

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



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2022 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:23 AM
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present – Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Steve Papenberg, George DiFerdinando
 - EXCOM Excused: Jeremy Grayson
 - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) – Christine Harris
 - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) – Julie Moy
 - Liaisons Present – Robert Uhrik, NJEHA
 - Guests Present – Steve Ember, Middlesex Borough
 - Absent – Laura O’Reilly–Stanzilis, Dianna Lachman

President Roman wished everyone a belated National Health Week and EMS Week.

4. *Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)* – April 9, 2022
Meeting minutes dated April 9, 2022 – MSP: DiFerdinando, Harris

President Roman addressed two items in the minutes: he and Dr. DiFerdinando will meet to discuss the PHACE By-Laws and construction of PHACE; question to EXCOM, do we want to post cannabis issues on the website. Dr. DiFerdinando reported that the Princeton Board of Health unanimously passed two resolutions that sum up what they did; none of the EXCOM opposed posting information on the website. President Roman will check and see if with Dr. DiFerdinando sent information to Cary Chelenza.

President Roman announced that we regret the passing of Mayor Barry Wright, from Winslow Township of Camden County. Winslow Township was our first member Board from Camden County.

5. *President’s Report*
President Roman reported that Debbie Meehan, Woodbridge Township, completed our training and received her certificate.

President Roman reported that Ms. Chelenza set up our account with Monkey Survey for free as long as there are less than 10 responders.

President Roman announced that Norwood Borough in Bergen County joined NJLBHA.



President Roman reported that Ocean City in Cape May County has been trying to get their Sustainable Jersey program up and running. President Roman had extensive meetings with Ocean County representatives. The currently do not have a Board of Health and needs to set up an advisory board.

Sustainable Jersey published information and set up the Gold Standard for Public Health. Some of the information published is incorrect. Laura Skowlofski from Trenton State College is the oversight person for the Sustainable Jersey program under Randy Solomon, and worked with President Roman in reviewing drafted papers. President Roman re-wrote their documents with the agreement from Ms. Skowlofski. He will meet with Ms. Skowlofski to finalize the document. President Roman reported that he edited the protocol document for Advisory Boards of Health drafted by Michael Richmond. Once we finalize the documents, it will be a footnote in the Orientation Manual. This will also be included in our training. Ms. Harris asked if the annex will contain the Sustainable Jersey component on how to acquire the Gold Standards for Public Health. President Roman responded no.

President Roman reported that on behalf of this organization and for his Regional Health Commission, he is trying to get American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He explained the history of ARPA funds, which is only available to local government agencies. Regional health commissions are the local boards of health; per State, we are not eligible. 50+ towns that belong in regional health commissions and all are excluded from applying for ARPA funds. President Roman reached out to the Secretary of Treasury of the US, two Senators and Congressmen and Lt. Governor Shelia Oliver, who is head of DCA; he only received an acknowledgement note from Senator Cory Booker. David Henry sent Lt. Governor Oliver a note; we both sent notes to Senators Vin Gopal and Declan O'Scanlon.

6. *Secretary's Report* – Including Correspondence – None

7. *Executive Vice President's Report* – John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti will assist with sending out separate reminder letters to those with outstanding dues.

8. *Treasurer's Report* – Steve Papenberg

Tax Returns

Mr. Papenberg reported that the e-post card filing of tax returns were completed.

Presentation and Approval of Bills – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg provided his financial report. The two bills are for:

Ms. Chelenza for \$455

Ms. Moy for \$100

The motion was made to authorize the payments to Ms. Chelenza and Ms. Moy; MSP: Harris, Saccenti

Membership



Mr. Papenberg reported on our membership; we currently have 50 member organizations and 5 individuals.

Legal Counsel's Report – Nothing to Report

President Roman reported that he has a contact list of attorneys to see if s/he is willing to provide pro bono work for NJLBHA.

9. *Committee Reports*

By-Laws – Nothing to report

Finance – President Roman

President Roman reported that the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) will receive a large grant from the State. Linda Brown has been hired to manage the grant; she hired two financial people to handle the bookkeeping and assist with fund distribution. NJACCHO is still waiting for State approval to receive the funds. Ms. Brown reached out to President Roman and other PHACE organizations; each organization has been offered a small grant from the State funds. The State wants to approve what the grant is being used for. Funds were used to pay the two speakers at NJ Environmental Health Association (NJEHA) March Conference. NJ Public Health should receive speaker grants for their October meeting. President Roman spoke with Ms. Brown to discuss what NJLBHA can do for grant; we were offered \$5,000. President Roman explained how he would like to see the funds distributed: \$4,000 for marketing to increase membership and a \$1,000 to incorporate PHACE. She discussed the proposed fund distribution with Kevin Sumner which he was fine with. There was continued discussions on PHACE. Dr. DiFerdinando did not have an update on the incubator for the institute.

Legislative

President Roman reported general information on activities in the Legislator. He had two email newsletter blast sent to EXCOM regarding the baby formula shortage and asking people to send an email to Senator Vitale, Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, in support of the Bill S2614, that requests \$10 million dollars for Health Departments as Public Health Priority Fund; it is going before the Committee now. President Roman requested 12 million in funding. Health Officers asked for 10 million dollars; Senator Gopal asked the Governor for 10 million dollars.

President Roman reported that he will be working on the educational component with Colleen Wharton from Rutgers. Once it is complete, Senator Gopal's team offered to assist with wording to put in Senator Oroho's bill which would allow the Governing Body also be the Board of Health. Mr. Saccenti opined that we should not support this bill; the Governing Body does not have the experience or the time to oversee towns' health concerns; they would need advisory boards to help.

Communications

Ms. Valas stated that Dena Quinones, Montclair University's Intern Coordinator would be difficult to reach now. She is willing to assist with the educational piece. Ms. Valas is not in support of the Governing Body to become BOH; they do not have the time or skills.



Bob Uhrik opined that this initiative having Mayor and Council as BOH belittles and diminishes the purpose of the Board of Health. Ms. Harris commented that boards of health in an advisory capacity are not taken seriously and are not valued.

Mr. Uhrik reported there was nothing new to report for NJEHA. He spoke to his board member, Pascal Nwako. Mr. Uhrik was invited to attend a meeting where they were going to discuss advertising for credits to organizations. Per Mr. Nwako, it is his understanding that they reaffirmed that they do not want to advertise for-profit organizations. This should have been communicated to Mr. Saccenti; he does not feel there is anything wrong with including for-profit organizations if it benefits their staff. No one is forced to use a specific company, but this provides additional options for services.

10. *Old Business*

In Memory of Michael Richmond

President Roman had suggested that we consider naming Public Health Legislator of the Year for Mr. Richmond and explained why.

The motion was made to rename the Public Health Legislator of the Year award to the *Michael J. Richmond Public Health Legislator of the Year*; MSP: Saccenti, Papenberg

President Roman read the note we received from Cookie Richmond. He will let her know what we are doing and invite her to participate in an event and have her hand out the first award in Mr. Richmond's memory.

Mr. Saccenti would like us to reconsider hosting a live meeting to distribute awards. He would like to host the December meeting at his home as done in the past years.

Social Media

President Roman reported that we canceled all social media accounts except LinkedIn. We will post our website link with minutes on LinkedIn.

President Roman reported that Ms. Harris is still getting spam email via the president@njlbha and forwarding to him. There are a number of pop up ads our LinkedIn account that looks like we are supporting the company; he asked Ms. Chelenza to remove spam ads, leaving the government programs information. Mr. Saccenti opined that we can support other organizations' endeavors. He stated that a policy should be written up and voted upon by this Board. President Roman will draft a policy and asked all members to take a look at our LinkedIn account and review the ads.

NJ Public Health Association (NJPHA)

President Roman reported that NJPHA has an advocacy committee, chaired by Kevin Sumner and President Roman is a member. One of their officers stated that they are being asked to endorse letters regarding policies but did not have a policy. President Roman reported that he drafted an endorsement policy for them that was edited by Mr. Sumner; the revised version was adopted. President Roman combined his draft along with a couple of Mr. Sumner's bullets and created the *policy on signature endorsement* for NJLBHA; he read his email and draft policy. The members



discussed the draft. They wanted to see a better delineation of related to Health Care Organization. He will pull the NJPHA’s policy for his review.

President Roman reported that our name and our logo, along with about 30–40 other logos, has been added to a letter in support of the American Lung Association; he read the document regarding climate change. There was discussion on the letter. Dr. DiFerdinando stated that he would not support a bill on behalf our board; members may not be in support of the bill and political issues.

President Roman reported that Lucas Allen from the American Academy of Pediatrics requested our support for federal funding for gun violence prevention and research. PHACE also signed on along with a number of organizations throughout NJ. President Roman read the letter to the members. There was discussion on gun violence.

Awards Ceremony Program by Zoom

President Roman reported that he drafted a Zoom version program for the award event. It looks like COVID numbers are going up along with new diseases. He read his program event draft which includes the award ceremony. President Roman agreed that we need to do something, but he does not feel it should be live due to the continued pandemic and new communicable diseases. Mr. Saccenti feels we really need to distribute awards to those who are not recognized for their work.

Meeting Dates for remainder of the year

President Roman stated that we have been established the first half of the year meeting dates, choosing the third Saturday of the month. The next two meetings are June 18 and July 16. The League of Municipalities begins November 16 and APHA is November 6 – 8 in Boston, MA.

The motion was made to adopt the following meeting dates; MSP: Saccenti, Harris

June 18 (changed to 6/25)	Sept. 17	Dec. 17 – tentatively scheduled at Mr. Saccenti’s home
July 16	Oct. 15	
August 20	Nov. 19	

Announcement of Next Meeting Date, Time, and Place

June 18, 2022 at 10 am by Zoom

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn at 12:10 pm; MSP: Papenberg, Harris

Respectfully submitted by:

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary