Deliveries Act (S.2127/A.1718), which would, among other things, establish emission reduction plans for “mega-warehouses” used primarily to facilitate e-commerce deliveries to residences.</li> </ul> <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 03/24/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Congressional appropriations leadership urging that they appropriate at least \$340 million for the Data Modernization Initiative (DMI) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024. Funding for DMI will also make possible the critical work of the CDC’s newly established Center for Forecasting and Outbreak Analytics (CFA).</li> <li>• 03/22/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the CDC Coalition to the Congressional appropriations leadership urging the inclusion at least \$11.581 billion for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s programs in the FY 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill.</li> <li>• 03/14/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Congressional appropriations leadership urging the inclusion in the FY2024 budget of</li> </ul>	<p>information about upcoming lobby days.</p>
--	--	---

	<p>\$35 million for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), \$25 million for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and \$1 million for the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to conduct public health research into firearm morbidity and mortality prevention.</p>	
NYSACHO Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cristina not present.</li> </ul>	
NYSPPHA 2023 Budget and Legislative Priorities Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The budget has been delayed. Everything is in limbo while budget discussions are happening.</li> <li>Gus thinks menthol ban is in danger from big tobacco funded resistance. If not passed in the budget, it may be presented as a stand alone later on.</li> </ul>	Send any input to Gus
Climate Workgroup Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Harris. Workgroup has been meeting about every 2 weeks but meetings will be monthly going forward, and Susan will send details to Gus to share. Gus had invited Susan to join a Food and Climate Consortium, which includes a large variety of groups with like concerns around food and climate (see note in PAC update above dated 3/18/23). This consortium wants to put food and agriculture back on the legislative agenda and will share templates of letters for individuals to send to support or oppose specific legislation. There is a 5 bill package of interest around food and agriculture. Events are coming up in Albany in April and May. NYSPHA PAC Climate Committee is sponsoring a tree planting: to “walk the walk”: <a href="https://www.nyspha.org/event-5226707">https://www.nyspha.org/event-5226707</a>. The NYSPHA workgroup is working on how to identify NYSPHA colleagues in a region where events or activities may be happening to “bring them into” the efforts. Also efforts are being made to educate people and corporations about equitable governance in ways to benefit the environment. Recent Morgan Stanley webinar addressed this. Discussed current climate based curriculums and capstone projects about climate.</li> </ul>	<p>If you are interested in joining this workgroup, email Susan Harris at <a href="mailto:sharri6g@gmail.com">sharri6g@gmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Susan will send information to Gus about upcoming meeting schedule and also about curriculum and capstone details she mentioned.</p>
Policy Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaping policy group: nothing to report today</li> </ul>	
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kavitha was not able to make call so no report. NYCPAC subcommittee meets monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday from 12 noon -1 PM.</li> </ul>	If you are interested, contact Kavitha at <a href="mailto:kpd2102@gmail.com">kpd2102@gmail.com</a>
Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philip: American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) is very interested in vaping and tobacco menthol product issues. Also looking at need for better data related to youth health, and cross referenced with other information available but not used to the benefit of youth: example: pharmacy utilization data. Gus invites him to bring any areas of interest or action to PAC.</li> <li>Our next monthly meeting is Wednesday, May 10, 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	x	x		
Laura Agnew	-		-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
Maryam Albarakati									x	-		
Nadia Banks										-		
Nisha Beharie	x		x	-	x	ex	x	x	x	-		
Lindsay Black								-		-		
Kelly Bonnar								x		-		
Claudia Calhoon	-		-	x	-	ex	x	-		x		
Ava Choi							x	-		-		
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-		-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
Kavitha Das	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-		
Jalika Diallo							-	-	x	-		
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								-		-		
Phillip Gioia										x		
Sean Haley	-		-	x	-	-	-	-		-		
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-		-	-	-	-	x	-		-		

Susan Harris							x	x	x	x		
Naomi Harris Tolson	x		-	x	-	-	-	x		-		
Lovina John						x	x	x	x	x		
Leana Kalinowsky									x	x		
Diane Kolak	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Kayla Liszewski			x	x	x	x	x	-		-		
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x	-	-	-	x		x		
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-		
Nika Norvila							x	x		-		
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex	x	ex	x	x	x	x		
Christine Podolak	-		x	x	x	-						
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	ex	x		
Mel Ray							x	x	x	x		
Judy Rightmyer	x		x	x	x	x	x	-	x	-		
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Marc Rosenblatt	-		-	-	-	-	-	-				
Carol Ryan	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x	ex	x		
Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-	-	-	-	x		-		
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-	-	-	-	-		-		
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Marie Sonia							x	-	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	x	-		