



**NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC)**  
**MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – May 10, 2023**

Signed           *Gus Birkhead*           Date         6/14/23          
PAC Chair

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>New members:</li> <li>• Karree-Lyn Gordon: did not attend</li> <li>• Sarah Merritt U of Rochester Office of Community Outreach and Engagement which was formed in 2020 to address health disparities in 27 NYS counties in their catchment area. She visited NYSPHA table at NYSPHA conference: this group aligns with the work her group does.</li> <li>• Emily Hayes: works with Sarah Merritt</li> <li>• Abigail Mosenthin: did not attend</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>• 04/27/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter by the Center for Science in the Public Interest supporting passage of New York State Senate bill S4364/Assembly bill # TBD, which would direct the Department of Health, in consultation with the Office of General Services, to develop science-based guidelines for serving healthier foods and beverages in all state facilities and state-supported programs. NYSPHA also provided a Memorandum of support on 5/3/23.</li> <li>• 5/3/23 – NYSPHA sent a letter to State Senator Persaud and Assemblymember Hunter strongly supporting their legislation, S1196/A1673, to ensure that more New Yorkers can benefit from biomarker testing—the key to unlocking targeted therapies. Specifically, we support, which will ensure New Yorkers covered by state-regulated</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>insurance plans, including Medicaid, have coverage for biomarker testing when medically appropriate.</p> <p><u>Federal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04/13/23 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Congressional Appropriations committees supporting the CDC’s Social Determinants of Health program in the FY24 appropriations process. Sponsor: Trust for America’s Health</li> <li>• You can see sign in letters at NYSPHA website/on the PAC page: <a href="https://nyspha.org/pac">https://nyspha.org/pac</a></li> </ul>	
<p>NYSPHA 2023 Budget and Legislative Priorities Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget wins: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increased the state cigarette tax by \$1 to raise revenues and discourage new smokers and existing smokers. Big win!</li> <li>- Aid to Localities bill includes a \$7.5 million increase to the State Tobacco Prevention program for education and cessation efforts including \$5 million from the JUUL settlement</li> <li>- The Cancer Services Program (CSP) will receive an additional \$2.5 million in the coming years to help with its important work. The total allocation for the CSP is now \$22.325 Million. This is still far less than the program funding in 2017 before it was cut by more than half.</li> <li>- \$134M in the upcoming state budget to expand access to free school meals for “low-income populations.” Universal free lunch would be the ideal to eliminate means testing, but this is still a significant gain.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Budget losses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- No ban on menthol cigarettes, which is needed to reduce disparities and to dissuade new smokers especially youth. NYSPHA will still push for this during legislative session.</li> <li>- No tightening of restrictions on the sale of flavored vaping products, Cristina from NYSACHO said that there was SOME movement allowing for increased enforcement. NYSPHA will still push for this during legislative session.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• (There was a rich discussion among members about the importance of this topic. Various activities are happening in the counties. Many stores are still selling flavored vaping products. Fines cost less than profits gained in the stores, so many ignore the potential fines as just the cost of doing business).</li> <li>• - No universal school meals</li> <li>• - Rural health funding not restored: this funding was cut 2-3 years back</li> </ul> <p>Also passed in budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pharmacists may dispense birth control over the counter.</li> <li>• Support for students to receive medication abortion.</li> </ul>	
<p>NYSACHO Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Win: Bill passed as part of budget to allow Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to actively enforce illicit cannabis sales.</li> <li>• Win: Increased screening for Hep C as part of universal screening, also increased syphilis testing in pregnancy is now in law</li> <li>• Win: Significant annual increases for minimum wage from 2024-2026</li> <li>• “Mixed win for public health”: Lead registry for owners renting apartments with 2 plus units in areas of concern (19 counties).</li> </ul>	<p>For those interested in seeing more details, NYSACHO’s budget testimony document was provided along with the minutes.</p>

	<p>NYSDOH will create registry and the property will have to certify property is lead free. Includes fines, penalties, for non compliance. Primary prevention model. Some issues: self-certification by owner. Funding is \$18.5 million: some will go to county LHDs, but it is not sufficient funding for the increased workload. This was based on city of Rochester's successful model (Monroe County). Some money for alternative lead free housing and for abatement costs. Sunsets in 2 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory relief on Article 36 to reduce the onerous rules for LHDs did not pass. Opposed by Home Care Lobby. Working with Senate to come up with workable solution.</li> </ul>	
Upcoming advocacy opportunities	<p>Upcoming Lobby Days that are on NYSPHA legislative priority topics include:</p> <p>May 22, Let's Get Immunized New York 2023 Advocacy Lobby Day: <a href="#">Register here</a>.</p> <p>May 9<sup>th</sup> (Housing and Climate Change) and/or May 23<sup>rd</sup> (Health and Environmental Justice) lobby days: <a href="#">Register here</a>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you hear of any opportunities that should be supported by NYSPHA, let Gus know.</li> </ul>	
Climate Workgroup Update	<p>There is a national petition circulating to urge the healthcare industry to divest from fossil fuel companies. Please add your name here:</p> <p><a href="https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-the-healthcare-sector-must-divest-from-fossil-fuels?source=2023HealthDivest_FDNH&amp;referrer=group-first-do-no-harm">https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-the-healthcare-sector-must-divest-from-fossil-fuels?source=2023HealthDivest_FDNH&amp;referrer=group-first-do-no-harm</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Susan Harris: Young people are a bit intimidated by the idea of "policy" But when they learn more they can better understand and get involved. NYSPHA is an institutional member of NY Renews. NY Renews has a lot of clout because of so many strong members. Getting pushback from the industry. "Our responsibility is to take the misinformation and correct it." Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act in 2019: "huge and we are working on it". Goal by 2030 is to reduce fossil fuel emissions by 40%, by 2050, by 85%.</li> <li>Passed: all electric buildings act for new buildings.</li> <li>Passed: cap and invest (cap emissions and funding toward healthier solutions)</li> <li>Not yet passed "NYHEAT"</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>Contact Susan Harris for more details on any of these topics.</p>
Policy Statements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaping policy group: Kavitha spoke: they are working on the policy statement which should be ready in the next 2 weeks.</li> </ul>	<p>If interested in helping or if you have input, let Kavitha know. <a href="mailto:kpd2102@gmail.com">kpd2102@gmail.com</a></p>
NYC PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kavitha: Focus is exclusively on public health topics concerning New York City. She is working on the speaker for next meeting. Tentative speaker will be on prison reform program. Next NYCPAC call: Wed 5/17 at 12 PM</li> </ul>	<p>If interested in joining or have a suggested topic or speaker contact Kavitha at: <a href="mailto:kpd2102@gmail.com">kpd2102@gmail.com</a></p>



Sally Courtright							-	-	-	-	-	
Pennie Cuevas	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	
Samantha Fandl, intern								-	-	-	-	
Phillip Gioia									-	x	x	
Karree-Lyn Gordon											-	
Sean Haley	-		-	x	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	x
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-		-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	-	
Susan Harris							x	x	x	x	x	
Naomi Harris Tolson	x		-	x	-	-	-	x	-	-	x	
Emily Hayes												x
Lovina John						x	x	x	x	x	x	
Leana Kalinowsky									x	x	x	
Diane Kolak	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	
Kayla Liszewski			x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	x	
Sarah Merritt												x
Heather McGrane Minton	x		x	x	-	-	-	x	-	x	x	
Ellen Morehouse	x		-	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	ex	
Abigail Mosenthin												-
Nika Norvila							x	x	-	-	-	
Sylvia Pirani	-		x	ex	x	ex	x	x	x	x	x	
Christine Podolak	-		x	x	x	-						
Alejandra Puerta	x		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	ex	x	x	
Mel Ray							x	x	x	x	x	

Judy Rightmyer	x		x	x	x	x	x	-	x	-	x	
Craig Rijkaard	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Marc Rosenblatt	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Carol Ryan	x		x	ex	x	x	x	x	ex	x	x	
Ashanda Saint Jean	x		-	-	-	-	-	x	-	-	-	
Jean Sale-Shaw	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Andréa Sonenberg	x		-	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	-	x	