



## NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

**Regular Meeting Location**  
**South Brunswick Municipal Center**  
**540 Ridge Road**  
**South Brunswick, New Jersey**

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

March 6, 2021  
11:06 am – 1:00 pm

### MINUTES

*Meeting called by Christine Harris, President*  
*Call to order: 110:01 am; Pledge of Allegiance.*

**Zoom Telecommunication:** ID 897-3214-8177, host Laura Stanzilis.

**Member roll call:** *Christine Harris, Dr. George DiFerdinando, Dr. Jeremy Grayson, John Saccenti, Attn. Michael Richmond, Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, Nancy Wilson, Paul Roman and Steve Papenberg. Absent: Jo Hochman, Joan Valas and Robert Uhrik.*

#### **Discussion Topics:**

**President's Welcome/Introduction and Announcements:**

*Guest Registrants: 14 Boards of Health and 6 Health Officers (36 guests) representing multiple public health disciplines and professions; and introduction of attendees and their affiliations.*

*Special Guest Introductions: Marconi Gapas, Health Officer and President of NJACCHO and representative to PHACE, and Peter Talbott, Health Officer, Rutgers Adjunct Professor and representative to PHACE.*

**February 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** *Motions: 1<sup>st</sup> Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy and unanimously approved.*

**Introduction of Executive Committee members and overview of functions.**

**Membership Committee - Steve Papenberg, John Saccenti, and Paul Roman.** *Currently 36 boards of health have renewed membership. Explained that the intent of the executive board is engagement and involvement with solving public health issues. Membership renewal process and the need for health officers to assist in the process as information is often lost and not received by the intended parties.*

**Communication – Newsletter - Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis.** *Robust and current website with archived information, Newsletters, meeting minutes and a wide range of public health information.*

**Report State Legislative Liaison - Jo Hochman:** *John Saccenti spoke on her behalf.*

**PHACE - Paul Roman, Steve Papenberg:** *PHACE is comprised of the 6 Public Health Associations in NJ. Current efforts are directed towards advocating for public health funding in the state government. Paul will testify in the State Legislature and House on March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and also will re-send the white paper on PH funding.*



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Substitute Senate Bill S1 encourages municipalities to consolidate agencies or establish share services. Also, the bill is asking to repeal statutes (statute 26 A2-16, 17, 18, established in 1976). that protect some municipal workers including tenured licensed health officers and licensed inspectors. The premise is that there is a conflict with the current Civil Service processes.

Project Advisory group to the Robert Wood-Johnson Foundation study, through Rutgers' Bloustein School at Public Service and Chaired by Jeannie Herb, will study the NJ PH infrastructure and compare to other states, especially Massachusetts with 353 municipalities and 353 elected BOH, which is most comparable to New Jersey.

The National Network of Public Health Institutes, represented by Ms. Silvia Bookbinder, well know PH professional in NJ contracted by RWJ and the Nicholson Foundation, to lead a design team to set up a framework to start a New Jersey Health Institute.

Treasurer's Report - Stephen Papenberg. Manages the budget, purchase orders, reviews membership and answers questions. Balance as of February 28, 2021: \$6,243.00; a majority of expenses are membership mailings and website management. Working on budget that will be discussed in our April 2021 meeting.

Presentation: Dr. George DiFerdinando, Topic: Updates on COVID-19. Information provided around school reopening, recommendations from JAMA and slides from the CDC. Also discussed risks of viral transmission with some school activities.

Presentation: Attorney Michael Richmond, Topic: NJ Schools Re-Opening. Discussed re-opening highlighting the separation of power between Boards of Health and Boards of Education and the Governor's Executive Order 175, which suggests an interaction between the 2 boards.

Two Association executive members with opposite results on cooperation between boards of health and education on the issue of school re-opening.

1. Dr. Jeremy Grayson, President of Montgomery BOH. The Executive order & Path to Reopening recommendations wanted the BOH to drive the effort. Discussions began in the Summer 2020; developed a hybrid model with complete virtual learning and 2 days of in person education (approx. 20%) of students opting for in person and home instructions. Additionally, a physician member from the BOE became a liaison to the BOH, which assisted in positive forward movement, with emphasis that in person education is not a driver of infection and the lack thereof is a source of mental health issues. Cohorts were combined, and effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. students who had registered for in school education was increased to 4 half days/week with continued home education for the remainder of the day, and 1 full day of home virtual learning for everyone. Decisions will be determined on further opening of the schools. Zoom meetings were held first with BOH, HO and BOE and all teachers, to answer questions and secondly with the community.
2. John Saccenti, President of South Brunswick BOH. Mayor Carlin asked the BOH to review the school reopening plan. The plan was difficult to obtain from education. Many deficiencies were noted without



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*operational details to address. The BOH made recommendations to the Mayor and governing body and a meeting was requested with health officer and members of the BOE. The school superintendent did not and has not met with the BOH to discuss. The BOH attorney was contacted to determine where liability lies.*

### Question and Answers:

- 1. Have safe numbers of students for in- class attendance been established or is this left to each district?  
Answer: (George DiFerdinando) This is not based on numbers. It is based on preferred distance. But it gives flexibility when you can have 3 feet of space/distance, ventilation, and maintain mask usage and student flow throughout the building. There are flow models.*
- 2. Who determines what is adequate ventilation to prevent spread?  
(Nancy Wilson REHS) The American College of Industrial Hygiene has guidelines that are constantly changing. People need to be close for certain jobs such as oral hygienist, and they can stay in close proximity with a mask for less than 20 minutes. HEPA air cleaners turn air over four times per hour. An example to determine proper airflow is testing CO2 for example. If there is no CO2 in the air that would mean that there is sufficient ventilation. It's recommended that you have an HVAC certified person to make a determination on the ventilation based on the size of the room and the pressure.*
- 3. (In the case of the Montgomery schools opening on March 1 to 4 half days) What is the point of a half-day versus a full day and four days versus five days if exposure is 15 minutes?  
Answer: (Dr. Jeremy Grayson, Montgomery BOH), The half day eliminates the lunch period when students would have to take off their masks to eat. Four days is a bridge to eventually go to five days of school.*
- 4. What penalties are there for not complying with executive order 175? Who enforces the executive order?  
Answer: (Michael Richmond, Esq. NJLBHA) New Jersey took the criminal provision out. It is generally enforced by state police as emergency management. But it doesn't appear to be that they're enforcing unless the people are in the news for violating the executive order.*

For a comprehensive review please listen to the YouTube video on our website: [www.njlbha.org](http://www.njlbha.org)

Adjournment: 12:23 pm

14 BOH and 6 HO; 36 guests

Townships represented:

East Orange

Mendham

Middlesex Township

Montgomery

Mount Arlington

Princeton,

Randolph