

NYSACHO Emerging Issues Committee Meeting
August 19, 2025: 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Attendees (NYSACHO): Sarah Montuori, Kayla Dise, Cristina Dyer-Drobnack, Danielle Pellino, Sarah Ravenhall

Attendees (LHDs): Livia Santiago-Rosado MD (Dutchess), Keith Brown (Schenectady), Tricia Bulatao (Albany), Cassandra Archer (Cayuga), Katee Padbury (Cortland), Missi Babcock (Cortland), Nicki Anjeski (Cortland), Christina Frederick (Franklin), Hannah Busman (Franklin), Kathleen King (Fulton), Paul Pettit (Genesee/Orleans), Maria Luz McKay (Hamilton), Maura Kennelly (NYC), Kate Ott (Ontario), Lisa Lahiff (Orange), Alex Scorzafava (Otsego), Abigail Mosenthin (Otsego), Shanna Siegel (Putnam), Deborah Dalmat (Schuyler), Kim Abate (Seneca), Kat Potter (Steuben), Heather Vroman (Tioga), Eve Walter (Ulster), Tina McDougall (Washington), Alyssa Arlen (Washington), Diane Devlin (Wayne), Laura Paolucci (Wyoming)

Agenda Item	Discussion
Meeting Discussion	Juul Settlement Funds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYSACHO reported that counties are beginning to receive Juul settlement funds and asked members to notify them when funds arrive. NYSACHO noted some confusion over recent FDA approvals of Juul products. The Center for Environmental Health directed staff to check the FDA's approved products list, but the Attorney General's office has not clarified whether approvals impact the settlement. Her assessment is that the settlement remains focused on marketing and compliance.
	Opioid Settlement Oversight <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One county shared that OASAS unexpectedly began reviewing settlement fund spending without clear guidance. Local staff were asked for extensive documentation beyond reporting requirements. Higher-ups at OASAS seemed unaware reviews had begun, leading to inconsistency and confusion. They raised concerns about possible conflicts of interest with reviewers and asked others to report if they receive similar requests. NYSACHO explained that this likely stems from a state budget requirement for local opioid settlement reporting, with OASAS tasked to organize it. NYSACHO said the Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors confirmed OASAS is still developing formal guidance.
	Kratom Legislation Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Details (S.4552/A.2340): Passed both houses; prohibits sale of kratom to anyone under 21, requires retailers to verify age and post signage, and mandates the Health Commissioner to study health effects within one year. If signed, it takes effect immediately. Environmental Health Committee Concerns: Enforcement capacity, unclear authority for inspections (head shops, CBD stores, alternative medicine outlets), and the sequencing of study versus regulation. One county emphasized enforcement strain, given existing challenges with flavored vapes and tobacco enforcement.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYC opposes the bill and will request a veto. Their concerns are that the bill downplays health risks for those over 21 and could normalize kratom use in food. NYC supports alternative legislation to classify kratom as a Schedule 1 controlled substance.• Committee Discussion:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Interest in aligning with NYC’s veto request but caution around endorsing immediate Schedule 1 classification due to limited research.○ One county suggested including specific language on what the committee recommends instead of only opposing.○ General agreement to recommend veto while keeping language broad, citing health risks and enforcement burdens, and leaving room for future recommendations.• Next Steps:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ NYSACHO will draft a letter to present at the September NYSACHO membership meeting (or expedite via Executive Committee if needed).○ Concerns will also be shared with lobbyist Amy Kellogg. <hr/> Federal Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NYSACHO: No major new developments since NACCHO’s recent briefing, but encouraged members to share congressional engagement activities with NYSACHO so NACCHO can support. Reminded members to notify if federal representatives visit their departments. <hr/> Emerging Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hearing Officers:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ One county raised difficulties in finding competent hearing officers, leading to significant financial losses. They asked if other counties had solutions or recommendations.○ Another county recalled some Hudson Valley counties jointly contracting administrative law judges, though their county uses an ad hoc contractor.○ NYSACHO offered to send a broader membership query. <hr/> Public Health Attorney Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One county mentioned a CDC-sponsored “new public health attorney boot camp,” useful for both new and experienced attorneys in health departments. It is now virtual and seeks participants. She will forward information to NYSACHO to distribute broadly. <hr/> Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meeting wrapped up with agreement to move forward on the Kratom veto letter, track settlement fund developments, and share resources on enforcement and legal training. Next membership vote on kratom language is scheduled for September unless expedited. <hr/> Adjournment <p>The next Emerging Issues Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16th, 2025 at 2pm.</p>
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