



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

July 10, 2021* Meeting held Virtually

The Regular Meeting of the New Jersey Local Boards of Health Association was called to order by Chairman Christine Harris at 11:02 am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call: Steve Papenberg, Michael Richmond, Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Christine Harris

Absent: Dr. George DiFerdinando, Dr. Jeremy Grayson, Jo Hochman, Laura Montenegro, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis, Robert Uhrik, Nancy Wilson

Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 19, 2021

Meeting minutes dated June 19, 2021, was tabled to next meeting.

Announcements:

Chair Harris welcomed Professor Valas' students: Olawale Ayanjoke, Ana Oprea, Christine Yip, Krishana and Bristol–Allen

Chair Harris thanked Elizabeth Korn from Bergen for joining this meeting.

Chair Harris announced that there will be no meeting in August; next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2021.

Membership – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg reported that there are 62 paid members; 58 are full board member and 4 individual members. He opines that towns are currently working on passing their budgets. Mr. Papenberg and Mr. Roman will review the membership list to see who was on the Board last year and who has not paid.

PHACE – Paul Roman and Steve Papenberg

Mr. Roman attended the NJ Health Care Quality Institute (NJHCQI) meeting on June 24th. The session to discuss their paper “*Emerging from COVID–19 Action Plan for a Healthier State*” did not include points in reference to the plan. Their discussion included groups brought on board during the pandemic and their collaborations; and work done by the Medic Reserve Corps (MRC), health departments and other organizations.

- Mr. Roman previously send an email with a poem, “*COVID in a Poem*” he received from Kevin Sumner.
- Mr. Roman reported that he submitted a response on the draft of the final rule from the Dept. of the Treasury under Secretary for Domestic Finance, regarding funding for local governments, the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF). He explained the report that was issued and his response. Ms. Valas asked about the after-action report; will the state issue their report; Mr. Roman does not know. There is a group working on the report; they anticipate the report to be out in the fall.



- Mr. Roman reported he was interviewed by Michael Diamond from the Asbury Park Press. The article's topic was on how money is being spent on healthcare versus what is being spent on public health. The article was published July 1, 2021.
- Mr. Roman reported that his Health Officer, Dave Henry collaborated with Dr. DiFerdinando, in writing an article, "*Clean Trucks Program Can Drive Better Health*", that gives their option on putting out more electric trucks.
- Mr. Roman reported that the *NJ Spotlight News*, has a synopsis of state budget items that were passed.
- Mr. Roman reported that he submitted a response on the draft of the final rule from the Dept. of the Treasury under Secretary for Domestic Finance, regarding funding for local governments, the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF). He explained the report that was issued and his response.

PHACE – Paul Roman and Steve Papenberg

Mr. Roman reported on the PHACE membership and its activities.

Chair Harris brought up discussions regarding the funds New Jersey receives from the state and from the CDC. She stated there should be additional revenue generated from the cannabis fees.

Chair Harris reported that the Healthcare Leaders' Council sent a request for this Board to endorse their letter to the federal government regarding the Medicare/Medicaid Innovations. We have not had the opportunity to review the law. Mr. Richmond will review and get back to this Board as to whether to support or not.

Legal Attorney, Michael Richmond

Attorney Richmond provided a detailed update on the issues with the Recreational Marijuana (Cannabis) bill. It is a financial and revenue generating bill falling under economic development. Mr. Richmond explained the steps taken by the state to institute this law. He explained the various licenses available. Employers allowed to adopt regulations banning drug use in their operations. Any entity falling under the drug free workplace act apply. Employers with federal funds in excess of \$100,000 or has grant in any amount must comply with drug free workplace requirements.

Mr. Roman explained the public health aspect, similar to impact from smoking and alcohol. Smoking marijuana falls under the smoke free act of NJ. Chair Harris suggested that all members and Board of Health officers start formulating a public health perspective on recreational marijuana. There are areas that can be restricted to be smoke free.

Attorney Richmond suggested we consider concerns and thoughts about the COVID booster shot and how to market and encourage people to get booster. We need to encourage people to get vaccinated. The vaccines were paid for by the government; there may be less resources for booster shots.

Chair Harris brought up discussion on how we are going to keep marijuana products out of hands of children. Town will want to opt in to have access to the revenue from marijuana.

