



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

September 16, 2023 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:19 am

2. Salute to the Flag

3. Attendance

- Voting EXCOM Members Present – Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Stephen Papenberg, George DiFerdinando, Robert Uhrig (AL 11:15 am), Steve Ember
- Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) – Christine Harris, Laura O’Reilly–Stanzilis
- Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) – Julie Moy
- Liaison Present – None
- Guests Present – None
- Excused – Jeremy Grayson, Joan Valas
- Absent – Diana Lachman

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

August 19, 2023 – MSP – DiFerdinando, Papenberg

Abstain: Harris, Stanzilis

5. Secretary’s Report – Including Correspondence – No report.

6. President’s Report

President Roman reported that he received a call from Angie, from the Norwood Board of Health, for some advice. Norwood BOH are members.

President Roman reported that he received an inquiry from Raritan Boro (non–member) in Somerset County; they will send President Roman written questions.

President Roman reported that Governor Murphy launched a new platform for the community to “*text directly with NJ*”; the number is 732-605-5455. He will be the first Governor launching this social media project, allowing residents to text him questions. He will use this platform to provide current updates to residents.

President Roman reported that he received an email regarding the cannabis consumption comments that we sent months ago from David Tuoasson from the NJS Cannabis Commission; he was originally sent our response to their request for comments early this year. President Roman’s concerns addressed the need to limit or eliminate cannabis lounges. He suddenly found our request and comment and asked that we resubmit them. President Roman then forwarded our original submission.

President Roman reported that he asked Linda Brown from the NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) to post a notice for NJLBHA’s EXCOM membership recruitment. She previously posted in August and will post again at the end of October. We currently have two vacant slots.

President Roman reported that the NJ Public Health Association (NJPHA) is recruiting for leadership members.



President Roman reported that Maisha Simmons, Senior Director of NJ Grantmaking at Robert Wood Johnson, sent an email informing people of what they are doing. Ms. Simmons also sits on the Institute's Board. President Roman sent her an email explaining his role with NJLBHA and that he is also on the Institute's Board with her. No reply received.

President Roman reported that he was successful in securing a meeting with Speaker Craig Coughlin of the Assembly on Sept. 26, 2023. Speaker Coughlin objects to the Public Health Priority Fund Bills. President Roman invited Chris Merkel to join the meeting. President Roman reported that Mr. Merkel sent out a notice through Linda Brown about the meeting and who may be potentially attending. President Roman spoke with Ms. Brown and explained that Mr. Merkel is the only invitee to the meeting.

There was discussion on NJLBHA's membership levels and the potential to review the By-Laws and modify to today's standards as things change. Mr. Ember asked if a subcommittee could be formed to review the By-Laws. President Roman stated that the By-Laws have a membership committee, which is where this issue would fall under. Mr. Saccenti, Mr. Ember, Ms. Harris and Dr. DiFerdinando will work together on this committee and will discuss off line. The committee will look at the feasibility and formulate a process to get County Commissioners to join NJLBHA.

President Roman reported that he has a tentative meeting with Dr. Perry Halkitis, Dean of Rutgers University's School of Public Health at the end of October.

President Roman reported that there is an opioid summit on September 20, 2023 on *Revitalizing Communities Healing Together from the Opioid Crisis*.

President Roman reported that Dr. Pascal Nowak, Camden County Health Officer, invited him and Mr. Papenberg to host an exhibit table on October 10, 2023, to speak with their local health officials and local board members.

President Roman reported that Kim Laloma, who works for the Office of Rural Health in the State Dept. of Health has been attending our meeting because of his interest in what we are doing. Mr. Laloma sent us the save the date for their 2nd Annual New Jersey Rural Health Conference on November 9, 2023.

President Roman reported that NJACCHO invited him to speak at the League of Municipalities in November following the Health Commissioner.

7. Executive Vice President's Report – John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti reported that he hopes to meet with Rick Hager from the Dept. of Children & Families this week. He did speak with Mr. Hager briefly on the phone. Mr. Saccenti will be attending the League and plans to speak with Mr. Hager at the League.

8. Treasurer's Report – Steve Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg provided the financial report.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills – Stephen Papenberg

Julie Moy – August Invoice \$100

The motion was made to authorize the payment: MSP: Saccenti, Stanzilis



10. Legal Counsel's Report

President Roman reported that John Wisniewski, Esq. was invited to this meeting. President Roman stated that since NJLBHA is a PHACE member, may contact Mr. Wisniewski to assist with PHACE matters.

Dr. DiFerdinando spoke about the abrupt closing of the nursing home, Princeton Care Center. Residents were given 24-hour notice to leave the facility without any assistance. The staff from the State Dept. of Health observed without helping the residents. There was a mobilization of the local Board of Health, the Mercer County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) along with various other volunteers assisting the residents to pack up and leave. The State Dept. of Health did contract with a provider who was able to find beds for most of the residents; however the locations are too far from the residents' families, who most do not have personal transportation to visit. Dr. DiFerdinando sent an article for members to review. Princeton Care Center went bankrupt.

This same week, a lengthy report was published by the Federal Dept. of Justice, about the State's continued failure to our Veterans' nursing homes. Princeton's Human Services Dept. reached out to the State to offer assistance, however, was told by the State that their help was not need. There was discussion of how poor Veterans' care is throughout the State.

11. Committee Reports

a. By-Laws – No report

b. Finance – No report

c. Membership

Mr. Papenberg reported that we have 69 member Boards and 3 individual members.

Mr. Papenberg reported that Cape May's Health Dept. is our newest member; he received the request from their four Commissioners. Mr. Papenberg has not received any correspondence from Salem or Cumberland regarding membership.

d. Legislative

EXCOM gave President Roman authorization to sign onto a letter from The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), regarding gun violence. This letter had strong impact; the Bill is now in the Senate Appropriations Committee, Labor, Health and Education Appropriations Subcommittee. NJLBHA received a letter for continued support in this matter, which included a template letter; President Roman read the email. President Roman asked Mr. Ember to review the template and to draft a letter; he hopes to have the email and letters out by Monday. This will go to the Senators' Aides who deal with health issues. This letter re-enforces our stand on gun violence and acts as a reminder to keep the issue on the forefront: *Firearms Prevention Research*.

Dr. DiFerdinando is representing NJLBHA in *New Jersey Immunization Network* in the American Academy of Pediatrics. He reported that there is an upcoming meeting.

e. Communications – Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that he sent out the flyer to the Board members to send out to help with recruitment. He reported that our newsletter, *On Board*, has a click rate of 34% and read rate of 5%.

He is working on scheduling a meeting with the outgoing/incoming Commissioner along with Dr. Hathi, Acting Deputy for Public Health.



Intern

President Roman reported that the intern, Yenny Tavarez from Montclair State University is no longer available to participate as our intern due to a family matter. President Roman approached Montclair State University again for a new intern; they cannot assign a new intern to NJLBHA at this time. President Roman wrote to Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) to discuss securing an intern. FDU splits their semesters and will try to find an intern for the second half of this semester. President Roman also reached out to his contact at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and is waiting for a response. He will also reach out to Lauren Skrowski at Sustainable Jersey for help with TCNJ. Ms. Harris asked Ms. Moy if she would be interested; she is unable to assist. Ms. Stanzilis spoke with Alyssa Alexandria at FDU and described the work and benefits of placing an intern with NJLBHA; she should hear back from her in October. Ms. Stanzilis also received a call from Caldwell University, who are looking to place public health students. Ms. Stanzilis reported on a project she is working on for the DAWN Center for Independent Living who received Cares Act funding. They are working on a Public Health Work Force Training Project for inclusion of people with disabilities. She compiled a list of all the chairs in the Public Health Depts. in the colleges and universities across NJ. This is an opportunity to use this list to recruit student members and in securing an intern. Ms. Stanzilis requested this issue be put on October's agenda to further discuss.

f. Audit (as necessary)

g. Nomination – None

12. Liaison Reports – None

13. PHACE Report

President Roman reported that Don Weinbaum and President Roman finished the By-Laws draft for PHACE and will be presented at their next meeting on Monday. Kevin Sumner is currently reviewing the draft. PHACE hopes to have the By-Laws approved at a special meeting in October, or at their regular meeting in November. Once approved, Mr. Weinbaum can complete the incorporation and charitable registration papers.

14. Old Business

The Institute – President Roman reported that the Institute has not scheduled their second meeting; meetings will be quarterly. They are still searching for an Executive Director. Ms. Stanzilis has applied for the position and asked for EXCOM support.

Public Health Council – President Roman reported that at their recent meeting, Dr. Hathi gave a report of what is going on the department from her perspective. The Council is recruiting for additional members for two physicians and a “*terrorist familiar person*”. The Council assisted in securing funding through the Dept. of Human Services for HEPA filters for the schools.

15. New Business

Mr. Uhrik announced that he is the new Regional Vice President for the Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Region 9 which covers the New England, New York and New Jersey. NEHA created an initiative to do historical research as to who was the first state to license the first registered environmental health specialists; New Jersey and Louisiana may be the first states. Mr. Uhrik asked if anyone knew, or where he can find out when NJ issue the first license. President Roman suggested he go to the New Jersey American Public Health Association (APHA) website and go to the Archives link. Mr. Papenberg suggested he go to Title 26, which is the license requirement that would lead him to its historical note.



16. Educational Presentation (as necessary)

17. General Discussion

Mr. Saccenti announced that he has NJLBHA shirts; whoever does not have one and would like one, please contact him.

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

Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 10 am by Zoom.

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

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

19. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 11:50 am: MSP: Papenberg, Ember

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary