



## **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**

**August 19, 2023 \* 10 am \* By Zoom**

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**1. Call to Order at 10:08 am**

**2. Salute to the Flag**

**3. Attendance**

- Voting EXCOM Members Present – Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Steve Papenberg, George DiFerdinando
- Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) – None
- Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) – Julie Moy
- Liaisons Present –
- Guests Present – Kim Laloma (Dept. of Health), Steve Ember (Middlesex Borough), Derrick Webb (NJACCHO)
- Excused – Jeremy Grayson, Robert Uhrik
- Absent – Diana Lachman, Christine Harris, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

**4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)**

*July 15, 2023 – MSP – Saccenti, DiFerdinando*

*Abstain: DiFerdinando, Valas*

**5. Secretary's Report** – Including Correspondence – No report.

**6. President's Report**

President Roman reported that Kevin Sumner is on medical leave.

President Roman reported we have a new acting Commissioner of Health, Dr. Kaitlan Baston. Commissioner Judith Persichilli will remain at the Department as a Consultant. President Roman is trying to set up a meeting with Commissioner Persichilli to thank her and present her with a plaque and resolution for the work performed during COVID. President Roman's plan is to meet with Commissioner Persichilli and meet the acting Commissioner, Dr. Baston. He will also be meeting with Dr. Sejal Hathi, the new Deputy Commissioner, to discuss public health issues and let her know what the Public Health Community would like her to focus on.

President Roman reported that Camden County's Health Officer, Paschal Nwako, and Lynn Rosner, Associate in Education, has invited us to participate in their Summit on October 10, 2023. President Roman is not sure if he will be able to attend; he has asked Mr. Papenberg to attend with him to set up the table and explain our role at the event.

President Roman reported that he received an invitation from NJ Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) President, Chris Merkel to speak at the League of Municipalities in November; President Roman has accepted.

President Roman reported that he participated at the last NJACCHO EXCOM Board meeting and spoke about the need for assistance to increase our membership and answered questions from the Board members. President Roman will follow up with the Board members.



President Roman reported that he has requested a meeting with Dr. Perry Halkitis, Dean of Rutgers University's School of Public Health; update: President Roman is working with his assistant to set up a date and location.

President Roman reported that the American Public Health Association has published two books that maybe of interest. The two publications are: "*Policy Engagement*" and "*Vaccinating America*" by Michael Fraizer and Brett Ewig.

President Roman reminded Members on the policy for EXCOM meetings; when we have non-member guests, they can speak during the open to the public (item #17) portion, under General Discussion. Participants of Member Boards can comment throughout the meeting.

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

Mr. Saccenti did not have anything to report. He asked, when President Roman makes the presentation for NJACCHO and as he continues to work with them, can we ask NJACCHO if any of their members would be interested in joining our Board; President Roman stated that they are only eligible as liaisons.

Mr. Saccenti commented that we have a clause in our By-Laws that does not allow for two or more people from the same local Board of Health to serve on the EXCOM Board. He suggested we revisit this clause.

There were discussion on various ways to increase membership. Ms. Valas suggested we have a social media presence.

Mr. Saccenti has not had the opportunity to reach out to Rick Hager from the Dept. of Children & Families due to a personal health crisis.

**8. Treasurer's Report – Steve Papenberg**

Mr. Papenberg provided the financial report.

**9. Presentation and Approval of Bills – Steve Papenberg**

*Julie Moy* – July Invoice \$100

*President Roman* – Postage \$63

*President Roman* – G&M Trophy \$85 (plaque)

*President Roman* – Omega Graphics \$570 (new flyer)

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

**10. Legal Counsel's Report**

President Roman reported that he invited John Wisniewski, Esq. to this meeting, but he was not available. Mr. Wisniewski will tentatively attend the September meeting to meet the Board.

**11. Committee Reports**

a. By-Laws – No report

b. Finance – No report

c. Membership

Mr. Papenberg reported that we have 66 member Boards and 3 individual members. He will send the list of current and past members to President Roman who will re-transmit to EXCOM for their review.



President Roman reported that he spoke with Health Officer, Kevin Thomas from Cape May County regarding membership.

President Roman reported that he spoke with Robert Dickerson, Health Officer from Cumberland and Salem Counties to recruit membership.

President Roman stated that he was contacted by Joseph Balwierczak, Madison Borough's Health Officer. He was looking for information on noise regulations from leaf blowers. With the encouragement of President Roman, Madison Borough are now members. Dr. DiFerdinando stated that Princeton has a noise ordinance regarding the use of leaf blowers and will send for Members to review and Mr. Balwierczak.

President Roman stated that he was contacted by James Fedorko, Mid Bergen Regional Commission Health Officer, for advice regarding a letter received from a Garfield resident. President Roman explained what information Mr. Fedorko requested and read his email response to him.

d. Legislative

President Roman reported that the Governor recently signed two bills, S1307 and A3585. The Bills establishes a program for certain individuals to become certified as Homemaker/Home Health Aides to provide services to certain Medicaid enrollees. This will assist homemakers who are caring for a child or disabled person to become certified under special circumstances as a Home Health Aide under Medicaid rules to receive funding. The certification will be offered through the NJ Board of Nursing.

President Roman reported that there has been no movement for the Public Health Priority Funds. We have the possibility of meeting with Speaker Craig Coughlin next month to discuss the funding, which he opposes. Speaker Coughlin had this topic removed from Senator Herb Conaway's Health Committee agenda in the Assembly. We are waiting for this topic to be on the Appropriation Committee docket in the Senate. NJACCHO, NJ Public Health Association and NJLBHA has been reaching out to people for support, with little success.

e. Communications – Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that our newsletter, *On Board*, has a 30% click rate, but only 3% read rate. President Roman continues to promote the newsletter whenever he speaks to people. Mr. Saccenti stated that the newsletter is very informative.

President Roman reported on the status of the intern, Yenny Tavaréz from Montclair State University. The University requested additional information for her role. President Roman wrote a detailed list of deliverables and sent to Ms. Tavaréz submit.

f. Audit (as necessary)

g. Nomination

President Roman proposed that Steve Ember, Middlesex Borough Health Officer to be appointed as an interim At-Large Board Member, until our next election in 2024. Mr. Ember has been an active member at our EXCOM meetings. Mr. Ember is the President of the Local Board of Health in Middlesex Borough which is an autonomous Board.

The motion was made to appoint Steve Ember as an Interim EXCOM Member At-Large until the next election. MSP – Roman, Papenberg



**12. Liaison Reports – None**

**13. PHACE Report**

President Roman reported that the next PHACE meeting is September 18, 2023. He and Don Weinbaum completed the By-Laws and will be submitted to Kevin Sumner for review. The goal is to send to the Members before the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for their review, and to be adopted at the November meeting. After adopted, they can apply for the 501(c)(3) tax exemption status.

**14. Old Business**

Dr. DiFerdinando reported that he, Kevin McNally and Jean Herb met with Dr. Sejal Hathi, the new Deputy Commissioner for approximately an hour last Thursday. Discussions included the work the Climate Exchange Initiative has been doing for 15 years. President Roman is also trying to meet with the Dr. Hathi. He expressed his concerns for the new Commissioner, who has no background in Public Health, but we will give her time to learn.

Dr. DiFerdinando was scheduled to report on our involvement and representation at the NJIN/ NJAAP meetings and seminars, but he left our meeting before being called on.

*The Institute* – President Roman reported that the Institute has announced their 21 Board Members. Four Public Health representatives was selected, which includes President Roman. Melissa Fox, Acenda Integrated Health's COO, will be the Chairman of the Board. The Board will meet quarterly and there will be an election/selection for Vice Chair and Secretary. They will hire an Executive Director for the Institute. Board Members hold the position for one or two years. The surname is *The Center for Health Equity*.

President Roman reported on the Public Health Council (PHC) and its past history. Senator Richard Codey announced his retirement at the end of January 2024. After the Senator's retirement, attempts will be made to restore the authority of the PHC.

**15. New Business – None**

**16. Educational Presentation** (as necessary)

**17. General Discussion**

Public Discussion

Kim Laloma, Dept. of Health announced that the NJ Dept. of Health's Office of Rural Health will be hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Rural Health Conference* on November 9, 2024. He described the discussions and topics. If anyone is interested, s/he can contact Marisol Meyer at marisol.meyer@doh.nj.gov.

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

Saturday, September 16, 2023 at 10 am by Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/93466224975>

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

**19. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 11:25 am: MSP: Papenberg, Valas

Respectfully submitted,

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Julie M. Moy  
Recording Secretary