New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) Fellowship Program

**Educational Series:
Policy Engagement**

January 11, 2023

Welcome!

Agenda

- NYSPHC Program Overview

- Policy Engagement

- Questions

- Closing Evaluation/Program Updates

NYSPHC Program Overview

January 2021 Establishment of NYSPHC

New York State will launch the New York State Public Health Corps (NYSPHC) that will:

- Enhance public health capacity to support COVID-19 vaccination operations

- Increase preparedness to respond to future public health emergencies

Working with Local Health Departments and NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), NYSPHC will work to recruit and deploy Public Health Fellows to be assigned in communities across New York State

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

NYSPHC Core Competencies

1. Effective Communication

2. Data-Based Decision Making

3. Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

4. Budget and Financial Management

5. Change Management

6. Systems & Strategic Thinking

7. Community Engagement

8. Cross Sectoral Partnerships

9. Policy Engagement

10. Specialized Skills

Educational Series

- Sessions on core competencies and public health topics

- Guest speakers from NYSDOH, statewide IHEs and more

Policy Engagement

Policy Engagement to Improve the Public's Health

Wendy Weller, PhD
Associate Professor and Chair
Health Policy, Management, and Behavior Department

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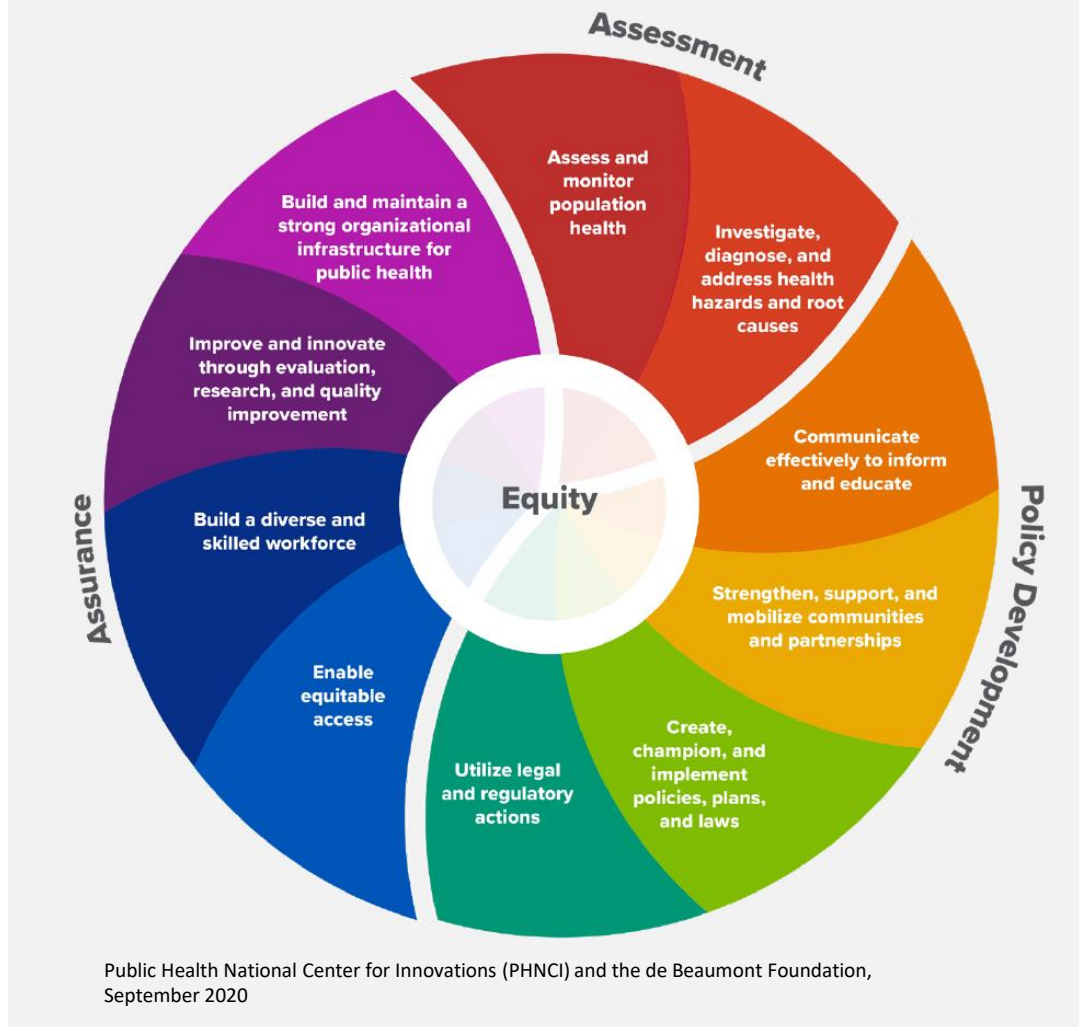State University of New York

- Understand what policy is and some of the ways policy changes have improved the public's health

- Describe the steps needed to formulate, enact, and implement public policy

- Identify influences on the policy-making process (e.g., stakeholders) and the skills and knowledge needed to influence the policy process

The 10 Essential Public Health Services

Assessment

Assess and monitor population health

Investigate, diagnose, and address health hazards and root causes

Policy Development

Communicate effectively to inform and educate

Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships

Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws

Utilize legal and regulatory actions

Assurance

Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

Improve and innovate through evaluation, research, and quality improvement

Build a diverse and skilled workforce

Enable equitable access

Equity

Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) and the de Beaumont Foundation, September 2020

Identified as a Public Health Strategic Skill

POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Involves working to inform, influence, implement, and evaluate legislation strategies at federal, state, and local levels in order to leverage long-lasting systems changes to protect and improve the public's health and well-being.

de Beaumont Foundation. "Adapting and Aligning Public Health Strategic Skills,". March 2021. https://debeaumont.org/strategic-skills/

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What is Policy?

- Policy in general refers to a "standard set of principles that guide a course of action" (Pollack Porter et al, 2018)

  - Policy can be "public" (made by the government) or "private/institutional" (made by organizations for institutional use)

- Today's presentation focuses on <u>public policy</u>

- Public Policy is typically defined as:

  <u>Authoritative decisions</u> made in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of [any level of] government that are intended to direct or influence the actions, behaviors, and decisions of others (Meacham, 2021)

- Public health policy are policies that pertain to or influence the pursuit of health

  - Public health policy domain is broad because the determinants of health are broad. Public health policy often overlaps with other policy domains (e.g., health care, education, agriculture, transportation, environment)

Role of Government in Public Health Policy

Executive Branch Implements Policy
- Implements laws
- Proposes legislation
- Approves/vetoes legislation
- Promulgates rules and regulation
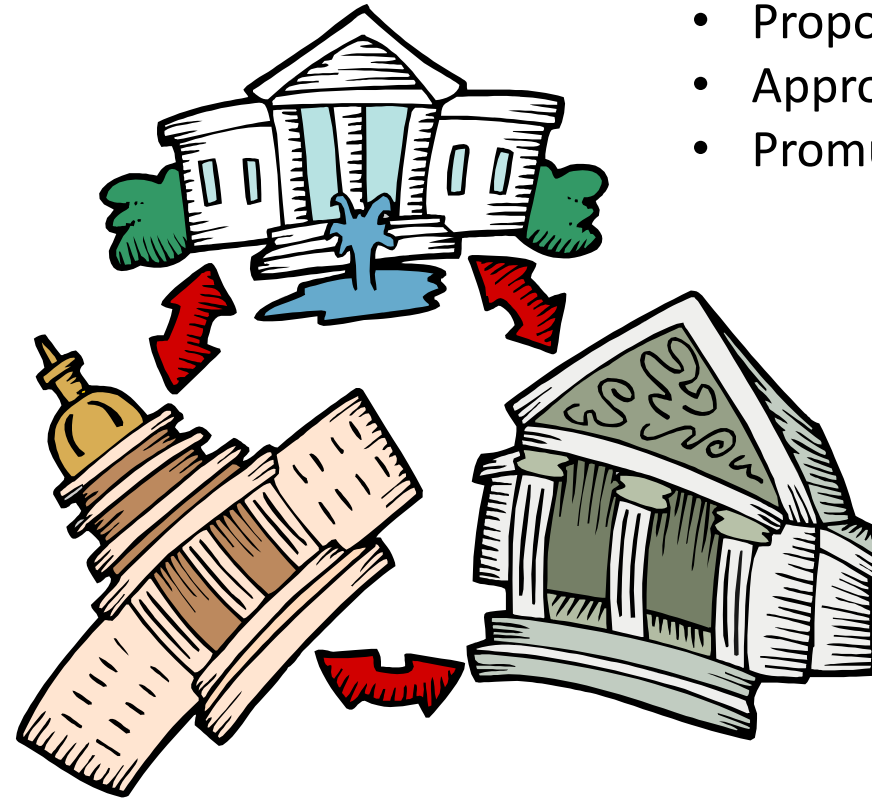
Legislative Branch Formulates Policy
- Enacts laws
- Creates and funds health programs
- Balances health policy with other policy domains

Judicial Branch Interprets Policy
- Interprets constitutional and statutory law
- Develops body of case law
- Preserves rights
- Resolves disputes

Public Health Policies Can Take Different Forms

Policy-Making Body	Type of Policy			
	Legislation	**Regulation**	**Litigation**	**Other***
Governmental				
Federal	U.S. Congress	Federal administrative agencies (e.g., DHHS)	Cases heard within the federal court system	Presidential and gubernatorial executive orders (legally binding and allow for rapid policy change)
State	State Legislature	State administrative agencies (e.g., NYS DOH)	Cases heard within the state court system	
Local	Local Legislative Body	Local administrative agencies (e.g., Albany County Health Department)	Cases heard by local courts	Some policies don't have the force of law (e.g., guidance documents)
Nongovernmental				
Private				
Institutional	Must comply with federal, state, & local laws	Must comply with federal, state, and local rules and regulations	May initiate or be subject to litigation	May develop policies to be applied to institutions

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Examples of Policy Changes That Have Contributed to Notable Public Health Success

Policies Contributing to Reductions in Tobacco Use

- Increased tobacco prices

- Tobacco-free areas, including commercial U.S. flights

- Tobacco advertising regulation

- Warning labels required

- Increased tobacco sales age

- Health insurers required to cover smoking cessation products

Policies Contributing to Improved Motor Vehicle Safety

- Safety belt laws

- Banning texting and driving

- Alcohol-impaired driving laws

- Regulations around young drivers

- Improving roads and pedestrian crossings
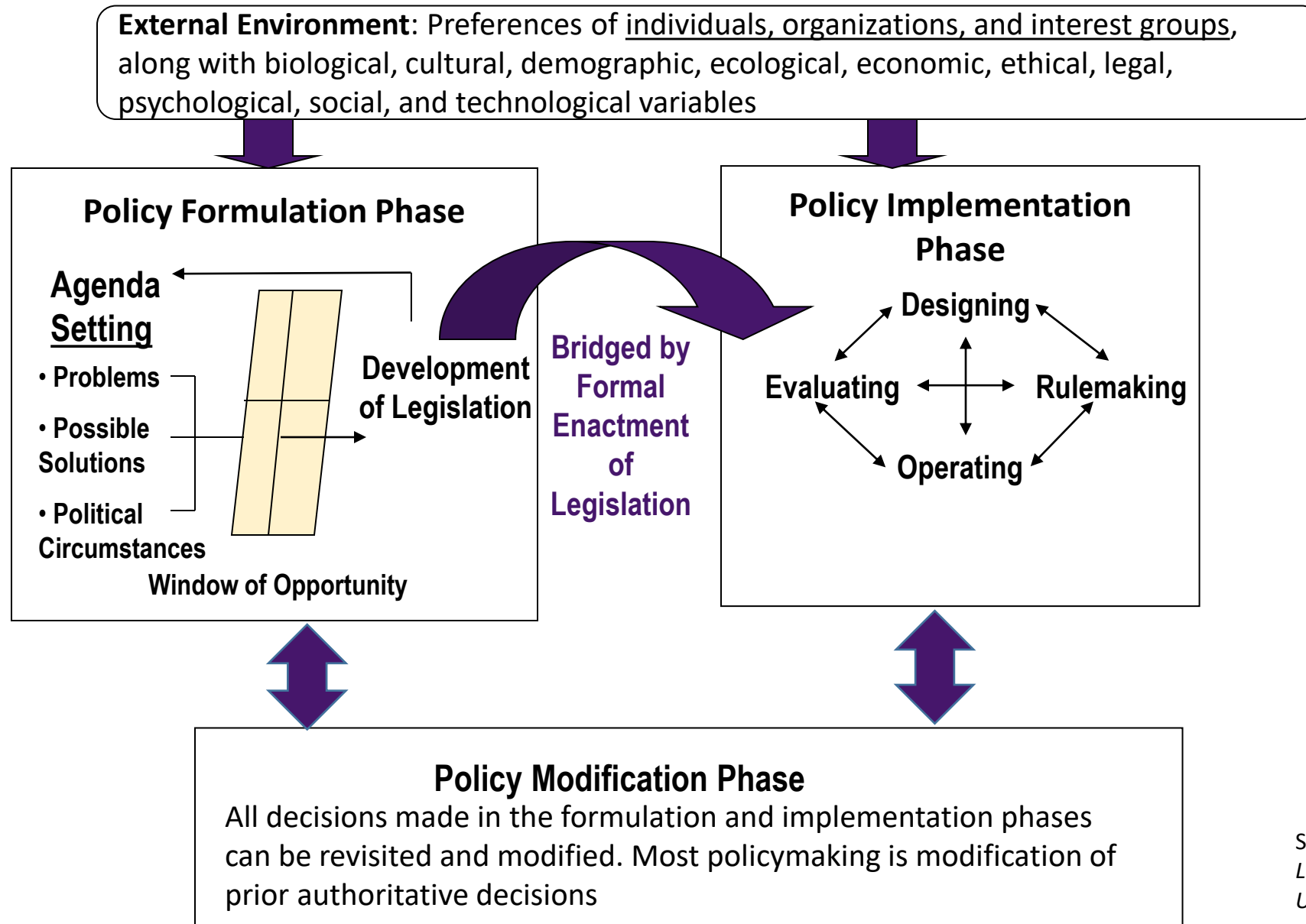
- Child safety and booster seats
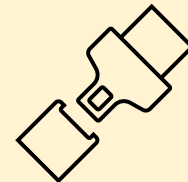
Policies Contributing to Improved Access to Health Insurance

- Excluding employers' contributions to employee's health plans from taxable income.

- Creation of Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP

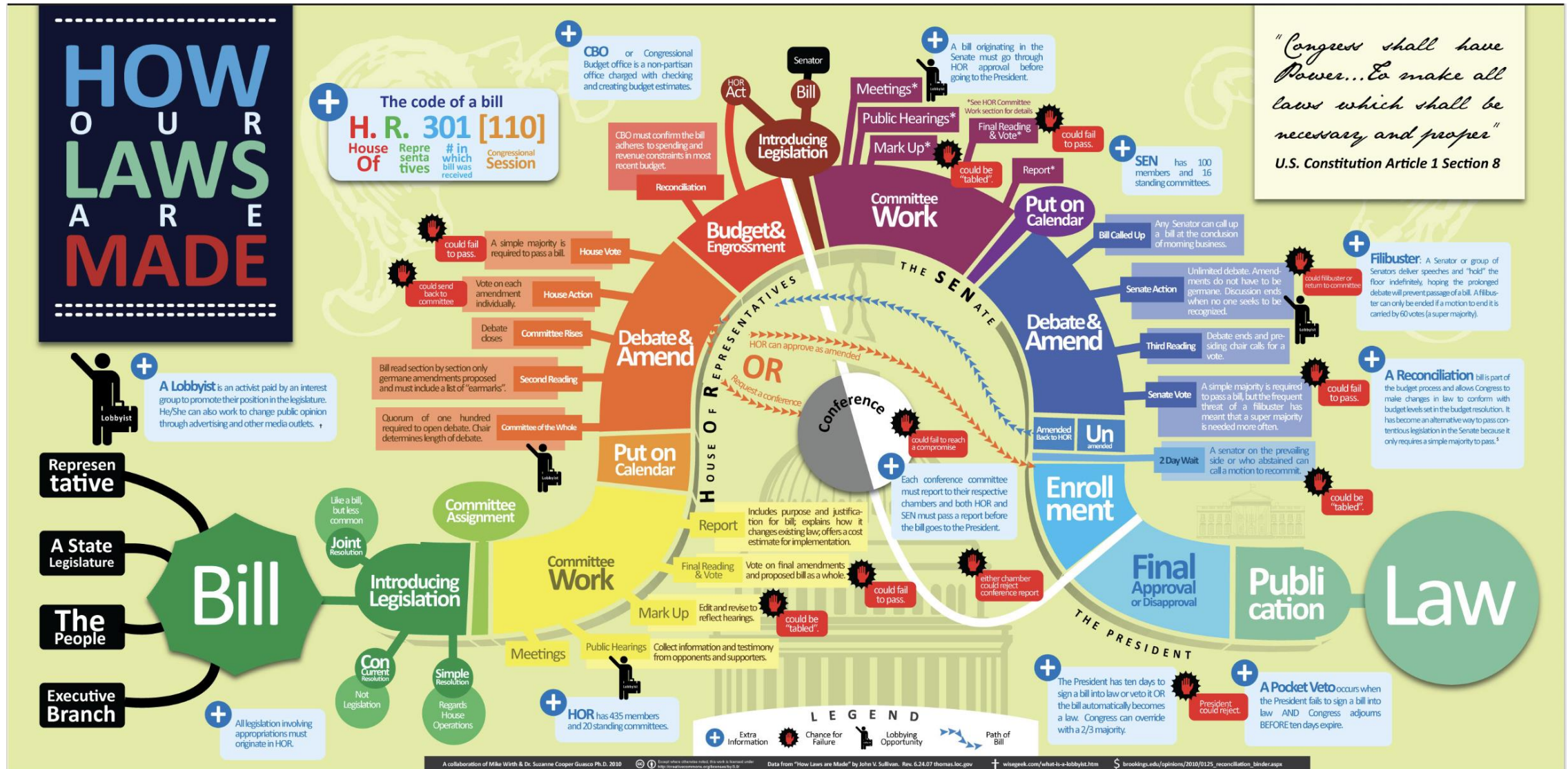- Mental Health Parity Act

- Affordable Care Act

The Public Policymaking Process

External Environment: Preferences of <u>individuals, organizations, and interest groups</u>, along with biological, cultural, demographic, ecological, economic, ethical, legal, psychological, social, and technological variables

Policy Formulation Phase

Agenda Setting

- Problems
- Possible Solutions
- Political Circumstances

Development of Legislation

Window of Opportunity

Bridged by Formal Enactment of Legislation

Policy Implementation Phase

Designing

Evaluating ↔ Rulemaking

Operating

Policy Modification Phase

All decisions made in the formulation and implementation phases can be revisited and modified. Most policymaking is modification of prior authoritative decisions

How Our Laws Are Made

Who Influences Public Health Policy?

- Individuals

- Media

- Groups/Organizations – tend to more effectively influence policy, especially well-organized interest groups

  - <u>Interest groups</u>: An **interest group** is made up of individuals who share a **common view** on a a specific topic that is going to be regulated through public policy. Members of the group work together to see their view reflected in the policy.


American Public Health Association

American Medical Student Association

American Medical Association

American Nurses Association

AARP

Families USA

American Heart Association

- Defining and documenting the problem

- Developing and evaluating evidence-based solutions

- Shaping political circumstances through lobbying and the courts

*Important to be aware of the differences between lobbying and advocacy

Agenda Setting
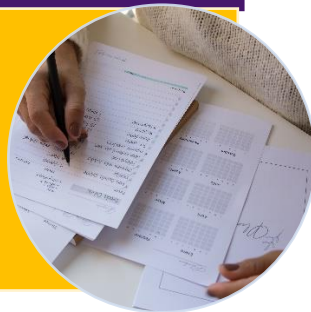
- Participating in the drafting of legislation

- Testifying at legislative hearings

Legislative Development

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Opportunities for Public Health Professionals to Influence Policy Implementation

Designing
- Collaborating with policymakers to make policies succeed
- Serving as testing site for new approaches

Rulemaking
- Provide formal comments on proposed rules
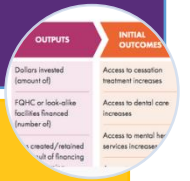- Serving on, and providing input to rulemaking advisor bodies

Operating
- Interacting with, and giving feedback to, policy implementers
- Documenting the case for modification through operational experience

Evaluation
- Conducting formal evaluations and sharing results
- Participating in evaluations conducted by others

- Written and Oral communication
  - Policy writing is concise and to the point (policymakers and their staff are juggling multiple issues)
  - Know your audience
  - Practice translating technical and/or scientific language into plain language understood by non-technical audience

- Familiarity with policy processes, policymaking context, and key actors, including staying on top of current policy debates and political dynamics at the federal, state, and local levels
  - Read newspapers, policy briefs, policy websites
  - Follow reliable news sources and policy organizations on social media

- Critical thinking to analyze complex information and draw accurate and useful conclusions

- Policy analysis to identify and explain policy problems, identify policy options for addressing the problem, and evaluate and recommend options using defined criteria (e.g., cost, effectiveness, political feasibility

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- Needs assessment and program evaluation skills are important for documenting policy problems using evidence, helping policymakers understand community health needs, and determining the impact of programs/policies and how they can be improved

- Content expertise and the ability to translate research into policy-relevant information

- Community organizing and engagement

  - Important for communities to have input in developing, implementing, evaluating, and improving policies, programs, and services that affect them

- Ability to develop and maintain relationships

  - Develop good interpersonal relationships that build trust over time through honesty, integrity, listening skills, and the ability to see things from another view. Can disagree without being disagreeable.

  - Become a "go to" for reliable data and information for legislators, key administrators, and their staff

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Working in the Policy Field: Types of Jobs and Settings

- Many different roles in the health policy field, most common is a health policy analyst.
  - Compile and review data, generate ideas and implement solutions to public health policy challenges, and facilitate progress and development of new public health initiatives to safeguard people from epidemics, political injustice and ineffective legislation

- Health policy analysts work in numerous settings in both public and private organizations, such as:

Public Settings	Private Settings
• Legislative and executive branches of state and federal government	• Non-profit organizations • Trade associations • Think tanks • Private sector consulting firms • Drug and device manufacturers • Health care delivery systems • Health insurance companies

Note: See slides at the end for a <u>very long</u> yet incomplete list of health and public policy organizations and resources and their websites

- Policy has played and will continue to play a large role in public health.

- Working in the field of policy can be exciting, fun, and rewarding BUT sometimes it can be challenging, frustrating, and goes slower than we would like.

- Policy is much more complicated than the "simple" models that are often shown. It is an iterative process that is rarely linear.

- Even if you don't end up in a job or career that is directly working on policy, it is likely that what you are doing is still be relevant to policy in some way. Therefore, it's important to keep in mind how policy is shaped and changed.

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Sources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of the Associate Director for Policy and Strategy. CDC Policy Process. March 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/policy/opaph/process/index.html

- de Beaumont Foundation. *Adapting and Aligning Public Health Strategic Skills*. March 2021. https://debeaumont.org/strategic-skills/

- Meacham MR. *Longest's Health Policymaking in the United States, 7th edition.* 2021.

- Pollack Porter KM, Rutkow L, McGinty EE. The Importance of Policy Change for Addressing Public Health Problems. *Public Health Reports*. 2018. 133(Supplement I): 9S-14S.

- Public Health National Center for Innovations and the de Beaumont Foundations. 10 Essential Public Health Services (revised). September 2020. https://phnci.org/national-frameworks/10-ephs

Health and Public Policy Resources

Note that these are just a "few" resources in the next few slides. There are many more resources that are not listed.

Health and Public Policy Resources -- Websites

- **Note: Some of these links may no longer be up-to date, but most of them do still work and may be useful**

Federal Government - Congress

- Legislative Information: http://www.congress.gov
- House of Representatives: http://www.house.gov
- U.S. Senate: http://www.senate.gov
- Congressional Budget Office: http://www.cbo.gov
- "Federal Register": https://www.federalregister.gov
- "Code of Federal Regulations": https://www.govinfo.gov/help/cfr
- "United States Code": http://uscode.house.gov/
- General Accountability Office (GAO): http://www.gao.gov
- Government Printing Office (Congressional reports): http://www.gpo.gov
- "Roll Call": http://www.rollcall.com

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Health and Public Policy Resources -- Websites

Federal Government Agencies - Executive

- The White House: http://www.whitehouse.gov
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB): http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: http://www.hhs.gov
- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/
- Bureau of Labor Statistics: http://www.bls.gov/
- Centers for Disease Control: http://www.cdc.gov
- Health Resources and Services Administration: http://www.hrsa.gov/
- National Institutes of Health: http://www.nih.gov
- National Library of Medicine: http://www.nlm.nih.gov
- National Center for Health Statistics: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: http://www.samhsa.gov
- Agency for Health Care Research and Quality: http://www.ahrq.gov
- Medicare Payment Advisory Commission: http://www.medpac.gov
- U.S. Office of Rural Health Policy: http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov/
- Bureau of Health Professions: http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/
- Agency for International Development: http://www.usaid.gov/
- U.S. Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/hlthins.html
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration: http://www.fda.gov
- U.S. Department of Labor: http://www.dol.gov/
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: http://www.va.gov/

State and Local Government

- State health departments:
https://www.cdc.gov/publichealthgateway/healthdirectories/healthdepartments.html
- National Conference of State Legislatures: http://www.ncsl.org
- National Governors Association: http://www.nga.org
- National Academy for State Health Policy: http://www.nashp.org
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials: http://www.astho.org

Health Care Professional and Advocacy Organizations

- Academy Health https://www.academyhealth.org

- Alliance for Health Policy: https://www.allhealthpolicy.org/
- American Psychiatric Association: https://www.psychiatry.org/
- American Psychological Association: https://www.apa.org/
- American Public Health Association: https://www.apha.org/
- Families USA: https://www.familiesusa.org/
- National Coalition on Health Care https://nchc.org/
- National Health Council: https://nationalhealthcouncil.org/
- Center for Medicare Advocacy: https://www.medicareadvocacy.org
- Medicare Rights Center: https://www.medicarerights.org
- Health Care Leadership Council: https://www.hlc.org
- America's Health Insurance Plans: https://www.ahip.org/
- Health Research and Education Trust: https://www.aha.org/center/hret
- American Association of Retired Persons: https://www.aarp.org/

Health Care Professional and Advocacy Organizations

- World Health Organization: https://www.who.int/
- American Nurses Association: https://www.nursingworld.org/
- National Association of Community Health Centers: https://www.nachc.org
- National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems: https://www.naph.org
- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners: https://www.aanp.org
- American Academy of Physician Assistants: https://www.aapa.org
- Association of American Medical Colleges: https://www.aamc.org
- American Medical Association: https://www.ama-assn.org/
- American Hospital Association: https://www.aha.org/
- The Joint Commission: https://www.jointcommission.org/
- National Committee for Quality Assurance: https://www.ncqa.org
- Pan American Health Organization: https://www.paho.org

Health Care Resource Centers and Think Tanks

- Center for Health Care Strategies: https://www.chcs.org
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: https://www.cbpp.org
- The Commonwealth Fund: https://www.commonwealthfund.org/
- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: https://www.rwjf.org
- The Urban Institute: https://www.urban.org
- The Heritage Foundation: https://www.heritage.org
- National Academy of Social Insurance: https://www.nasi.org
- National Academy of Medicine: https://nam.edu/
- Kaiser Family Foundation: https://www.kff.org

Health Care Resource Centers and Think Tanks

- Employee Benefits Research Institute: https://www.ebri.org
- Project Hope: https://www.projecthope.org/
- National Health Policy Forum https://hsrc.himmelfarb.gwu.edu/sphhs_centers_nhpf/

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Questions?

Announcements

Announcements & Updates

- Please complete the Educational Series Evaluation Survey which will be sent via email following this meeting.

- If you want to continue the conversation, join the NYSPHC Fellowship Program LinkedIn Group to continue networking and professional development: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14059709

New York State Public Health Corps
Fellowship Program
LinkedIn Group

NYSPHC Training and Resources Website

https://nysphcresources.health.ny.gov/training-resource-center

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Fellowship Program

Training Resource Center Home

About the NYSPHC

Fellow Training Resources

Mentor Training Resources

Resources by Region

Workgroup Resources

NYSPHC Events Calendar

Save the Date

Data-Based Decision Making
- February 8, 2023
- 12 pm – 1 pm