

**New York State Department of Health
Health Equity Council
October 13, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

Attendees	<p>Council Members: Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Rev. Diann Holt, Luis Freddy Molano, Guillermo Chacon, Ngozi Moses, Lenora Reid-Rose, Daniel Carrion</p> <p>Partial Attendance: N/A</p> <p>Council Members with an excused absence: LaRay Brown, Tandra LaGrone</p> <p>Council Members without excused absence: Mill Etienne, Raul Vazquez</p> <p>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff: Wilma Alvarado-Little, Julia Vinagolu-Baur, Sheila Maddox</p> <p>NYSDOH Staff: Jason Riegert (Legal Counsel)</p> <p>Other NYSDOH Staff: Tina Kim</p>
Topics	Discussion
<p>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde Presiding Chair</p> <p>Call to Order & Introductions</p>	<p>The meeting was convened at 10:20 A.M.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced herself and welcomed the fellow council members for the second 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 Tina Kim, Acting Deputy Commissioner, OHEHR, Bridget Walsh, Senior Policy Analyst, Schuyler Center for Analysis, Patricia E. Persell, Early Childhood Policy Director, NYS Head Start Collaboration Director, and Early Childhood Advisory Council Co-Chair on the NYS Council on Children and Families and Dionne Richardson, State Dental Director, New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health. Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde thanked the public for their participation and asked that any suggestions, remarks, or information they wish to share, be held until the public comment period of the meeting.
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 – June 9, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 9, 2023 meeting minutes were voted on: ○ Luis (Freddy) Molano made the first motion to approve the minutes and Rev. Diann Holt made the second motion to approve ○ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Rev. Diann Holt, Lenora Reid-Rose ○ Oppose – None ○ Abstain – Daniel Carrion, Ngozi Moses • Helen introduced Tina Kim, Acting Deputy Commissioner, OHEHR, to share Commissioner updates on behalf of Johanne Morne, Acting Executive Deputy Commissioner, and updates from the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights (OHEHR) • Tina Kim provided updates from the Office of the Commissioner <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tina highlighted that the New York State Office of Aging and Long-Term Care has the lowest utilization of hospice services. The New York State Office of Aging and Long-Term Care is pursuing ways to increase awareness of hospice services which recently drafted and will be presenting regulations with the goal of implementing a fair and efficient hospice public need methodology.

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<p>Council Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Office of Public Health and The Center for Environmental Health are advancing several initiatives involving regulatory changes that will better safeguard New York State's drinking water from contaminants and prevent children from being exposed to lead paint hazards in their homes. This initiative requires certification of any rental units that were built prior to 1980 to ensure that they are lead safe. One of the revisions of public health law is to lower the action level for lead found in school drinking water from fifteen parts per billion to five parts per billion and to increase the frequency of lead testing from every five years to every three years. ○ The Center for Community Health regarding COVID and RSV: It is anticipated that the updated COVID vaccine with XBB .5 composition will be broadly available in the Fall. There is also a new monoclonal antibody product to protect infants and young children from severe RSV. This product is expected to be available this Fall. ○ The Department's Division of Family Health will have a future plan to actively engage the youth to reduce stigma associated with getting mental health help by establishing a youth advisory board and an adolescent mental health campaign to address issues of stigma as well as impact and concerns about social media. Youth will help inform the campaign through focus groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tina Kim provided updates from the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights (OHEHR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The AIDS Institute's 8th Annual New York State Ending the Epidemic Summit and the 25th annual World AIDS Day events will be held from November 28th through November 30th. The events will be held in-person at the Albany Capital Center in Albany ○ The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which launched earlier this year, is to be a trusted source for promoting anti-racism, equity, and just practices for the department through the collaboration of public policy, organizational strategy, workforce training and support of services and community planning - Health Equity Impact Assessment Unit. ○ The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention is charged with supporting initiatives that bring culturally competent, uniquely crafted health and wellness programs to legislatively identified minority areas as defined by public health law. The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention informs the department and providers about long COVID needs in vulnerable communities in New York State in which a one-time funding from the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention was earmarked to support studies in select local health departments on the impact of long COVID in minority populations.
<p>Presentations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bridget Walsh is a Senior Policy Analyst at the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, and Patricia E. Persell is an Early Childhood Policy Director, NYS Head Start Collaboration Director, and Early Childhood Advisory Council Co-Chair on the NYS Council on Children and Families. Their presentation, titled, “The Importance of Oral Health and Recommendations for Early Childhood Oral Health” covered the importance of pediatric oral health and barriers to care. ● Dr. Dionne Richardson, DDS, MPH is State Dental Director at New York State Department of Health’s Division of Family Health. Her presentation, titled, “Strategies to Improve Health Literacy in Oral Health” adopted a language access and social media-focused approach in addressing oral health inequities in diverse populations. ● Dr. Dave A Chokshi, MD, MSc, FACP was the 43rd Commissioner at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and is currently a practicing primary care physician and professor. His presentation highlighted key themes in two articles he recently published, 1) Scientific American, 2023: Here’s How CDC Can Put the ‘Public’ Back in Public Health, and 2) The New York Times: 2023: Forget About Living to 100. Let’s Live Healthier Instead.

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<p>Confirm topic discussions items and development. <i>Helen Arteaga, Presiding Chair, Health Equity Council</i></p>	<p><i>Helen Arteaga (Presiding Chair)</i></p> <p>Extraordinary Circumstances Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extraordinary circumstances that the Council finds appropriate and allow the 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. According to the guidelines to participate and vote. ○ Recommended next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review draft of Extraordinary Circumstances Policy ➤ Develop 2023 Recommendation Memo
<p>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</p>	<p>Recap, next steps, and action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde will review draft of Extraordinary Circumstances Policy. ➤ Develop 2023 Recommendation Memo
<p>Public Comment and Adjournment</p>	<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>Question/Comment:</i> For the Health Equity meeting here is that is there going to be an inclusion of the impact of dental health on overall health? I am a registered dental hygienist as well as a dental wellness coordinator for Liberty Dental Plan and have experienced a large disparity in dental care within the underserved communities. • <i>Question/Comment:</i> Please respond regarding information technology issues in Suffolk County. We are avoiding emergencies and must be visited if necessary. If no response or contact then follow emergency procedures. • Tina Kim mentioned that NYS has the lowest utilization of hospice services, and that there is a working goal to help increase awareness. <p><i>Question/Comment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Do we know if she was including palliative services, or was she referring to hospice services only? ○ Is there an awareness of the known racial disparities that also persist in the utilization of end-of-life care in our state? ○ Are plans being developed to help address those disparities as they work to increase awareness across the board? <p>The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.</p>

Next Meeting Date	Time	Location
December 8, 2023	10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	90 Church St, New York, NY 10007