

#

Judging Dept.

Meghan Ochal

Student

HPM&B

2

Sylvia Pirani

Dept or Program Years in program

Mentor

## Strengthening New York State's Public Health Workforce

Author (s)

**Meghan Ochal**

**Background:** The public health workforce in New York State faces challenges that include an aging workforce, shortages in key professional areas, and a lack of training and education. The NYS Public Health Workforce Task Force, a unique multidisciplinary team, was created in 2005 as a way to confront and overcome these challenges.

**Objectives:** Work with the Task Force to identify and implement priority strategies.

**Data and Methods:** Convene key Task Force workgroups to begin implementing strategies and activities. The Locate and Advocate for New Resources workgroup focuses on educating partners and decision-makers on the need for additional commitment and resources to strengthen the workforce. The Strengthen Workplace Policies and Procedures workgroup conducts research on best practices for the local health department workplace and will assist in implementation of these recommended practices. The Market Public Health Careers workgroup is developing and disseminating models for the recruitment of qualified students and professionals into the public health field.

**Results:** This poster outlines the activities, outcomes, challenges, and recommendations of Task Force workgroups, as well as other initiatives related to the overall Task Force goals.

**Conclusions:** The collaborative and multidisciplinary focus of the Task Force is a model for carrying out proposed strategies to strengthen the public health workforce.

**Relevance to public health:** Throughout the nation, the public health field is facing the same workforce challenges as those faced in NY. The Task Force and its activities can serve as a useful model for public health workforce development in other states and regions.