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**Notes of Policy Committee May 20, 2020**

Present: Barry Brogan, Claire Parde, Ann Abdella, Anne Marie Snell, Courtney Shaler, Rob Wingate, Sara Wall Bollinger

Excused: Helen Evans, Sylvia Getman, Nancy McGraw, Liz Urbanski Farrell,

 Susan Williams, Paul Pettit

Barry welcomed attendees and took roll call at 11:03.

1. Agenda Modification: Rob reported that the AHECs have all received some funding to provide COVID-related continuing education for healthcare workers.
2. Motion to accept the notes of April 29th [Rob/Ann] passed without changes.
3. 1115 DSRIP Waiver: There was discussion.
	* Funding distributed to PPSs based on Medicaid attributed lives and COVID volume - Upstate PPSs will get less funding than downstate PPSs if Waiver is approved by CMS
	* *Some* indications that PPSs recognize that SDoH are important. Application references community health workers, recovery support peers etc.
	* Proposal to engage a Student Intern to do some data analysis re: health disparities among Rural New Yorkers with COVID infection. *What is the impact of C-19 on Rural New York?* We do not really know. Proposed funding from Rural PREP - application now open - due 5/26.

*Action: Sara will explore this opportunity with Board members with student relationships. If it looks viable, we will get approval from Executive Committee to proceed.*

1. NYS Budget: Threatened 20% across the board cut has not happened [yet].

Contract renewals and payments appear to be frozen - no cash is flowing.

There was discussion. NYS is waiting for funding from the Federal government. Consensus emerged to focus on the HEROES Act.

Motion [Barry, Rob] to initiate an Advocacy Strategy regarding federal funding for State and Local Governments [aka HEROES Act] passed.

*Action: Sara will develop and disseminate a ‘Toolkit’ for all NYSARH members to communicate with their Congressional representatives.*

* *‘Scorecard’ map re: who voted against or for the HEROES Act in the House that includes a link for people to locate their own Representative*
* *Provide 3-5 Talking Points to NYSARH members*
* *Ask all members to reach out to Gillibrand, Schumer and their own Representative(s) over the Memorial Day break*
* *‘Lazur’ focus on the HEROES Act; do not dilute messages*
1. Clean Indoor Air: NYSACHO has asked NYSARH to support A10441/S8338 (Rosenthal/Benjamin) regarding the definition of ‘indoors’. Those present agreed that NYSARH will support this initiative.

*Action: Sara will notify NYSACHO and initiate appropriate follow up communication.*

Meeting adjourned at 12:05pm.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday June 23rd at 9AM.**

Preliminary Agenda

* Reports on federal advocacy results
* Plans for Policy Forum at Virtual NYSARH Conference

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Wall Bollinger