



NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**Regular Meeting Location
South Brunswick Municipal Building
540 Ridge Avenue
South Brunswick, New Jersey**

**P.O. Box 5069
Kendall Park, NJ 08824**

*April 11, 2020
10:30 am – 1:00 pm*

MEETING MINUTES

*Meeting called by Christine Harris, President
Call to order: Pledge of Allegiance*

*Zoom Telecommunication: Member roll call 732-747.3567 host; John Saccenti
Christine Harris, John Saccenti, Michael Richmond, Dr. Harris Levine, Steve Papenberg, Robert Uhrik, Joan
Velaz, Nancy Wilson, Laura Stanzilis, Rochelle Evans, Jo Hochman, and Paul Roman*

*Motion for Approval of March 7, 2020 meeting minutes 1st Dr. Harris Levine 2nd Steve Papenberg, unanimously
approved.*

Discussion Topics:

President's Announcements:

- *Telephone interview with Kelly Heybaer, Star Ledger on March 25th. Topic: Communication efficacy between the state, local health officials and the community.*
- *CDC and NJDOH website links for COVID19 information.*
- *Need to begin to strategize on how BOH should function.*
- *Because of the rapid evolving information and personal behavioral recommendations on COVID19, a special newsletter was not created.*

Membership Committee - Steve Papenberg, John Saccenti, and Paul Roman: Do we now have a comprehensive membership list? Membership 96 listed; 52 paid so far.

Legal Attorney Michael Richmond:

1. *Conversation with PH Dir at NJ College on students participating with us. Everything is being done and update is forthcoming*
2. *Sustainable Jersey: Working on action section - education and organization.*
3. *Video update. Can use webinar and place on the website. Also advised that a webinar should increase our revenue in lieu of an award dinner in December. Health officers need sufficient policy guidance. The current New Jersey Public Health Emergency Powers Acts has no police power, no enforcement in the act, but Executive Order #107 identifies Disorderly Persons or Public Nuisance. Recommended developing a group to communicate and couple with OEM which may be applied to persons who refuse to comply.*

Communication - Newsletter – Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis: The newsletter has gone out; suggested that we renew our Facebook page. Suggested that a 2-3 min video be made and linked with Facebook and Liked-in and link to other social media. Will get articles from PHACE and DOH.

Reports by Ex-Officio Members – Bob Uhrik:



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Report State Legislative Liaison: Jo Hochman: *It remains unclear if a meeting of the League of Municipalities will take place. Legislature is working on Covid19 issues and challenges.*

PHACE- Paul Roman, Steve Papenberg: *Paul reiterated that we are the de facto representative voice of over 3200 appointed or elected BOH members in over 450 boards in NJ 95 health departments.*

Treasurer's Report- Stephen Papenberg- *submitted by email; Motion to approve by Nancy and seconded by Dr. Harris Levine. Mike Richmond commented that our budget is based on a membership of 120 members. We need an additional 35 members in order to meet our budgetary needs.*

Other Business/Open Discussion:

1. *Forwarded a link from Soledad O'Brien (NJPHA) inviting us to submit a 60 second video discussing "Why public Health Matter". Email originated from Kevin McNally- PHAB asking for supports. Lisa Gulla suggested reaching out to NJSOPHE President, to do on behalf of NJ.*

<https://whypublichealthmatters.org/>

2. *Michael Richmond, Jo Hochman and Rochelle Evans reminded all to remember the Food Banks as they are running low and contributions are welcome. A listing of NJ Food banks will be added to our web*

3. *Dr. Levine mentioned that there is planned testing for antibodies and positive covid19.*

Discussion on issues of the function of public health role of BOH in emergencies and community communication.

- *Michael suggestion: 2 full membership meetings per year. Topic Pandemic - Lessons learned; webinar (with presenters); comments by DOH of how local health departments are overrun, indicates that their idea of current structures in county health departments is counterproductive and perhaps a slight change in the DOH may be possible.*

- *Breakout sessions invitation.*

- *Need more communication at the community level (Especially when local papers die). What system exists and how to create one. County departments differ and do not communicate with the communities they represent how to the NJDOH.*

Laura will also work on this: create agenda, get presenters and send a mock webinar invitation.

4. *Paul recommended that we read Title 26 of the NJDOH codes. He also recommended that we consider Emergency Operations Plan to coordinate with OEM and local Mayors. The annex of Title 26:13 spells out Public Health and Boards responsibilities: governance and compliance. In instances of "Shared Services" it is the responsibility of the Health Officer to communicate with those municipalities.*

5. *Boards should meet during this time discussing emergent issues of the time, utilizing telecommunications devices/applications. Their responsibilities continue to be oversight and compliance and ensure that the health officer is complying with the public health annex of the emergency management plan, signed by the mayor under the Declaration of Emergency.*



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6. *Paul suggested that we reconnect to ANJEC.*
7. *Discussed changing the award dinner interval and venue.*

Adjournment: 12:30 pm

Next meeting will be via ZOOM hosted by John Saccenti on May 2, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted
Rochelle Evans, Secretary*