



## **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**

*April 10, 2021*  
*11:06 am – 1:00 pm*

### **MINUTES**

*Meeting called by Christine Harris, President*  
*Call to order: 11:01 am; Pledge of Allegiance.*

**Zoom Telecommunication:** ID 828 9400 5101, host John Saccenti.

**Member roll call:** Christine Harris, Dr. George DiFerdinando, Dr. Jeremy Grayson, Jo Hochman, Joan Valas, John Saccenti, Nancy Wilson, Paul Roman and Steve Papenberg.

**Guest attendees:**14

**Absent:** Attn. Michael Richmond, Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, and Robert Uhrik.

**March 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes:** Motion for approval by Steve and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy; unanimously accepted except for abstentions from absent members.

### **Discussion Topics:**

**President's Welcome and Announcements:** Introductions from Joan Velez and Jo Hochman.  
April 5<sup>th</sup> of Public Health week with declaration from Governor Murphy; a week of activities from the NPHA.

Paul motioned and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy for acceptance of our bylaws. The Executive Board unanimously approved the bylaws. Executive Board Officer slate for nomination approved by NJLBHA membership.

**Membership Committee - Steve Papenberg, John Saccenti, and Paul Roman.** Currently 50 boards of health plus 2 individual members.

### **State Legislative Liaison Jo Hochman:**

- No feedback from the legislature on S1. Senate bill 3375 (medical treatment from workman's compensation claims) seeks to make municipalities and workman's compensation both responsible for payments.
- In person Fall 2021 NJ Annual League of Municipalities Conference.
- S3524 A5522 discussed; self-determination of first responder's fitness for duty to respond to emergencies if marijuana had been consumed.

**Discussion:** Legal work protection and marijuana usage.

**Question:** Does objective criteria exist to determine if someone's behavior is caused by marijuana usage.



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- Response Dr. DiFerdinando – No particular test at this time. A behavioral assessment will probably be created.
- John Saccenti - Presently DREs (Drug Recognition Experts) cannot test for marijuana in the field.

### PHACE - Paul Roman, Steve Papenberg:

- Paul testified before the NJ Assembly and Senate on March 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> on PH Priority Funding and presented the white paper from PHACE.
- A non-competitive \$82 mil grant to the 82 non-LINCS health departments (~\$234,000) each. Three positions are required, one of which is the Vulnerable Population Outreach Coordinator (VPOC). A separate grant of available for the 22 LINCS health departments. Application due date is Monday April 12, 2021
- Discussed effort to get the NJ Senate not to pass Substitute Senate Bill S1 that consolidates municipal agencies or establish share services; and, repeal statute 26 A2-16, 17, 18, of 1976, that protect some municipal workers including tenured licensed health officers and licensed inspectors. A final reading is scheduled before the vote. NJLBHA is on record against this bill. Action recommended: LBOH petition their assembly representatives and President Sweeny NJ State Senator not to repeal statute 26 A2-16, 17, 18.
- Meeting held with the Project Advisory group to the RWJ Foundation, Jeannie Herb chair, to study the NJ PH infrastructure and compare to other states.
- The National Network of Public Health Institutes, represented by Ms. Silvia Bookbinder, contracted by RWJ and the Nicholson Foundation, to lead a design team to set up a framework to start a New Jersey Health Institute. The Institute is created to support education, funding, research, and interaction of public health groups.

### Treasurer's Report - Stephen Papenberg.

Balance as of March 31, 2021: \$9,418.41

Expenses: \$271.00 (insurance),  
\$80.00 (SOPHE)  
\$410.00 (Carey, webmaster)  
\$761 expenses.

Balance after payment of expenses: \$8,657.41. Motion for payment: 1<sup>st</sup> by Paul and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeremy with unanimous approval.

Finance committee Paul Roman and Steve Papenberg: Proposed budget for 2021 based on 90 membership discussed (earlier dissemination to the executive committee). Motioned by Jeremy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul and unanimously approved.

Follow-up Discussion: Dr. George DiFerdinando, Presentation. Topic "Is NJ Ahead or Behind Michigan?". Update from NY Times and State of Michigan. Highlights: data on vaccinations rates; and trends of age groups rate of infection; and designations of disease transmission. Discussion contribution by Jeromy. See data on website.



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### Follow-up Discussion:

*John Saccenti, BOH & BOE Cooperation on school re-opening. Brief recap: The Mayor of South Brunswick asked the BOH to review the school reopening plan of which many deficiencies were noted without corrective operational details. The school superintendent did not and had not met with the BOH to discuss. A request was made to meet with concerned parties.*

*Dr. Jeremy Grayson, BOH & BOE Cooperation on school re-opening. No additional conversation with the concerned parties. Survey, to previously agreed upon in person classes, was sent to the community offering a 5-half day/week, had a favorable response with an increased to 50%, effective April 17<sup>th</sup>. The 5-full day/week school with lunch was not part of the survey but will be reevaluated as a possibility.*

Presentation: *Nancy Wilson, REHS, Topic: on NJ Schools Re-Opening and Ventilation. Extensive Power Point presentation "Ventilation in New Jersey Schools During Pandemic". Slides were divided into two main segments: Reducing Airborne Infectious Aerosol Exposure and Supplement with Portable Air Cleaners.*

### Question and Answers:

- 1. What is the role of the REHS in the health department?  
Ans: It is dependent upon the County, and funding.*
- 2. Who sets the standards for HVAC in the buildings in schools:  
Ans: Many schools are outdated; some of these standards are new and are set by the American Standard of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE),*
- 3. The effect of air ionization on the virus and the byproduct of ozone.  
Ans: Both the American College of Industrial Hygiene and American Industrial Hygiene Association agree that products that ionize the air are not effective, produce ozone and do not work as effective as the HEPA filters.*
- 4. Does the state have data surrounding the impact of students that are positive, without symptoms, and go home and what occurs thereafter?*

Complete meeting and presentations available on YouTube video and slides on our website at [www.njlbha.org](http://www.njlbha.org).

### Comments:

*Laura Montenegro, as a member of the Linden BOH, a member of the Association, will be joining the executive board.*

Adjournment: 12:46 pm

*Prepared by Christine Harris*