

**New York State Department of Health  
Health Equity Council (HEC)  
June 9, 2023 - Meeting Minutes**

<p><b>Attendees</b></p>	<p><b>Council Members:</b> Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Rev. Diann Holt, Luis Freddy Molano, Guillermo Chacon, Tandra LaGrone, Raul Vasquez</p> <p><b>Partial Attendance:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Council Members with an excused absence:</b> Daniel Carrion, Mill Etienne, Ngozi Moses, Lenora Reid-Rose, LaRay Brown</p> <p><b>NYSDOH OMH-HDP Staff:</b> Wilma Alvarado-Little, Sheila Maddox</p> <p><b>NYSDOH Staff:</b> Jason Riegert (Legal Counsel)</p> <p><b>Other NYSDOH Staff:</b> Johanne Morne, Dr. James McDonald</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Topics</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde Presiding Chair</b></p> <p><b>Call to Order &amp; Introductions</b></p>	<p><b>The meeting was convened at 10:35 A.M.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced herself and welcomed the fellow council members for the second in person meeting.</li> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde welcomed Associate Commissioner, Ms. Alvarado-Little, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention (OMH-HDP), Dr. James McDonald, Acting Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health (DOH).</li> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde also welcomed Johanne Morne, Deputy Commissioner for Health Equity and Human Rights, Tina Kim, Kacey Griffin from the NYS Department of Health. Dan Irizarry, Micky Jimenez, Cassie Andrusz- Ho Ching Ph.D., from Capital District Latinos and Laura Lee Hall, PhD, Center for Sustainable Health Care Quality and Equity, National Minority Quality Forum. Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde provided updates and an overview of the member packets:</li> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced Ms. Alvarado-Little to provide OMH-HDP updates.</li> <li>• Ms. Alvarado stated that the OMH-HDP continues to work on data desegregation, coordinating the Racial Equity Workgroup, and addressing the cultural and linguistic needs of diverse New Yorkers.</li> <li>• Approval of March 24, 2023, meeting minutes were voted on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Guillermo Chacon made the first motion to approve the minutes and Luis (Freddy) Molano made the second motion to approve.</li> <li>○ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Rev. Diann Holt, Raul Vasquez</li> <li>○ Oppose – None</li> <li>○ Abstain – Tandra LaGrone</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde introduced Johanne Morne, Deputy Commissioner, Office of Health Equity and Human Rights to share Commissioner updates; Ms. Morne welcomed the NYS Department of Health Acting Commissioner, Dr. James McDonald to share a few words.</li> <li>• Acting Commissioner, Dr. James McDonald stated his priority is to rebuild the Department of Health following the impact of COVID and to strengthen the partnerships with the local Health Departments. Dr. McDonald’s goal is to eliminate health disparities, noting alignment with goals of the Health Equity Council.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Council Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Morne stated that the goal for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights (OHEHR) is to form a partnership with all the departments within the Department of Health, state agencies and community stakeholders across New York State. Ms. Morne noted that is not only about creating change, but rather the goal is to impact sustainable change that can impact and benefit people's lives.</li> <li>• Ms. Morne highlighted the New York State Hepatitis C elimination progress report that was released at a public meeting held on May 10, 2023. The work was done over the last 2 - 3 years by a Hepatitis C Task Force. The Task Force was charged with developing recommendations and providing guidance the elimination of hepatitis C across our state by 2030.</li> <li>• Ms. Morne mentioned that the OHEHR has launched the first ever New York State Congenital Syphilis Elimination Strategic Planning Group to address the increasing rates of congenital syphilis.</li> <li>• Ms. Morne acknowledged that is June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month. The DOH, Office of Gun Violence Prevention works very closely with the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to identify and provide community stakeholders with access to resources, technical assistance and overall support.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Equity Impact Assessment, Tina Kim, Deputy Director for the Office of Health Equity and Human Rights, Kacey Griffin, Health Program Coordinator (NYSPHC Fellowship Program)             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New York State legislation S1451A/A191 requires a Health Equity Impact Assessment (HEIA) to be filed with a Certificate of Need (CON) application for the establishment, ownership, construction, renovation, and change in service of health care facilities across New York State, which will provide information on whether a proposed project impacts the delivery of or access to services for the service area, particularly medically underserved groups. The Health Equity Impact Assessment requirement ensures that community voices are considered as well as an objective, independent assessment of the anticipated impact of the project on the public health of, service delivery of, or access to hospital and health-related services for medically underserved groups. The legislation was signed into law on December 22, 2021. The Health Equity Impact Assessment requirement is effective June 22, 2023. The purpose of the Health Equity Impact Assessment is to demonstrate how a facility’s proposed project affects the accessibility and delivery of services, and whether the project will enhance health equity and contribute to mitigating health disparities in the project's service area, specifically for medically underserved groups.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Addressing Hunger within Our Communities, Dan Irizarry, Chair, Capital District Latinos, Micky Jimenez, Capital District, Latinos, Cassie Andrusz- Ho Ching Ph.D., Capital District Latinos             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Capital District LATINOS (CDL) provided a presentation to the HEC concerning its history, mission and current operations. CDL, founded in 2011, seeks to “create the conditions for success” in the Latino community of the Capital District; since its inception, has focused on addressing the social determinants of health with a person-centered, trauma informed approach. They have worked to provide a safe place for all members of our community, regardless of immigration status, color, gender or creed. CDL operates out of the Cultural Empowerment &amp; Community Engagement Center at 160 Central Ave. in Albany, where they operate a clothing distribution program, a culturally appropriate food pantry, and provide case management and cultural programming.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Flu Vaccine Presentation - Laura Lee Hall, PhD, President, Center for Sustainable Health Care Quality and Equity, National Minority Quality Forum             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Laura Lee Hill provided a presentation on Driving Flu Vaccine Equity and Promoting Health in Communities of Color New York - A Report on 2022-23.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p><b>Confirm topic discussions items and development.</b> <i>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Presiding Chair, Health Equity Council</i></p>	<p><i>Helen Arteaga (Presiding Chair)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current Resolution was voted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tandra LaGrone made the first motion and Luis (Freddy) Molano made the second motion to approve</li> <li>○ Approve – Guillermo Chacon, Helen Arteaga-Landaverde, Luis (Freddy) Molano, Tandra LaGrone, Raul Vasquez</li> <li>○ Oppose – None</li> <li>○ Abstain – Rev. Diann Holt</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Extraordinary Circumstances Protocol Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde will draft an email with examples and will send to the committee via email for discussion at the next meeting, October 13, 2023.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde suggested thank you letters be drafted for the presenters and to Dr. McDonald.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Meeting Recap, Feedback, Action Items and Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Recap, next steps, and action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Helen Arteaga-Landaverde (Presiding Chair)</i> - Extraordinary protocol draft and thank you letter template.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment and Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Ms. Arteaga-Landaverde opened the floor to public participants in attendance via telecast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Question/Comment:</i> Regarding equity, will the impact of dental health on overall health be addressed? I am a registered dental hygienist and a dental wellness coordinator for Liberty Dental Plan. There is a significant disparity in dental care within the underserved communities.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <i>Question/Comment:</i> Regarding impact of dental health on overall health, will there be an inclusion on 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 I have experienced a large disparity in dental care within the underserved communities. I would like to encourage a team approach between medical-dental to promote overall health.</li> <li>• <i>Question/Comment:</i> Micky Jimenez, Capital District Latinos provided a follow up response to a question presented during their presentation. Regarding the explanation for the Race 64.5% The Latinos we surveyed had no problem with the ethnicity ques however, when the had to select the Race 64.5% preferred choosing that they were a mix since they would not identify as white, Black African, American Indian, or Alaska Native, Asian, native Hawaiian, Micky Jimenez - Thank you for the opportunity to showcase programs! Feel free to visit us at 160 Central Ave Albany, NY.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.</b></p>

<b>Next Meeting Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>October 13, 2023</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Albany, NY</b>