



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

March 25, 2023 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – 10:25 am

2. **Salute to the Flag**

3. **Attendance**

- Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Steve Papenberg, George DiFerdinando, Robert Uhrik
- Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — Christine Harris
- Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Moy
- Liaisons Present —
- Guests Present — Ken Laloma, Steve Ember, Derrick Webb
- Excused — Jeremy Grayson, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis, Joan Valas
- Absent — Diana Lachman

4. **Approval of Minutes** of Previous Meeting(s) – None

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

6. **President's Report** – Paul Roman

President Roman reported on the Federal COVID Special Provisions, Laws and Special Benefits will sunset on May 11, 2023. The Commissioner and staff are working on plans and how it will impact the State and funding sources.

President Roman announced that April 4–9 is *Public Health Week*. There was a Proclamation drafted by President Roman and Don Weinbaum and has been submitted for approval to the Commissioner, once approved, it will then go to the Governor. Once PHACE receives the approval, Mr. Weinbaum will send it to the members. NJLBHA does not have any activity planned for the week.

President Roman announced that *Advocacy Day* was February 27, 2023 in Trenton. The NJLBHA table was on display. President Roman, Mr. Papenberg and Mr. Uhrik attended the event. Approximately 10–15 members from the Assembly and Senate attended the event. They stopped by to speak to us about the S2413 and A4115 Bills currently in the Assembly. Most said they would sign on while some stated that they will review it. Lisa Gulla and Lynette Medieros created a one page write up for distribution. President Roman had printed on a poster board. Our goal is to get enough sponsors for both Bills to get before the Committee. President Roman reported that it was suggested that we secure the resolution to get placed in the budget; he will be testifying on NJLBHA's behalf at the Assembly hearing. President Roman will also be attending the Senate hearing in April.

President Roman reported on the State wide Public Health Conference; it is being coordinated between NJACCHO and PHACE on April 20, 2023 at the Marriott in Princeton from 9 am – 3 pm. Members can sign up through the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO)



website. The last hour will be a forum where six members representing PHACE will react to panels that will be held earlier in the day.

President Roman announced that the *NJ Public Health Association Annual Conference and Award Ceremony* will be held on April 21, 2023. He and Dr. DiFerdinando are award precipitants. We will have a table display available.

President Roman stated that he sent David Touson of the Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC), comments and concerns to the modifications allowing cannabis lounges for CRC's consideration. He also sent this Board a copy of the statement.

President Roman reported that last year we were asked by the New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP) to add our signature to a letter in support of gun violence prevention. NJAAP has asked us to support the same document this year. President Roman agreed to sign again on our behalf since he was approved to support the same topic in 2022.

7. Executive Vice President's Report – John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti sent President Roman the copy of the Business registration that was sent to the State.

8. Treasurer's Report – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg provided the financial report.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg reimbursed Mr. Saccenti for the State report fee of \$33.

10. Legal Counsel's Report

President Roman reported that he had a meeting on March 20, 2023 with John Wisniewski, Esq. Mr. Wisniewski has agreed to be our Legal Counsel, pro bono plus certain provisions. However, Mr. Wisniewski agreed not to charge us a fee. Mr. Wisniewski will send President Roman his contract for review. President Roman has informed Kevin Sumner of the agreement with Mr. Wisniewski.

11. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws – None

b. Finance

President Roman reported on the potential grant from NJACCHO, who received development funds from the State. President Roman spoke with Linda Brown; we are anticipating a grant check for \$5,000, which we will use to cover much of Cary Chelenza's fees for the website update up to June 30, 2023. President Roman explained the upcoming grant application period for the next round of funding for health departments.

c. Membership – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg reported that we have 46 members, which includes 1 individual and 5 new organizations. He reported that he and Dr. DiFerdinando attended the GPHP meeting in Mercer County on March 23, 2023. The presenter, Mitchel Rosen from Rutgers University, acknowledged NJLBHA in representing the local boards. The Board discussed NJ's high maternal mortality rate.



d. Legislative

President Roman previously discussed the S2413 and A 4115 Bills. He reported on two additional Bills, S652 and A117, which we have an interest in. The Bills were put in by Senator Oroho; President Roman explained the purpose of the Bills and how it will affect the towns. If the Bills passes, the town with less than 30,000 population, the Board of Health could be the local elected officials. He expressed our concerns with these Bills to lobbyist and legislators. The Bills passed the Senate and now we are waiting for the Assembly's response. There was discussion on how the Governing Body could have an Advisory Board of Health.

NJLBHA Training Program

There was discussion on the availability of our training and certificate program and how it is offered.

Ms. Harris suggested a motion to approve the online training to be available only to current members every two or three years and a recertification be completed to accommodate new and evolving issues in the public health sphere. There were discussions to edit the motion.

Ms. Harris made the motion that the online certification training for the Boards of Health is available to active members only.

This Board will address the recertification at a later date.

Derrick Webb commented that whatever we decide to do, we have to remember BOH are volunteers. In his experience, if we put too many requirements on Members, it will be difficult to keep them. There was continued discussions regarding the training. Rutgers offered to review the training and provide input to make it more creative and educational.

Mr. Saccenti seconded Ms. Harris' motion.

Ms. Harris clarified her motion: that the online training certification be limited to members of the NJLBHA.

Mr. Uhrik opined that it is a not a good idea to connect a training requirement with membership; he opined that NJLBHA can be instructional and that the training should not be limited or mandated only to members. President Roman stated that we are not mandating the training but limiting the training to members only. The training would be a benefit of the membership. Mr. Uhrik still disagrees to limiting training to the members only.

Ms. Harris rescinded her motion due to the amount of conflict and disagreement. She stated that we have the orientation manual on our website; why offer online training. She opined the manual should be taken off line. Ms. Harris would like to increase the membership and use the training as a benefit. Dr. DiFerdinando suggested we table the discussion until the next meeting.

Straw Poll was taken:

Mr. Papenberg: he would like to keep the training accessible

Mr. Saccenti: he would like to keep the training accessible. He opined that if could get NJACCHO to endorse our training, it may assist with membership.

Dr. DiFerdinando: we want to encourage membership; provide the training at no additional charge.

Mr. Uhrik: keep the training free and easy access.

Ms. Harris commented that Health Officers do not have enough contact with members to do anything; Health Officers work mostly with their directors.



The motion was withdrawn. President Roman will speak with NJACCHO about endorsing our training program. Mr. Webb is an officer at NJACCHO. He opined that it is important that there be an effort made by local BOHs to foster relationships with the individual Health Officers. Mr. Webb will carry our message back to NJACCHO regarding the training.

Mr. Webb described some of the reasons why towns are having problems in hiring Health Officer; towns do not want to pay.

e. Communications – Including Newsletter(s) and Website – None

f. **Audit**

President Roman reported that he and Mr. Papenberg did a cursory audit. The Annual Receipt and Expenditures Report was sent to members for review. President Roman went over the actual expenditures from 2022 and projected expenditures for 2023.

President Roman asked Members to recruit new members. We need approximately 100 members to break even. We need to apply for grants and solicit contributions.

The motion was made to approve the 2023 budget as presented: MSP: Papenberg, Harris

g. Nominating – None

12. Liaison Reports – None

13. PHACE Report

President Roman reported that they will be meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023. PHACE is still in the process of becoming incorporated; they are working on their By-Laws. The PHACE and NJACCHO consolidated conference will be held on April 20, 2023.

14. Old Business

Intern Program – President Roman provided an update on the Montclair State Internship Program. He reported that he spoke to Anna Montero, who referred two students. President Roman interviewed one to date; she is deciding if she wants to accept the internship. Participants would receive three credits for each semester for the summer and fall. The intern program is designed to update the Municipalities' BOH and Health Department contact information and encourage membership with NJLBHA. President Roman is waiting for her decision.

Institute – President Roman reported that the Institute's formation is progressing. He reported that Melissa Fox and Monica Lallo have been providing a briefing at various conferences. President Roman has been working with Jim Curtin, also from Ascenda. They are selecting a Selection Committee, which will begin accepting Board of Trustees nominations.

Kevin McNally, Lisa Gulla and President Roman was recently interviewed; each provided their prospective on Public Health. The College of NJ (TCNJ) student interns recorded the video. President Roman will send Members the video link when released around March 26, 2023. The Institute's goals are to support public health and its initiatives. Ms. Harris asked if PHACE will have the opportunity to review the candidates' qualifications for the Board of Trustees. Ascenda is responsible for selecting the Selection Committee, who will in turn select candidates for the Board of Trustees. The Institute has been in discussions with PHACE on their activities. The Institute has information on their website.



15. New Business – None

16. Educational Presentation – None

17. General Discussion

- Ms. Moy will send President Roman minutes for review.
- President Roman will send information to Ms. Harris from Rick Hager of the Department of Children & Families.

18. Announcement of Next Meeting: April 15, 2023 at 10 am by Zoom

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:49 pm: MSP: Harris, Saccenti

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary