



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

June 24, 2023 * 10 am * By Zoom

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

- 1. Call to Order – 10:13 am**
- 2. Salute to the Flag**
- 3. Attendance**
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present – Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Steve Papenberg, George DiFerdinando
 - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) –
 - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) – Julie Moy
 - Liaisons Present –
 - Guests Present – Maria Quigley, Florham Park and Steve Ember, Middlesex Borough
 - Excused– Jeremy Grayson, Joan Valas, Christine Harris, Laura O’Reilly–Stanzilis, Robert Uhrik
 - Absent – Diana Lachman
- 4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s) May 20, 2023 – MSP: Papenberg, DiFerdinando**
- 5. Secretary’s Report – Including Correspondence – None**
- 6. President’s Report**

President Roman reported that he has asked Shereen Semple numerous times to be included on the Office of Local Public Health calls without any success. Health Officers and other parties are supposed to be able to participate in the calls. President Roman provided an update on some items they discussed at their recent meeting.

President Roman reported on the applications for the CDC grant. As of June 13, 2023, only 62 applications out of 104 health departments for the two funding pathways were received. 54 health departments went for a generalist and 29 health departments went for the B pathway. Mr. Saccenti asked if President Roman knew the date for the infrastructure grant; he did not know. There was discussion on the amount of funding still remaining. Towns are not applying due to their limited staff and inability to do the work required by the grants.

President Roman reported that the 4th quarter progress report and final financial report for the 2023 grant are due by July 14, 2023.

President Roman reported that since the ending of COVID, the activity report has been revised to include 2019 admission levels. Dr. DiFerdinando provided an update from the FDA; there is another type of booster vaccination expected in the Fall.

President Roman reported that current President of NJ Public Health Association, Lisa Gulla is working on her PhD. She has created a research survey for her dissertation and asked for our



individual participations. President Roman has already taken the survey. The survey link will be on our *On Board* blast.

President Roman provided an update on NJAC 8:57, *Commutative Diseases*. He discussed this at the May meeting; they are requesting stakeholder input by May 30. Dr. DiFerdinando and Mr. Papenberg stated at the May meeting that they would take a look at the information. No further report from them.

President Roman reported that the State Dept. of Health (DOH) is receiving a large number of alerts about the non-opioid veterinary sedative called Xylazine also known as Tranq. People are dangerously mixing it with other drugs. DOH has put out extensive alerts regarding the harmful use of Xylazine. Additional information will be in our email blast newsletter and website.

7. Executive Vice President's Report – John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti expressed his concerns about the grants and when the information would get to our health departments. Per President Roman, there currently are no new grants available.

Mr. Saccenti asked if anyone has information about the Cannabis Commission; that they are being criticized for a number of issues and potentially may be moved to DOH. President Roman stated that the criticism is revenue based or people wanting more access and/or licenses. Per Mr. Saccenti, they are about five to six months behind. Board Members did not have information on the move to DOH.

8. Treasurer's Report – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg provided the financial report.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg presented the following invoices to be paid:

- Constant Contact \$83.88
- *Julie Moy* (May Minutes) \$100
- *Cary Chelenza* (Newsletter & Website) \$400

The motion was made to authorize the payments: MS: DiFerdinando, Saccenti

Roll call in favor: Roman, Saccenti, Papenberg, DiFerdinando

Ms. Chelenza's invoice is the final invoice that will be credited to the DOH grant under NJACCHO (\$5,000). President Roman will see if any new funding is available from NJACCHO; we would only be able to apply for educational updates.

10. Legal Counsel's Report

President Roman will invite John Wisniewski, Esq. to our July meeting.

11. Committee Reports

a. *By-Laws* – No report

b. *Finance* – No report

c. *Membership* – Mr. Papenberg reported that we have a total of 61 members: 59 full and 2 individual members; an increase of one from the May meeting. Mr. Saccenti suggested we schedule a meeting with NJACCHO's Executive Board. If we can get their Board members to join NJLBHA, we can work together to lobby and legislate and get their Boards active. President



Roman will work on it. President Roman and Mr. Papenberg will get together to do a supplemental mailing to increase membership.

d. *Legislative* – President Roman reported on the Public Health Priority Funding (PHPF) Bills; S2413 received a unanimous affirmative vote in the Senate Health Committee. The next step in the Senate is the Budget Appropriation Committee; currently there is no progress getting it on their agenda. In the Assembly, we thought A4115 would be on Assemblyman Herb Conaway’s Health Committee Agenda on June 5, 2023. The Assembly Speaker felt it had not received enough support and that it was too general. Chris Merkel has been speaking for the Health Officers. Mr. Papenberg attended the NJ Public Health Association (NJPHA) meeting where they discussed why it was pulled; not enough information on how the funds will be spent. Per President Roman, the funds were proposed to be spent on the general operating foundational services. Mr. Saccenti suggested drafting a resolution that does not mention a town and sending it to all the Health Departments and the Health Officers, asking if they would be interested in signing on. NJLBHA has not sent in a resolution of support. Steve Ember stated that the most important time to lobby in Trenton is during the budget meetings; decisions for funding are made during this time. We have to continue promoting the bills and get them through before the end of the year. President Roman will send out a resolution of support on behalf of NJLBHA. Senator Conaway stated that he is looking forward to putting it on the agenda soon.

e. *Communications* – Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that the membership application on our website has been updated. He will finish the flyer with QR code that links to the membership application. The goal is to get the flyer to the printer by end of July.

Intern – President Roman reported that he has secured a graduate student from Montclair State University, Yenny Tavarez. President Roman has been in constant contact with Ms. Tavarez. She will begin shortly after Labor Day but will receive information to start the ground work; he will meet with Ms. Tavarez soon to discuss the documents and what our needs are. Ms. Tavarez will work on updating the Boards of Health contact information for each Municipality. President Roman created a chart for her to complete. Once finalized, we will share this with Sustainable Jersey. President Roman will also try to secure a second intern to work with Ms. Stanzilis for grant research and writing. Ms. Stanzilis agreed to mentor a student in this area.

On Board Newsletter email blast will be sent out once a month on the 10th. Unfortunately, people are not opening the link and reading our newsletter.

f. *Audit* (as necessary)

g. *Nominating* (as necessary)

12. Liaison Reports

13. PHACE Report

President Roman reported that he and Don Weinbaum are working on the By-Laws. The draft should be completed in the next few weeks and will be sent to the PHACE members for comments. Ms. Stanzilis will not be able to represent us on the Planning Committee; she has a new position and is no longer available. Mr. Papenberg reported on their last conference in Hamilton.



14. Old Business

President Roman reported that he did not receive a confirmation from Ms. Harris as to whether she will work with Rick Hager of the Dept. of Children & Families. Mr. Hager is still willing to work with NJLBHA and would like a liaison. Mr. Saccenti has volunteered to work with Mr. Hager.

15. New Business

The Institute – President Roman reported that he has not received an update. He spoke with Melissa Fox, Acenda Integrated Health COO in May; they hope to name a Board at the end of June.

Public Health Council – President Roman reported that he is the new Chair. They approved the draft proforma agenda he created. They already approved a few regulations. The Commissioner and President Roman approved an interim set of by-laws to which Members have now proposed several changes.

16. Educational Presentation (as necessary)

17. General Discussion

E-Cigarette Banning – Dr. DiFerdinando reported that E-Cigarette use has increased by 45% over the past two years despite banning the marketing of flavors to those under 18. Dr. DiFerdinando stated that there is an epidemic of nicotine addiction, cannabis and alcohol use that the DOH is ignoring; they are concentrating on mental health. President Roman is also concerned with this issue; he will present it to the Public Health Council as a concern. Mr. Saccenti commented that when you speak to people about vaping, they do not believe it is a health issue. Dr. DiFerdinando reported that there is evidence on the dangers of vaping addictions especially for youth; it contains nicotine and can decrease pulmonary function among other problems.

Mr. Ember is drafting a letter for President Roman to review. The letter will ask the Governor to allow Public Health Professionals to be a part of an oversight committee for the COVID ID review by the law firm he contracted with. This would give the public the opportunity to be involved, especially those with public health expertise. This would allow the review process to be done objectively and for the report to be informative. Mr. Ember has the full support of his autonomous Middlesex Borough BOH and from their Town Council. He and President Roman can use this as an example to encourage other BOH and other Public Health Professionals to sign on. President Roman explained what the Governor is doing for the COVID ID review; he contracted a Boston law firm to review. We want to ask the Governor to include local Public Health professionals to be a part of the review process of the COVID ID.

18. Announcement of Next Meeting Date, Time, and Place

Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 10 am by Zoom.

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:34 am: MSP: Papenberg, Saccenti

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary