

**New York State Department of Health
Health Equity Council
December 8, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Guillermo Chacon, Daniel Carrion</p> <p>Partial Attendance: Ngozi Moses</p> <p>Council Members with an excused absence: LaRay Brown, Tandra LaGrone, Lenora Reid-Rose, Rev. Diann Holt</p> <p>Council Members without excused absence: Mill Etienne, Raul Vazquez</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little, Julia Vinagolu-Baur</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Jason Riegert (Division of Legal Affairs), Johanne Morne (Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner), Kacey Griffin (Senior Health Program Coordinator)</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde Presiding Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 10:00 A.M.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced herself and welcomed the fellow council members for this year’s fourth in-person meeting. Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde welcomed Associate Commissioner, Ms. Alvarado-Little from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, and Julia Vinagolu-Baur. Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde also welcomed Johanne Morne, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner and thanked the public for their participation and any suggestions, remarks, or information that they wish to share, be held until the public comment period of the agenda.
Council Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde provided updates and an overview of the information provided in the packet: • Approval of minutes – October 13, 2023 • October 13, 2023 meeting minutes were voted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Guillermo Chacon made the first motion to approve the minutes and Daniel Carrion made the second motion to approved. ➤ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Daniel Carrion ➤ Oppose – None ➤ Abstain – None • Helen welcomed Johanne Morne, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner • Johanne Morne provided updates from the Office of the Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Office of Aging and Long-Term Care focuses on hospice services with pursuing ways to increase awareness for hospice services across New York State by dedicating work into providing education to the nursing home industry. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) and New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) announced a statewide public survey to help shape the state's Master Plan for Aging (MPA) strategies and priorities. Older adults, individuals with disabilities, and those who provide care for older New Yorkers and people with disabilities were encouraged to take this survey and share their input on how the MPA can best serve their needs. DOH and NYSOFA continue to pursue efforts around education, outreach awareness with hopes to increase awareness for hospice services when time presents itself for the individual in need.

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- Environmental health impacts climate change and recognizes that NYS drinking water has a number of initiatives that are advancing to better safeguard against lead and other contaminants issues that are a hazard to our children. The legislation is working cooperatively with other state agencies as well as with regional and community-based agencies in efforts for cleanliness and the safety of our drinking waters.
- It is now the season for respiratory issues as it relates to Covid, RSV and Flu. The Department continues to advance and promote the benefits of taking advantage of accessing Covid and RSV vaccinations,. There are additional campaigns to make sure that people remember that the vaccinations are a form of protection as well as to decrease the symptoms and for awareness as well as to decrease the risk of colorectal cancer with screening.
- Wastewater - On August 8th scientists from the Wadsworth Center, and City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene convened for the first time to ensure the coordination of efforts for the utilization of wastewater surveillance for biological and chemical incidents or risks.

- Tina Kim, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Equity and Human Rights - Since she was unable to attend at the time of the meeting, Tina provided updates in writing for today's meeting. Wilma Alvarado-Little, Associate Commissioner Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention requests the council permission to report on behalf of Tina Kim, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Equity and Human Rights.
 - Health Equity Initiative in the AIDS Institute (AI) – In 2019, the AIDS Institute launched their Health Equity Initiative (HEI) to address recommendations that emerged from an AIDS Institute organization-wide assessment of staff proficiencies related to health equity. The survey identified the need for education and training to develop staff awareness and skills in the application of health equity principles. Internally, the AIDS Institute offers different learning opportunities to staff to enhance understanding of the root causes of health inequities as well as resources to help staff implement health equity concepts into their work. Externally, the AIDS Institute’s Health Equity Initiative led changes to the funding process, specifically related to Requests for Applications (RFA).
 - Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group -The purpose of the New York State Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group (CSESPG) is to collaboratively develop a comprehensive Congenital Syphilis Elimination Framework through a health equity lens.
 - CDC Draft Guidelines on Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (DoxyPEP) -The Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology within the AIDS Institute submitted comments to the federal register in response to draft guidelines released from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Doxycycline Post-Exposure Prophylaxis, or DoxyPEP for short.
 - AIDS Institute updates by acknowledging the successful 8th annual Ending the Epidemic Summit and 25th Annual World AIDS Day Commemoration that took place in person, for the first time since the pandemic, last week in Albany.
 - Office of Gun Violence Prevention – On September 19th, the Office of Gun Violence Prevention issued Request for Applications. Titled “Gun Violence Prevention through Community-led Youth-based Programs”. The goal of this Request for Application is to engage a qualified applicant that can help advance the mission of Office of Gun Violence Prevention by serving as a fiscal, contractual, and project management conduit that facilitates place-based investments in grassroots community-based organizations that operate gun violence prevention programs in areas across New York State disproportionately impacted by gun violence.
 - The Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) Unit within the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights continues to provide technical assistance to stakeholders that are completing Health Equity Impact Assessments. The HEIA Unit is developing new webinars to provide additional guidance for independent entities.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Minority Health and Health and Disparities Prevention, Wilma Alvarado-Little, Associate Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Health Literacy Month was celebrated in October 2023. The department initiatives reflect a multilevel approach to improve effective communication and health literacy not only across the department but with our external partners. One of the initiatives is having a partnership with the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality who partnered with the Office of Health Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and discussed healthy people. The office has received a Governor's proclamation for Health Literacy Month and also received funding from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that implemented the use of health literacy when providing education about Covid 19 to our communities. Our office also includes deaf and hard of hearing communities, LGBTQIA+ communities, our nations, and urban underserved areas. We have also successfully submitted our language access report which demonstrates our support by the state for 12 languages. Additionally, it has four languages in which it translation of documents are provided in over 100 languages and interpreting services are provided. ○ OMH-HDP is working on a toolkit that is going to assist organizations with how to effectively collect data in an accurate and equitable manner. The information will be shared closer to identifying organizations where we will be piloting this toolkit. ○ OMH-HDP continues steps to focus on legislation declaring racism as a public health crisis. ○ OMH-HDP continue to focus on Data Disaggregation legislation, which focuses on Asian American, Pacific Islander, South Asian communities data to be disaggregated.
<p>Confirm topic discussions items and development. <i>Helen Arteaga, Presiding Chair, Health Equity Council</i></p>	<p>Helen Arteaga (Presiding Chair) - Extraordinary Circumstances Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In April of 2022, Governor Hochul signed a bill amending Open Meetings Law (OML), making permanent the expanded use of videoconferencing by public bodies to conduct open meetings, under extraordinary circumstances, regardless of a state of emergency declaration. These extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to disability, illness (with documentation sent to the chair and commissioner), caregiving responsibilities (materiality or elder care), inclement weather (within reason, natural disaster, state/city emergency) and transportation delays or crisis as a result. A minimum number of members must be present to fulfill the Council's legal quorum requirement in the same physical location or locations where the public can attend. The member appearing through use of videoconferencing will be counted as present when voting. ○ The Council finds appropriate that extraordinary circumstances to be allowed by a Council member to join virtually and provide their location that would not be open to the public. The Council member would need to appear on video and their name would need to be presented on the screen in order to participate.. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Extraordinary Circumstances Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extraordinary Circumstances Policy were voted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guillermo Chacon made the first motion to approve the policy and Luis (Freddy) Molano made the second motion to approved. ○ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Daniel Carrion, Ngozi Moses ○ Oppose – None ○ Abstain – None

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2024 Meeting dates and locations	<p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde and the council proposed 2024 meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ March 1st - NYC & Rochester - 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ➤ June 7th - Albany & Rochester - 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ➤ Sept 13th - Albany & Rochester - 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ➤ Dec 6th - NYC & Rochester - 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freddy Molano moved to support the motion and Ngozi Moses made the second motion to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Daniel Carrion, Ngozi Moses ➤ Oppose – None ➤ Abstain – None
Overview of Activities: March 2023 to date	<p><i>Helen Arteaga (Presiding Chair) – Overview of 2023</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total of nine presentations • Preplanning of the meetings
Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps	<p>Recap, next steps, and action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Helen will send out a poll for topics for discussion in 2024 prior to the next meeting.
Public Comment and Adjournment	<p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde opened the floor to public and the following inquiries were sent via email from the webcast chat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Comment:</i> Lloyd Bishop, Greater New York Hospital Association - Senior Vice President for Community Health Equity. I lead a team of people who work with staff at Greater New York, and with our member hospitals on community health equity issues that we work on at Greater New York through my staff or pathway programs by both supporting those that our members undertake at a few of our of our own social determinants of health, language access, racial ethnic data collection, community health assessments, health equity impact assessments, helping with the implementation of those things as you may have seen on TV ads, talking about health equity and Medicaid funding. The US and 1199 when we work together, we are the Health Care education project, and that is one of our advocacy issues for the for the coming year to increase Medicaid reimbursement. <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.</p>

Next Meeting Date
March 1, 2024

Time
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location
90 Church St, New York, NY 10007