SUPPORTS

A6177/S1716-A (Solages/Brouk)

AN ACT to amend the public health law, in relation to community health assessment reporting

The New York State Association of County Health Officials (NYSACHO) strongly supports the above-referenced legislation which would align local community health assessment activities with the New York State Health Improvement Plan cycle. Under Article 6 of NYS Public Health Law, local health departments (LHDs) must conduct a community health assessment (CHA) and complete a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) identifying the interventions needed to address the population health needs of their communities. LHDs engage with the community at large as well as various stakeholders to collect input from their citizens, review locally collected and state public health data and work with other stakeholders to inform the priority health needs of the jurisdiction they serve.

The CHIP plan identifies the public health and other interventions to be implemented to improve health outcomes. The CHA/CHIP process includes hospitals, community-based organizations, businesses, local agencies (e.g. mental health, social services, offices of the aging), education and other partners. LHDs specifically work with non-profit hospitals who are required by the IRS to complete similar plans required for their non-profit status. Due the fact that many non-governmental entities serve cross-jurisdictional areas, many hospitals and LHDs work collaboratively on regional plans.

The current statutorily mandated frequency of the Community Health Assessment process is not aligned with New York State's State Health Improvement Plan (NYS Prevention Agenda) process, nor does it provide adequate time to implement and evaluate the local interventions and programs designed to address the community health priorities. Limited local resources are necessarily focused more on the assessment rather than on the community health improvement plan interventions aimed at improving health outcomes.

This legislation will align the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan with the New York State Prevention Agenda, assuring more focus on implementation of effective interventions and ongoing evaluation of data, as well as better management of local health department and community partner resources on health interventions. NYSACHO strongly supports this bill and recommends it be enacted into law.

NYSACHO Contact: Sarah Ravenhall, MHA, CHES, Executive Director, sravenhall@nysacho.org

Date issued: 2/28/25 Date adopted: 8/15/24