

**New York State Department of Health
Health Equity Council
March 24, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Daniel Carrion, Louis (Freddy) Molano, Guillermo Chacon, Mill Etienne, Lenora Reid-Rose</p> <p>Partial Attendance: N/A</p> <p>Council Members with an excused absence: Rev. Diane Holt, Ngozi Moses, Dr. Vasquez, LaRay Brown, Tandra LaGrone</p> <p>Council Members that are not excused: N/A</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little, Sheila Maddox</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Jason Riegert (Legal Counsel)</p> <p>Other NYSDOH Staff: Johanne Morne, Tina Kim</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde Presiding Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 10:15 A.M.</p> <p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced herself and welcomed the fellow council members the first in person meeting for 2023. Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde welcomed Associate Commissioner, Ms. Alvarado-Little and Sheila Maddox from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention. She welcomed Dr. Ursula Bauer, Shane Roberts, Michele Caggana and Suzanne Swan from the NYS Department of Health , thanking them for their participation. The Chair asked that any suggestions, remarks, or information they wish to share, be held until the public comment period of the agenda. Johanne Morne introduced Tina Kim, Deputy Director for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights.</p>
Council Business	<p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde provided updates an overview of the information provided in the packet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda Overview • Summary of Previous Meeting • Approval of minutes – September 9, 2022, December 9, 2022 • Commissioner updates • Procedure for Extraordinary Circumstances <p>September 9, 2022, meeting minutes were voted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guillermo Chacon made the first motion to approve the minutes and Daniel Carrion made the second motion to approve ○ Approve – M. Etienne, D. Carrion, G. Chacon, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, L. Reid Rose ○ Oppose – None ○ Abstain – None <p>December 9, 2022, meeting minutes were voted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Freddy Molano made the first motion to support the minutes and Guillermo Chacon made the second motion to approve ○ Approve – M. Etienne, D. Carrion, G. Chacon, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, L. Reid Rose ○ Oppose – None ○ Abstain – None <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Arteaga-Landaverde mentioned that in the packet the final Bylaws that were approved and she wanted to thank Dr. Mill Etienne and the subcommittee that worked on the Bylaws. .

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<p>OMH-HDP Updates</p>	<p>Wilma Alvarado-Little provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OMH-HDP has been working on legislation that was signed last year by Governor Hochul that declared racism as a public health crisis. The Racial Equity Working Group is in the process of identifying priorities of focus. Wilma stated there is interest in the Council providing guidance to the Racial Equity Working Group • OMH-HDP has been working on Data Desegregation Legislation, in which the legislation which focuses on Asian American, Pacific Islander, South Asian communities data to be disaggregated. Led by OMH-HDP, the Data Disaggregation working group has also established an interagency working group regarding this data disaggregation legislation. A working group has been established for a group of demographers as well. • OMH-HDP is preparing for Minority Health month. Following the federal HHS Office of Minority Health. The theme is Better Health through Better Understanding. Areas of focus are language access in the state of New York, implicit bias, health care and racism, and health literacy and health.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johanne Morne provided the following updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The New York State Department of Health, AIDS Institute has recently announced a Health Equity Leadership Institute that is scheduled to start this month. It is a 12-month virtual learning collaborative for New York State physicians, as well as advanced practice nurses and health facility administrators. This Institute prioritizes evaluating the application of health equity competencies that have been developed within the department, as well as health organization considerations in supporting and advancing health equity within the system. ○ The Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group will address the increase of congenital syphilis that is resulting in the deaths of infants upon birth. The goal of the Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group is to respond to and support equitable access as well as care with the intention of elimination. Starting in March, The Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group is comprised of community stakeholders which has been convened by the AIDS Institute. There are 51 members that are representative across New York State. The representatives are providers, community-based organizations, individuals that have been impacted by congenital syphilis as well as general community stakeholders. The goal is to collaborate, develop a comprehensive elimination framework, as well as to develop an action plan. ○ Development of proposed regulations to support the legislation that, effective June of this year, will require Article 28s submitting a certificate of need (CON) for the purpose of substantial change within a hospital facility, whether that be through construction or administrative means that has an impact to community access to a service. These regulations are due to be presented to the Public Health and Health Planning Council on March 30th. ○ 2021 LGBTQIA+ Health and Human Services needs assessment has been published. This includes feedback from community members and individuals with lived experience is now available publicly. ○ A recent report from Massachusetts speaks to highly resistant strain of gonorrhea. Much of the work done for this report is to ensure equitable access as it relates to general health care and important sexual health care. Although to date cases have not been reported in New York State, alerts to providers have occurred to make sure people are aware and also that providers are taking all due diligence in their assessments of individuals.

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	<p>Freddy Molano asked Johanne to expand on the requirements regarding on March 30th regulations.</p> <p>A: Tina - preparing to present the proposed regulation for the Health Equity Impact Assessment at the March 30th Public Health and Health Planning Council meeting. The regulation is to put into place the requirement under statute. The requirement originated from legislation by Senator Gustavo Rivera and former Assembly member Dick Gottfried. The legislation included the requirement to add a health equity impact assessment requirement to the certificate of need application.</p> <p>Q: Helen Arteaga-Landaverde asked Johanne about the stakeholder groups that are providing guidance to create this new standard. Since many community organizations might not have all the resources that hospitals may have, what considerations have been made for the work to be added to those small community groups?</p> <p>A: Tina - The engagement and outreach to communities and partners is to be conducted by a third-party independent entity. The organizations that represent the patients or the staff of the facility will also be engaged by the independent entity.</p>
<p>Presentation I</p>	<p>Sickle Cell Disease Initiatives - New York State Department of Health Michele Caggana, Sc.D., FACMG, Deputy Director, Division of Genetics, Director, Newborn Screening Program - Wadsworth Center and Suzanne Swan, Director, Bureau of Child Health</p> <p>Though recent legislation around sickle cell disease screening, detection and education was vetoed, we expect new iterations of legislation will persist. In anticipation of future attention around sickle cell initiatives, we wanted to let you know what activities DOH has already established regarding SCD. Our SCD program supports three Hemoglobinopathy Specialty Care Centers to improve the rate of transition from pediatric to adult/self-care in youth ages 12-21 with sickle cell disease. Contractor activities include assistance with scheduling and keeping medical appointments, providing health and social support to youth and their families, educating about self-management and prevention of symptoms, completing transition readiness assessments, providing linkages to Medicaid Health Homes Serving Children, and involving youth and families in processes and policy planning.</p>
<p>Presentation II</p>	<p>NYS Department of Health Prevention Agenda Presentation - New York State Department of Health Ursula E Bauer, PhD, MPH, Deputy Commissioner for Public Health Shane Roberts, DrPH, MPH, Assistant Director, Office of Public Health Practice</p> <p>The Office of Public Health provided a brief overview of the NYS Prevention Agenda, including a description of the past three cycles and the planning process to identify priorities and focus areas for the 2025-2030 cycle. Presenters reviewed the current five priorities of the state health improvement plan and described the Community Health Assessment-Community Health Improvement Plan/Community Service Plan process. Presenters engaged Council members in a robust discussion of the Prevention Agenda's goals of promoting health equity and reducing health disparities. Council members provided ideas and input for planning the next cycle of the Prevention Agenda.</p>
<p>Meeting Recap, Next Steps, Action Items</p>	<p>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde requested clarification about the procedure for extraordinary circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wilma stated that September 9th, 2022, meeting minutes, all the council members understood that was the last remote meeting under the public health law. The guidance provided by DOH Counsel has been sent out via email to the council members in February in preparation for this meeting. The Council members decided and agreed during the September 9th meeting that they would create and approve a resolution that would allow a member to attend a meeting by video conference under extraordinary circumstances. The Council members will need to establish written procedures and explain or outline what are considered extraordinary circumstances. This resolution will allow an individual member to attend by videoconference under extraordinary circumstances. The council members review and vote on this, it will be posted on the Health Equity Council website.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde mentioned outstanding items for the remainder of 2023. The main function of the Council stated in the bylaws is to make sure the Council reports to the Commissioner and considers any matter related to the preservation or improvement of Minority Health. The Council serves as a liaison and as an advocate to the Department. The Council has discussed COVID vaccinations concerns, how to increase access to health care to Black and Latino communities around the pandemic and the flu, language issues, reproductive rights for women and maternal health, all which have been given to the previous Commissioner. The Council has not had the opportunity to speak with the current Commissioner. • Freddy stated that in the Prevention Agenda, the maternal and infant care has and restoration of low infant birth weight infants throughout NY state. • Dr. Etienne – Food insecurity is a concern. SNAP benefits had been extended during the pandemic and would like to keep an eye on what it means for the people of NYS. • Daniel – Social determinants of health are upstream of all the disparities. He states that in her presentation, Dr. Bauer mentioned they have a strong relationship with some of the other state agencies and are trying to be complementary and not duplicative of the efforts that are currently underway throughout the state. • Lenora – The 1115 waiver is meant to address racial and health equity. There should be a focus on identifying intended outcomes when implementing the waiver. • Helen - New York State is a sanctioned state and women's reproductive rights have now been implemented in our Constitution. She is very proud that Governor Hochul has given funding to make sure there is a safety net for reproductive health. However, there is a concern about what happens once the funding is gone. What's is going to happen to the access, especially in Black and brown communities? • Recapping on the next meeting dates and locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 9, 2023, 10am-1:30pm in Albany ○ October 13, 2023, 10am-1:30pm in Albany ○ December 8, 2023, 10am-1:30pm in NYC • Freddy Molano moved to support the motion and Daniel Carrion made the second motion to approve <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Approve – M. Etienne, D. Carrion, G. Chacon, H. Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, L. Reid Rose ○ Oppose – None ○ Abstain – None
Public Comment and Adjournment	<p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde opened the floor to public participants in attendance via telecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question/Comment: Does the newborn screening provide patients with the genetic make-up of their sickle cell? If not, could it? Also, do the/will the community-based centers encourage or support genetic testing and assist connecting patients with the appropriate genetic variants to new therapies like LentiGlobin? • Question/Comment: There was mention of the Health Equity Leadership Institute and I cannot find the website. How can I apply? <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P. M.</p>

Next Meeting Date	Time	Location
June 9, 2023	10:00 AM - 1:30 PM	Albany, NY