



## **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**

**JANUARY 20, 2024 \* 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, Stephen Papenberg, George DiFerdinando, Robert Uhrik, Steve Ember
  - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — Christine Harris
  - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
  - Liaisons Present —
  - Guests Present — Kim Laloma (Dept. of Health), Maria Quigley, Florham Park Resident
  - Excused — Jeremy Grayson, Diana Lachman, Laura O'Reilly-Stanzilis, Joan Valas
  - Absent —
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

*December 9, 2023 – MSP – DiFerdinando, Ember*  
*Abstain: DiFerdinando, Papenberg*
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: None
6. President's Report:

President Roman reported that the NJ COVID 19 Response report is due out soon according to NJ Spotlight. Cost of the report to the State is approximately 3.7 million or more. We are not aware of any Public Health officials being consulted in the report. Mr. Saccenti asked if we should inform the Commissioner that the local public health officials were not contacted; President Roman suggested we wait until the report has been published and see what and who are included. He agreed with Mr. Saccenti; this should be brought to the Commissioner's attention. President Roman plans on meeting with the Commissioner in the next 60 days. Ms. Harris commented that COVID has not been listed as the cause of death on death certificates. President Roman responded that from what he understands, COVID is not on the CDC list for the cause of death. Dr. DiFerdinando stated that in NJ, there is an immediate cause of death, then there is the significant contributory cause of death. COVID is not an immediate cause of death, however it was frequently listed as contributory causes of death. An infectious disease is never listed as the cause of death.

President Roman reported that Horizon has a foundation that offer grants, however, we are not eligible since we do not have an independent third party audit.

President Roman reported that he has been trying to reach out to Kerry Ann McGeary, Interim Director for NJ Grant Making at the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) for grant resources with no response.

President Roman reported that the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance (NJEJA) is receiving a lot of press because of their name. They are working on items that have to do with new issues pertaining to public health. NJEJA has a grant we may be eligible for, however, we would have work with several



local boards by overseeing their record keeping and activities. President Roman will take a closer look at the grant requirements and responsibilities.

President Roman reported that the Community Crisis Response group was formed under two Bills, A5326 and S4250. They will create the Community Crisis Response Advisory Council which will launch a pilot program for community crisis response teams. President Roman read the requirements to the members.

President Roman reported on migrant health concerns; he read the email he received on January 11, 2024 from Linda Brown of NJACCHO. NJACCHO is asking towns to report migrant issues so the information can be included in data they are collecting.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti will coordinate with Ms. Chelenza on the upcoming membership mailing. President Roman reminded everyone that memberships expire March 31; any new memberships that come in now, will expire March 31, 2025. Mr. Saccenti will send out membership renewal letters in February.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials. President Roman and Mr. Papenberg will meet in February to go over the audit for the year.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills — MSP: Saccenti, Papenberg  
Julie Moy — December 2023 Invoice \$100

10. Legal Counsel's Report: None

11. Committee Reports:

- A. By-Laws — None
- B. Finance — None
- C. Membership — None
- D. Legislative —

President Roman reported that the two Bills supported by Senator Steven Oroho and Assemblyman Parker Space, allows the governing body in towns with population less than 30,000, to serve as the local Board of Health. Faulkner, Walsh and special charter towns mandate the governing body to act as the BOH. President Roman expressed his concerns for these Bills. He attended a meeting on January 14, 2024 as a representative of the Reserve Organization of America (ROA) as a community partner organization. President Roman wrote two letters to Governor Murphy expressing his concerns for the Bills; he did not receive a response. The two letters were handed over to a Governor's staff member he met at the meeting. President Roman read his second letter to the members, which opposes the Bills supporting the governing body to act as the BOH.

President Roman reported that the Public Health Council reviewed the Bill that was in the Legislature proposing to ban smoking in casinos in Atlantic City and simulcasting facilities; the Bill has already been voted down twice. Casino owners oppose the Bill; they fear they will see a reduction in revenue.

President Roman reported on the Public Health Priority funding Bills. They did not make it to the Governor for consideration. Speaker Craig Coughlin opposes the Bill; President Roman explained the Speaker's reasons. The new Senate Bill number is S2010 and the Assembly Bill is A1854. President Roman will include new Bill numbers on February 9<sup>th</sup> email blast and ask everyone to keep an eye out for the Bills. This information will be included in the membership letters.



President Roman reported on the results of our December 23, 2023 email blast from Constant Contact. The current report shows an increase of interest: open rate is 35.8% and click rate is 6.4%. President Roman went through the “dead” list Ms. Chelenza provided and cleaned up our email list. The number for the January 24, 2024 blast were back down to 29% from 35.8%.

- E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website — None
- F. Audit (as necessary) — None
- G. Nominating (as necessary) — President Roman commented that we still have two openings; if any members know anyone interested in joining, please let him know.

12. PHACE: President Roman reported that the next PHACE meeting is January 29, 2024.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI): President Roman reported that the PHI is finalizing the search for an Executive Director. Eight candidates out of 200 applications have made the first cut. Next cut is to determine three finalist who will be given live interviews.

14. Public Health Council (PHC): President Roman reported that the PHC is looking for two physicians and one terrorism expert in the field of Public Health.

15. Liaison Reports: None

16. Old Business:

President Roman reported on his meeting with Dr. Perry Halkitis, Dean of Rutgers University’s School of Public Health. Based on their discussion, Dr. Halkitis suggested that a video recorded presentation by President Roman be made; it would be shown as part of the training seminar for Health Officer candidates. Dr. Halkitis spoke with Mitchel Rosen and Colleen Wharton, also from Rutgers School of Public Health to work with President Roman on this presentation and to update our orientation training. President Roman took our Orientation Manual Exam and found it inadequate. President Roman will work with Ms. Wharton to upgrade our training program.

President Roman reported on the progress of the intern search; he will begin working on securing an intern again.

President Roman reported that the 2023 Presidential Awards were given by President Roman to Steve Papenberg and Cary Chelenza at the December meeting in appreciation of their long time work and dedication to NJLBHA.

17. New Business: None

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary): None

19. General Discussion:

Public Discussion:

Kim Laloma (Dept. of Health) asked EXCOM members if s/he had any information on sickle cell in NJ. He works for the Office of Primary Care and Rural Health. There is a Bill to establish a three year Sickle Cell Disease pilot program. Mr. Laloma will be working with family qualified health centers; he explained what the initial start of the program will entail. He is asking if members have any connections to groups/organizations that provide resources on sickle cell.

President Roman informed Mr. Laloma that he is waiting for his contact in Cinnaminson Township to provide him with information regarding a Board of Health in this town. Cinnaminson’s attorney is inquiring to see if they are required to have a BOH.



20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

**February 17, 2024** – 10 am was cancelled due to President Roman's illness.

**Next meeting will be March 9, 2024 at 10 am**

Zoom Meeting Link: <https://zoom.us/j/93466224975>

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

Dial by your location

929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 934 6622 4975

21. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:25 am: MSP: Harris, DiFerdinando

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie M. Moy*

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Recording Secretary