



New Jersey
Local Boards of Health Association

Newsletter

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www.NJLBHA.org

Spring 2018

President's Message

Dear Fellow Board of Health Members,

Congratulations to newly elected Governor Phil Murphy, Lieutenant Governor Sheila Oliver, and the appointment of Dr. Shereef Elnahal as acting Commissioner for the DOH. As with all new administrations, statewide assessments were conducted, and we eagerly await the publication of the Health and Human Services Transition Teams findings and recommendations. NJLBHA welcomes the opportunity to work with the new health commissioner.



Thank you for your participation in the NJLBHA festive 2017 Annual Awards Dinner that honored and celebrated the accomplishment of public health officials in multiple disciplines across our State.

As members of boards of health, we are presented with

challenging public health issues. For example, this season's influenza has caused an unusually high number of outpatient and emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths. In addressing this, health departments have intensified their efforts by conducting educational sessions, distributing educational materials, encouraging behavioral changes that prevent transmission of disease, and encouraging citizens to obtain influenza vaccinations (flu shots).

Other challenges include addressing the opioid addiction crisis; considering ways to create healthy communities; engaging in conversations surrounding recreational and/or medical marijuana and legislation; and facing the aftermath of nature's devastating events. This is just a few of the myriad of public health concerns that must be confronted.

Your Association looks forward to working with Commissioner Dr. Elnahal and Director Shereen Semple, Office of Local Public Health; in continuing our close association and work with our sister health organizations; advocating for public health policy; and continuing partnership with the legislature.

Join your state association, NJLBHA. Become an active member or select members from your Boards of Health to represent your concerns at the executive level. All are welcome. Visit our website at www.njlbha.org.

If you have questions, would like to participate or just attend meetings, please contact me at President@njlbha.org.

Christine Harris, BA, MPA, CBHM
President

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If you would like to contribute articles to a future newsletter, please submit them to Valerie A. Williams, CBHM. Editor NJLBHA Newsletter through news@njlbha.org.

Board Spotlight
Michael Richmond



Mike has been an attorney for over 40 years. He served as a Municipal Prosecutor in more than six New Jersey communities. In each of the communities that he represented, he prosecuted cases for the local health department. In several of the communities he worked with the health department to develop enforcement programs in multiple dwelling enforcement, retail commercial properties and animal control.

He has also served as an Assistant Township Attorney. He has drafted ordinances, litigated the defense of ordinances, and advised governing bodies.

Recently Mike has served on the Public Health Practice Standards Committee revising the regulation governing local boards of health. Mike also serves on the Animals in the Community Task Force of Sustainable Jersey.

An author, having authored New Jersey Municipal Court Practice by Gann Law Books, he is also a teacher, having developed and taught several courses on public health issues through Career Development Institute.

Mike is up to date on the issues facing the Local Boards of Health and is in the forefront dealing with the most pressing issues.

The New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) thanks Mike for his generous service to public health in New Jersey. Mike volunteers his services as the attorney for the NJLBHA.

Michael Richmond can be reached at mrsnjlawyer@yahoo.com or 908-421-3905.

Local Boards of Health – Lifeline for New Jersey Residents
By Shereen Semple, Director of Office of Local Public Health (OLPH),
New Jersey Department of Health

Local Boards of Health (LBH) are often the lifeline for New Jersey residents.

Every day, local health officials work behind the scenes to prevent the spread of diseases and to protect residents' health. These community based departments are the front-line forces responsible for essential public health services in the state.

Whether it's restaurant and workplace inspections, water monitoring, emergency planning, surveillance of other possible environmental hazards, or promotion of healthy behaviors, the local health departments protect the health of New Jersey's citizens. These departments also serve as resources for residents looking for help and healthcare service, because they have their fingers directly on the pulse of the community and know exactly what resources are available.

As every municipality in New Jersey is required to be served by a local health department, they are often the first stop in declaring emergencies and in tackling the state's public health issues.

The local boards are essential partners of the Department of Health, spreading important messages about how to stop the spread of flu, viruses, STDs, and illnesses spread by insects like Zika, Lyme Disease and West Nile. Their work often makes the difference between a handful of incidents and an epidemic, between life and death.

Currently, the local boards are working with us on a myriad of issues, including trying to stem the opioid epidemic that is robbing so many New Jerseyans of their loved ones.

The boards also are an integral part of the Division of Public Health Infrastructure, Laboratories and Emergency Preparedness (PHILEP), which provides strategic and operational leadership to coordinate New Jersey's local public health agencies, laboratory services and emergency preparedness and response.

I am honored to collaborate with these hard-working departments and look forward to our continued successful partnerships.

Respectfully,
Shereen Semple
Local Health Services Director
New Jersey Department of Health



Local Boards of Health and Community Health Improvement Planning

By Steven Papenberg, Health Officer

One of the fundamental responsibilities of Local Boards of Health in New Jersey is to assure compliance with the Public Health Practice Standards in their communities. In the past, these standards were defined as minimum standards based on categories including administration, environmental, chronic disease, communicable disease and health education.

Current public health practice standards are based on the core functions of public health as defined by the 1988 National Institute of Health Report. These functions are assessment, policy development and assurance. The present Public Health Standards also include the 10 essential public health services. These services are as follows:

Assessment

1. Monitor Health Status
2. Diagnose and investigate
3. Inform, educate and empower
4. Mobilize community partnership policy development

Policy Development

5. Develop polices and plans

Assurances

6. Enforce Laws and regulations
7. Link people to needed Health Services
8. Ensure a Competent local public health system
9. Evaluate populations – based on public health services
10. Research for innovations



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Subchapter 9 of the practice standards defines the role of Local Health Departments in the development of Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) in a county or multi-county area. The Standards emphasize partnerships with key corporate, private and nonprofit entities. NJAC.8:52-5.3(A) specifically mandates that “Each Local Board of Health shall ensure that there is a mechanism that provides leadership to develop partnerships with community organizations and/or agencies which have a demonstrable effect on or compelling interest in, the Health Status of the population in accordance with NJAC.8:52-9.2”.

NJAC.8:52-9.2 specifies the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process.

In order to comply with these standards at a minimum, the status of the CHIP process should be an agenda item at each Board of Health Meeting. Board of Health Members as representatives of their communities should be invited and encouraged to actively participate in the CHIP process by the Board of Health Chairperson and the Local Health Officer.

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association (NJLBHA) serves as a resource to assist in this endeavor critical to creating Healthy Communities in New Jersey. You may visit our website at www.njlbha.org.



Call to Action!
Morris County Stigma-Free
By Morris County Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo

On January 5, 2018 Morris County Freeholder Kathy DeFillippo rendered the following speech:

“Good Evening and Happy New Year

Thanks to everyone who braved the cold to be with us tonight for our annual meeting. As the Boards’ Liaison to Human Services, and with so many of our county leaders in this room tonight. I would like to take this opportunity to focus on probably the most important and daunting issue facing Morris County...Opioid Addiction

We are involved in a county-wide effort to deal with the Opioid Epidemic – and yes, it is an epidemic – which effects every family, every neighborhood, every town, every school district, and every business in our county. Overdose deaths in the county in 2017 are on the rise. Unfortunately, there were about 80 fatal opiate overdoses last year in Morris County, and many more near misses.



We have closely partnered with Sheriff Jim Gannon, Prosecutor Fred Knapp, our Department of Human Services, and our many nonprofit partners on these issues.

However, the combination of mental illness and addiction is a two-pronged dilemma that does not have easy solutions. Most importantly, we must understand that we are dealing with illness, and we must encourage people to come forward for help

To help foster that attitude, the Freeholders proclaimed Morris County as a Stigma-Free County —free from the stigma and discrimination that has been associated far too long with mental illness and addiction disorders

We have jointed 27 of our towns in this grass roots Stigma-Free effort, because we recognized that:

- ◇ One in Four of our residents has experienced mental illness, including substance use
- ◇ Mental Health problems are more common than Cancer and Heart Disease combined
- ◇ These problems affect children and adults equally; no segment of our society is immune

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Father John Theodosion - Saint Andrews Greek Orthodox and Rev. Sidney S. Williams, Jr.
Senior Pastor – Bethel Church of Morristown at Freeholder DeFillippo's address.



- ◇ More than half of our returning military veterans, from Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan are being treated at our Veteran Hospitals for these issues.
- ◇ And the stigma associated with mental health and substance abuse disorders is identified as the primary reason that individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from these disorders

We understand that the Stigma-Free concept must be more than just a slogan... that it must become a fabric of our county community to have any real meaning...

I would assure you that the Freeholder Board in 2018 is fully committed to the effort to battle mental illness and addiction, and to raise awareness of our programs and resources

For those who are lost in Morris County with mental illness and substance use, know that our Stigma-Free community is reaching out to help you.

We ask all of you in the audience tonight to join us in this effort. Just visit MorrisCountyStigmaFree.Org for information on this effort.

Thank you for listening. And have a Happy 2018.”

Kathy DeFillippo, Morris County Freeholder

A Note from Valerie A. Williams, Vice President of Communications, New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association:

As a witness to the aforementioned speech, the audience, including all of the Morris County Freeholders, Dignitaries, and Clergy, appeared to grasp the words of Freeholder DeFillippo. The Call to Action moved from the Freeholders meeting room to the reception area where most conversations included Morris County becoming Stigma-Free and what could be done to help. I am proud to be a resident of Morris County!

Congratulations to our 2017 New Jersey Local Boards Of Health Association Distinguished Honorees

Lifetime Achievement

Dr. George DiFerdinando
Princeton Health Department

Lifetime Achievement

Peter N. Tabbot
Rockaway Township Health Department

Health Officer of the Year

Dr. Paschal Nwako
Camden County Health Department

Public Health Advocates of the Year

Jeanne Herb and Marjorie Kaplan
NJ Climate Adaptation Alliance

Registered Environmental Health Specialist of the Year

Jae Bae
Englewood Cliffs Board of Health

Public Health Nurse of the Year

Lynn Azmudeh
Paterson Health Department

Board of Health Member of the Year

Algiers Holmes
Lawnside Board of Health



Certificates of Achievement for their work in promoting Public Health

Public Health Nurse

Helen Giles –
Mount Olive Township

Health Officer

James Fedorko
Englewood

Health Officer

F. Michael Fitzpatrick –
Bloomfield

Registered Environmental Health Specialist

Caryelle Lasher
Camden County

Health Officer

Margaret Jahn
Freehold Area Health Department





LEGAL CORNER

By **Michael Richmond, Esq.**

In the closing days of the last legislative session a bill dealing with animal cruelty investigation was passed and signed by outgoing Governor Christie. Now known as PL. 2017 Chapter 331, this bill was motivated by a report from the State Commission of Investigation which was a follow-up of a report which had been made 17 years before. The report of the State Commission of Investigation from October 2017 was very critical of the fact that the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was not able to make follow-up on complaints that had been made. There were also criticisms as to the record keeping and reports that were required to be made. Fine money and Penalty monies were not properly accounted for. The report came to the conclusion that the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals should be relieved of its role in enforcing animal cruelty laws.

Under the new law animal cruelty enforcement will be conducted by the County Prosecutor's Offices. Each county will have an Animal Cruelty Prosecutor, Chief Humane Law Enforcement Officer and designated county shelter facilities. Investigating animal cruelty is now a law enforcement activity.

As you all should know there are other types of animal activity which has been enforced at the local level. This would include such activities as unlicensed or unvaccinated dogs and cats, animals running at large, noise and damage complaints, to name just a few. In many communities these ordinances have been enforced by the Animal Control Officer. This is a person certified by the Department of Health to perform various animal welfare and animal control activities. Specific provisions of the Animal Cruelty Law such as NJSA 4:19-15.16c, which gave animal control officers the power to enforce animal cruelty statutes and ordinances, are now repealed.

NJSA 4:19-15.16 gives the animal control officer the power to take into custody any stray dog, any dog off the premises of the owner without a current dog tag and any dog or other animal thought to be Rabid. It is not a very useful tool.

Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers (MHLEO) are to be appointed in every municipality. These officers can be police officers, animal cruelty investigators, former SPCA humane law enforcement officers or animal control officer, who can serve in office for one year while they obtain the training or training waivers that will be required by the Attorney General and the Police Training Commission. All Humane Law Enforcement Officers will have the full power to enforce all animal cruelty, animal control, licensing laws, and regulations, including powers of arrest, search, and seizure. Each municipality must appoint at least one Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer.

Your municipality can investigate adopting an ordinance which makes your Animal Control Officer the public official for enforcing those ordinances related to dog and cat licensing, animals running at large, unvaccinated animals, noise and damage by animals. These ordinances can be adopted under the provisions of NJSA 40:48-2.4. These ordinances should only be adopted with the advice of your legal counsel.

Or you may seek to have one or more of your Animal Control Officers to also serve as a MHLEO. Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers are nominated by the governing body, then reviewed and approved by the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the municipality. Animal control officers by their certification have most likely obtained the animal control portion of the Human Law Enforcement Officers Training. This would entitle them to an exemption from that portion of the training for humane law enforcement officer. Those animal control officers who also took the animal cruelty investigator course should be entitled to an exemption for the bulk of the Humane Law Enforcement Officers Course.

“What you do not want to happen is for your animal control officer to issue a summons for a dog barking and losing in court due to the repeal of the officers enforcement powers. Choose which either path, new ordinance or municipal humane law officer appointment, you and your animal control officer want to pursue; but don't wait.”

NJ Legislative Committee Hears testimony on Cottage Food Bill A801

By Robert Uhrik, Immediate Past President NJEHA



On February 1, 2018 I testified at the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in opposition to the pending Legislative Bill A801, commonly referred to as the “Cottage Food Bill”.

The committee called on me to be the first person to comment about this legislation and gave me a five minute limit for my testimony. I explained that the concept of ‘cottage food’ presents a serious concern to Public Health Authorities in New Jersey since we are charged to protect the public health. The committee was presented copies of position papers from NJEHA and NJACCHO that detailed our concerns. A special concern that I highlighted was about cottage food kitchens in homes on well or septic. There is no provision in the bill if a cottage food baker’s residence is on a private well or septic system. Private wells are not meant for public use and water quality is not monitored as such. Residential septic systems are not designed to handle wastewater from commercial food operations.

Mention was made that the proposed legislation will exempt these food businesses from health authority oversight, but Health officials will be involved after the fact. Ironically, the bill states that complaints about these businesses will be investigated by the local authority, even though the state will collect the licensing fees. There is no provision in the legislation to allow local collection of licensing fees to support follow-up complaint investigations. An important point I emphasized was that although bakery items may be considered innocuous, a few years ago, salmonella, was found in peanut butter, listeria in chocolate chip cookies, and lettuce was a source of a nationwide outbreak. I stressed that non-potentially hazardous foods (bakery items) should not be considered as not being a potential food safety hazard. Although there is existing stringent oversight for commercial food establishments, even with the existing strict Federal, State and, local rules, about 30 million cases of food-borne illness occur each year.

I summarized that the cottage foods bill ignores protective oversight by the public health authorities and any reactive complaint investigations would be unfunded. I asserted that the bill does not protect the public health in New Jersey and I asked the Committee to reconsider this bill.

After my presentation, the representative from the New Jersey Food Council, Mary Ellen Pappard, opposed the bill. She echoed our concerns about lack of oversight. She stated: “Our member companies have whole teams that are set up as food safety teams. This is all they do. “They are in the stores every day continuously monitoring and sharing information to insure compliance. But, even with all of the safeguards and infrastructure that they have in place, it can still be challenging to control food-borne illnesses. So, there is a question in our member’s minds as to whether small cottage operations would be able to do that”. The New Jersey Food Council hoped that the Committee can continue the dialogue.

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The Committee then mentioned that Carolyn Fischer, of the Vineland Health Department was opposed but not testifying in person.

Next and last, was the high-powered lobbyist Erica Jedynak, from Americans for Prosperity New Jersey who was in favor of the bill. She indicated this idea of cottage food products has been floating around literally the past 10 years, but it has been stalled in the legislature. She said special interests are at play here. Lobbyists come in year after year to check off a box that they've helped their client corner a piece of the marketplace.

Currently, New Jerseyans can sell home-baked Goods for nonprofit causes, but not as a small business. Home prep of foods are illegal and home bakers currently face fines of up to the \$1000. It is really arbitrary and a group of Home Bakers this past year formed an association and started organizing around the state of New Jersey. These Bakers filed a lawsuit against the Department of Health to overturn the ban since the legislative process has stalled.

She said there are hundreds of Bakers who just want to support themselves and their family but the state of New Jersey is denying them the right to earn a living. Some are stay at home moms just trying to hopefully start a college fund by bringing in a little extra income. They are not high-powered lobbyists, they are small businessmen and women; the life blood of our state. She finally concluded by saying on behalf of our membership as well as entrepreneurs across the state, we do urge you please vote Yes.

The committee then reviewed the bill, discussed it briefly among themselves, and finally passed unanimously to release the bill out of committee.

The bill has not progressed since release out of the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. NJEHA will continue to be vigilant and keep an eye on this or any such related cottage food proposal.



The New Jersey Assembly Chamber

The City of East Orange, NJ WIC (Women, Infant and Children) Program

Celebrating Black History Month - Black Breastfeeding: - Rediscovering and Restoration of a Legacy

Article and pictures submitted by Christine Harris, President NJLBHA & President BOH,
City of East Orange



First Lady Tammy Murphy

On Tuesday, February 27, 2018, the WIC Program of The City of East Orange, in collaboration with NJ Health Department and SPAN (Statewide Parent Advocacy Network), hosted an event “**Black Breastfeeding: Rediscovering and Restoration of a Legacy**”, in celebration of Black History. The event extensively discussed the benefits of breastfeeding and provided a historic perspective on the lost tradition of breastfeeding among African Americans. The program included guest speakers, a panel discussion, film/video, photo gallery, community birth champions and breastfeeding advocates. Guest speakers all addressed the benefits of breastfeeding and the importance of maternal health.

The Honorable Mayor Ted Green provided the City’s welcoming remarks, highlighted this clinic’s successful initiative of increasing breastfeeding to 8.6% over a 4-year period, and spoke about the recent tragic death of East Orange Police Sergeant during child birth.

WIC Coordinator Ms. Chesney Blue, provided an overview of the program and highlighted CDC statistics indicating higher rates of black infant mortality, low birth rates and the incidents of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) compared to other ethnic groups.

First lady Tammy Murphy spoke about the need to find a solution in decreasing Black infant mortality, and how breastfeeding can help decrease this disparity; a goal of the Murphy-Oliver Administration. First Lady Murphy is conducting a tour throughout the state, visiting locations that are helping to decrease infant and maternal death.

NJ Acting Health Commissioner, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, also addressed the need to facilitate acquiring and activating temporary disability through Family Medical Leave Insurance (FMLI), allowing mothers to spend additional time with their new born infants.

For more information: Department of Health, WIC in New Jersey, Nutrition and Breastfeeding at www.state.nj.us



Acting NJ DOH Commissioner Dr. Elnahal

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SPAN introduced the Community Doula program - where individuals provide non-clinical, emotional, physical and cultural support during and after pregnancy. This program is known to have positive outcomes on infants and mothers.

The panel discussion included: Damali Campbell, MD, University Hospital Ob/Gyn, Onajovwe Fofah, MD, University Hospital Neonatologist, Rachel Jean-Miles- SPAN Doula, Arelis Martinez- SPAN Community Health Worker, Jill Wodnick- Doula & Childbirth Educator, Rachael Jean Miles – Doula, Taaliba Warden and a Family who are WIC participants.

Other State dignitaries present were: Assistant Health Commissioner- Lisa Asare, Deputy Principal Commissioner- Jackie Cornell, NJ State WIC Director- Electra Moses, MS, RDN, and NJ State Breastfeeding Manager- Florence Rotundo, IBCLC, and East Orange Director of HHS, Ladonna Johns, Councilwoman Quila Talmage and BOH members.

The event was well attended, and audience participation and discussions were impassioned. The EO WIC Program also covers the municipalities of Bloomfield and Montclair with over 5,000 total participants.



WIC Coord. Chesney Blue, Tammy Murphy, Mayor Ted Green



Panel: Jill Wodnick, Dr. Campbell, Dr. Fofah, Arelis Martinez, Dr. Elnahal, Taaliba Warden & Rachel Miles.



BOH Pres Christine Harris and Commissioner, Dr. Elnahal



East Orange WIC Program Staff

Combating the Opiate & Heroin Epidemic

Date: April 28, 2018

Time: 12 noon – 3:00p.m.

Location: The Garden Chapel, 89 Washington Avenue, Borough of Victory Gardens, N.J. 07801-5501 (corner of Washington Place and Franklin Road)



Greetings All,

Pastor Tim Hart, Mayor David L. Holeman, Jr., Mayor James Dodd, Councilman Ishmael Lorenzo, and the Town of Dover Municipal Alliance invite all Victory Gardens & Dover residents to attend an important community forum “Combating the Opiate & Heroin Epidemic”.

Morris County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brad Seabury will provide a brief overview of the heroin and opiate epidemic. Morris County Sheriff Jim Gannon will discuss strategies that are in place that are helping to combat addiction and leading to recovery including the Hope One Van, Hope Wing (at the jail). Additional partners that are helping with this effort are CARES of Rockaway (Center for Addiction Recovery Education and Success), and Peer Recovery Specialists will discuss how they are helping addicts get to successful recovery. We will hear personal stories from families and addicts. Treatment and support resources will be available on site. Hope One will be providing free Naloxone training.

*Children’s activities are available while parents attend the event.



Caption: Mayor David L. Holman, Jr., Councilman Ishmael Lorenzo, and Health Officer Peter Tabott.

Editor's Encouragement



Congratulations, America, on the amended passage of H.R. 1625: Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018, enacted on March 23, 2018. The Bill allocated over \$2.4 Billion in new funding to the U.S. Departments of Justice, Education, and Health and Human Services.

In earlier editions of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Newsletters (www.njlbha.org) we shared with New Jerseyans several topics which support the Consolidated Appropriations Act. Public Health, Safety, and Education has always remained at the forefront of Local Boards of Health in New Jersey.

Working together with our 565 Municipalities, Law Enforcement, Medical Professionals, Educators, Freeholders, Senators, Congresspersons, Community Activists and Clergy we will continue to facilitate “FREEDOM” in so many lives. Let us continue to stand fast by reviewing some of the following web sites:

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) – www.samhsa.gov

New Jersey Department of Health – www.state.nj.us/health/1h/community/index

Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey – www.njsheriff.org

New Jersey County Freeholders – http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Board_of_chosen_freeholders

The New Jersey Churchscape – www.njchurchscape.com

New Jersey Municipalities – www.state.nj.us/infobank/revmuni.htm

New Jersey Education Association - www.njea.org

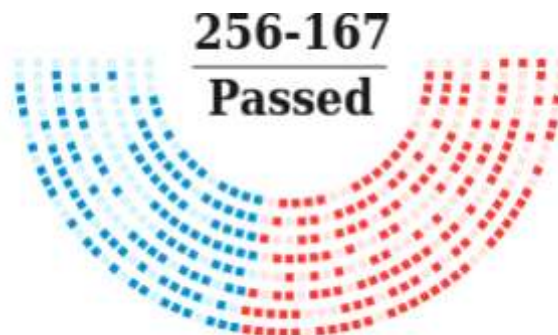
New Jersey Psychiatric Association – www.njpsychiatry.org

Stay Blessed,

Valerie A. Williams

Vice President of Communications

New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association



Yes, count me (us) in as a part of the Association that gives New Jersey's Boards of Health and their members a voice in Trenton, a way to communicate among ourselves, a force for progress in public health and more knowledge for board members.

Full Board, Regular Membership \$95

Board membership is open to municipal, county and regional Boards of Health. All board members are included for the calendar year.

Individual, Regular Membership \$20

Individual membership is open to current members of municipal, county or regional boards of health whose full board is not a member.

Individual, Associate Membership \$20

Associate membership is open to past Board of Health members, students, or other individuals interested in public health. This is a non-voting membership.

Institutional Membership \$95

Institutional membership is open to organizations, including environmental groups, planning boards, or other municipal or county agencies, committees, commissions, or councils. This is a non-voting membership.

Name: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address _____

- Our board of health is an autonomous board
- Our board of health is an advisory board
- The governing body of our town is the board of health

Please send your check or purchase order to : New Jersey Local Boards of Health

PO Box 5069



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