

## NEW YORK STATE PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION POLICY AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (PAC) MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – October 11, 2023

Jus Birkhand	
Signed	Date11/8/2023
PAC Chair	

Agenda Item	Discussion	Next Steps
Welcome and introductions	Welcome New members  • Sarah Evans: Mt Sinai- Asst. professor of environmental medicine and public health. Supports outreach and advocacy for environmenta health; she is excited to collaborate with NYSPHA in policy and advocacy realm.	
Approval of Minutes from last meeting	Approved	Any issues contact Gus
PAC Update: Actions since the last meeting, and related updates	<ul> <li>State/local:         <ul> <li>Gus reviewed recent state/local actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at <a href="https://nyspha.org/NYS-Policy-and-Advocacy">https://nyspha.org/NYS-Policy-and-Advocacy</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>10/6/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter to the Governor sponsored by the Alliance for a Green Economy requesting she adop policies and funding in the 2024 Executive Budget proposal the needed to put New York on the path to electrify 90% of buildings by 2050 while prioritizing the most vulnerable communities for healthy affordable housing and energy, as well as good, green jobs.</li> <li>9/29/2023 – NYSPHA PAC Intern Namita Kulkarni and PAC members Lucy Zheng, Kavitha Das and Gus Birkhead submitted written testimony to the New York City Council on 4 bills addressing clean indoor air in schools and other public buildings.</li> <li>9/20/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter coordinated by AARP New York urging the Governor to sign S.4548 (Parker)/A.4876 (Solages) to employ data matching to ensure that eligible lowincome New Yorkers are enrolled in utility benefits programs that they may not know about.</li> <li>9//15/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter coordinated by the Sierra Club urging the Governor to support the state's community gardens</li> </ul>	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.  If you have a bill of interest, also let Gus know.

	by signing S.629-A/A.4139-A into law.	
	Federal/international:	
	Gus reviewed recent federal actions that are listed on the NYSPHA website at <a href="https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy">https://nyspha.org/federal-policy-and-advocacy</a>	
	<ul> <li>9/20/2023 – NYSPHA signed on to a letter coordinated by the Trust for America's Health to U.S. Senate committee chairs urging them not to cut funding to the Prevention and Public Health Fund.</li> <li>9/12/2023 – NYSPHA signed onto a letter coordinated by the Coalition on Human Needs to urge members of Congress to fulfill its most basic duty to keep the government running.</li> <li>All state and federal support letters signed by NYSPHA can be seen on NYSPHA website</li> </ul>	
	Also: NY Renews (environmental coalition NYSPHA belongs to) virtual lobbying day Oct 16 (next Mon) on environmental and climate issues; if you are a constituent of anyone being lobbied it would be good to join.	Medical Aid in Dying Coalition has a monthly call. Contact Gus for more
	Also: Medical Aid in Dying Coalition: Proposed legislation for medication to hasten death in dying persons. The proposed legislation requires sign off by a separate physicians, person has to take medication themself (10 states plus DC already on board with similar legislation).	information if you are interested in attending calls as a representative of NYSPHA PAC.
NYSACHO Update	• Robert Viets (for Crissy Dyer-Drobnack): NYSACHO met with membership and they adopted NYSACHO's 2024 budget/legislative platform: Focus on equity, data system improvement and access, public health infrastructure, a variety of other issues. The full version will be sent to us when final. Should be soon. NYSACHO will be meeting with Governor's staff on 10/24 about the budget.	
Climate Change Workgroup update	<ul> <li>Susan Harris: NY Renews (NYSPHA has organizational membership) 370 member organizations. "Mass call" last week, Susan and Gus listened in. Photos shown on call included flooding in NYC, smoke and haze from Canadian wildfires. Important to have certain climate change items in exec budget. Ask of the Governor this year is for \$1 billion in the proposed Executive Budget (1/2 of 1% of annual NY budget). A variety of engineering changes are needed to protect against impact of climate change that this would support. Simplifying to 3 easy bills (contact Susan for details about the 3 bills).</li> <li>There is a new MPH intern for climate workgroup. Developing youth climate resource guide for youth, parents and educators. Adirondacks youth climate summit for 2 days: Susan has been invited, very excited. Will report back.</li> <li>"Climate academy" (Sarah Evans): virtual 8 week program for youth, focus on climate advocacy and environmental crisis. https://nyscheck.org/nyscheck-summer-academy/. Hosting 4 PM youth panel for youth client activists on advocacy on zoom at 4 PM today.</li> </ul>	If you want to join the Climate Workgroup or have feedback for Susan, contact Susan Harris at sharri6g@gmail.com
FY 2024 Budget	Gus: discussion about issues for budget letter to Governor: please send any specific requests to Gus. Give him background and verbiage.	Contact Gus with requests for items on

Letter to the Governor  NYSPHA 2024 NYS Legislative Priorities Member survey	A PAC workgroup has met once on this, including Kavitha Das, Maryam Albarakati, Heather McGrane Minton, Namita Kulkarni, Pennie Cuevas Jalika Diallo. Draft survey was sent to PAC members for a test run and to make any corrections. There were 10 responses, which were reviewed. Included mental health, suicide prevention, climate change topics this time. Discussion of any changes to the survey before sending	budget letter to gov: include facts and wording. Survey is at: https://docs.google.co m/forms/d/e/1FAIpQL ScAcs3Zvx6FaJ_Bim_ RaIbHb696Jr8yorGJX P0xqw_H8bwYZA/vie wform
	<ul> <li>it out to the membership. No suggestions offered on the call. The survey will be sent out soon to the full NYSPHA membership.</li> <li>Legislative priorities: Want to add something on asylum seekers and immigration, health insurance issues for all people regardless of immigration status (NYS Medicaid, no federal share but asylum seekers have some federal status) Claudia: expansion to elderly not approved. Namita is working on the language Claudia will f/u with Namita.</li> <li>Gus: We would like to partner with Rural Health Association on their budget priorities: Mandy will provide RHA wording (is in draft form): RHA has a meeting 10/18. They are settling their budget focus ask areas and will shore this up next week and will send to Gus and Namita</li> </ul>	
Policy Statements	Jamie and Heather have been working on the Suicide policy statement.  Still in progress. Jamie hopes it will be ready soon	
NYC PAC update	<ul> <li>Kavitha Das: Still working on membership survey for NYCPAC. If anyone in NYC wants to help Kavitha with a monthly call, contact her.</li> <li>Next will be working on letter to NYC mayor about budget priorities</li> <li>Menthol tobacco citywide ban: need 3 more council members. Kavitha has been working on this. Anyone passionate in NYC area, every-other Wed. zoom at 2:30 PM</li> </ul>	If interested in joining or have suggestions for how to increase attendance, contact Kavitha at: kpd2102@gmail.com
Other business	<ul> <li>Grace Ayoub shared about new community hospital in Niagara County:         Lockport Community Hospital. Lockport Memorial Hospital is a full-         service hospital! Based on the new idea of community/neighborhood         hospitals it has a full service 18 bed emergency department, 10 inpatient         rooms (with future plans for 10 more beds), pharmacy, lab, imaging &amp; a         whole wing dedicated to expansive outpatient clinic services for our         clinical providers!</li> <li>The next PAC meeting is Wednesday November 8 from noon to 1PM.</li> </ul>	

## **Attendance Log**

PAC Members	Jul '23	Aug '23 No mtg	Sept '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Gus Birkhead, chair	x		x	x								
Maryam Albarakati	х											
Grace Ayoub	x			х								
Nadia Banks	-											
Nisha Beharie	х			х								
Lindsay Black	-											
Kelly Bonnar	-											
Claudia Calhoon	-			х								
Natalie Charles	-											
Sofia Charles												
Makini Chisolm-Straker	-											
Ava Choi	-											
Sally Courtright	-											
Pennie Cuevas	х			х								
Kavitha Das	х			х								
Jalika Diallo	х											

Cristina Dyer-Drobnack (NYSACHO)	-	x	(Rob ert Viets ) x				
Sarah Evans			х				
Phillip Gioia	-	х					
Karree-Lyn Gordon	-						
Sean Haley	-						
Van Cleary-Hammerstedt	-						
Susan Harris	х		х				
Naomi Harris Tolson	-						
Emily Hayes	-						
Lovina John	х	х	х				
Adriann Johnson	х		х				
Leana Kalinowsky	-						
Diane Kolak	-						
Namita Kulkarni (intern)			х				
Kayla Liszewski	-						
Sarah Merritt	-						
Heather McGrane Minton	х	х					
Ellen Morehouse	-						
Abagail Mosenthin	-						
Nika Norvila	х	х					
Alayza Penn-Williams			х				
Sylvia Pirani	-	х					
Melissa Puicon-Healey	х	х					

Mandy Qualls (NYSARH)	х		Х				
Mel Ray	х						
Judy Rightmyer	-						
Craig Rijkaard	х	х	х				
Marie Sonia Saint Rose- Bienvil			х				
Marc Rosenblatt	-						
Carol Ryan	х		х				
Ashanda Saint Jean	-						
Jean Sale-Shaw	-						
Andréa Sonenberg	х	х					
Marie Sonia	х	х					
Daniel Tam	-						
Muhammed Teks Tekanyi	х	х					
Carol Wanyo	-						
Patti Wukovits	х						
Namrata Yadav	-						
Rick Yang							
Moria Byrne Zaaloff	-						
Jamie Zelig	х		х				