



## **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**

**July 20, 2024 \* 10 am \* By Zoom**

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Call to Order at 10:08 am

1. Salute to the Flag:

2. Attendance:

- Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Stephen Papenberg, George DiFerdinando, Steve Ember, Robert Uhrik
- 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, Rural Health, Marie Quigley, Florham Park Resident
- Excused — Jeremy Grayson, Diana Lachman, Joan Valas, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
- Absent —

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

*June 22, 2024 – MSP – DiFerdinando, Ember*

*Abstain: None*

4. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report

5. President's Report:

President Roman reported that he is tentatively scheduled to meet with Kelly Anderson Thomas, Deputy Commissioner for Public Health. The Deputy Attorney General sent a list of items that can and cannot be discussed. President Roman wanted to ask Kevin Sumner to attend with him to discuss PHACE and Public Health Priority Funds. If President Roman is going as Chairman of the Public Health Council (PHC), he can only speak to her about the PHC. He cannot bring Mr. Sumner.

President Roman reported that there was a call scheduled for Thursday, July 19<sup>th</sup> with the Healthcare Coalition's Commissioner of Health. The call was set up through NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO). However, computers were affected by the Microsoft global strike. The meeting was rescheduled on Friday for that afternoon and President Roman was not available. Minutes were sent and he noticed that their discussion did not include the original topic, only the computer system losses.

President Roman reported that there is a grant available from Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NJ and the National Fitness Campaign, to towns/municipalities. This information is on our website.

President Roman reported that Sarah A. Perramant, MPH, the Health Officer from Dover, NJ contacted him for assistance. Dover has a large immigration population. Dover's new mayor, James P. Dodd, is at odds with a number of their leaders. NJACCHO referred Ms. Perramant to President Roman to discuss her responsibilities in dealing with the local government. She and the



administrator are in the midst of suing the town due to the mayor's actions. Dover's Health Dept. is not a member of NJLBHA. She asked her Board to join. They said they saw no need to join. Ms. Perramant has reached out to Shereen Semple, Director, Local Public Health; they will not get involved in local issues. Mr. Uhrik commented on Dover's situation and the inability of the leaders to acknowledge the need for public health.

President Roman reported that Region 2 of the Public Health Training Center is offering self-paced training courses. This information is on our website for anyone to access.

President Roman reported that he had the business cards made for all EXCOM members with the exception of Dr. Grayson; he did not want cards. He is interested in remaining on this Board and he will try to attend some of the meetings. President Roman will distribute the cards at the December meeting that will be held live at Mr. Saccenti's house.

President Roman reported that Jeanne Herb from Rutgers University and Trevor Weigle, Health Officer for several NJ towns, have both retired. President Roman sent well wishes to both on behalf of NJLBHA.

6. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti stated that we should consider giving out the Board of Health Member of the Year award to recognize people doing an outstanding job. President Roman will further discuss with Mr. Saccenti off line. Mr. Saccenti asked if we sent an email to Health Officers with membership application; President Roman will give an update later in the meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials.

8. Presentation and Approval of Bills —

*Julie Moy* — \$100 for June Meeting

*Omega Graphics* — \$350 for Business Cards

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

9. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

10. Committee Reports:

A. By-Laws — No report

B. Finance — Per President Roman, after he and Mr. Papenberg took another review of the 2023 year's membership, we ended up with 79 members.

C. Membership —

Mr. Papenberg reported that we currently have 53 paid members. We need 90 members to break even; 100 members would keep us in the black.

D. Legislative —

President Roman reported on the Public Health Institute Bill. Peter Tabbot from NJACCHO and President Roman for PHACE, along with others, wrote a letter to the Assembly's Health Committee asking for a modification to the Bill that was introduced by Assemblyman Herb Conaway Jr. The Bill gives control of the Institute to the Health Commissioner. President



Roman and Lisa Gulla were selected by Assemblyman Conaway to testify together first at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly Health Committee hearing. President Roman's testimony included the demand to know why the Legislature is intent on taking over a privately funded organization in support of public health. The Institute is not asking for State funding nor do they want to be under their control. There are 45 Institutes in 33 states, which are not under the control of the Depts. of Health but work in collaboration with their Health Depts. The Institute asked for a Bill to recognize the existence of the Public Health Council. When it was Linda Brown's turn to testify, Assemblyman Conaway was rude to her. President Roman took his concerns to his Assemblywoman, Dr. Margie Donlon who is on the Committee. She voted with Assemblyman Conaway, however, wanted to see the changes to the Bill to satisfy the public health community. President Roman met with Dr. Donlon; she stated she would speak with Assemblyman Conaway. President Roman has been unable to reach Dr. Donlon to confirm her discussion with the Assemblyman. President Roman has been trying to meet with Assemblyman Conaway without any success. Assemblyman Conaway was interviewed by Lilo Stainton, NJ Spotlight News. He stated that he will not post the PHPF Assembly Bill in the Assembly Health Committee for a hearing. He sponsored the PHPF Assembly Bill with Senator Gopal sponsoring the Senate Bill.

President Roman reported that the Public Health Institute Bill passed the Assembly Health Committee but has not moved to the Appropriations Committee. Currently, there is no movement on the Bill. There is also no Companion Bill in the Senate. Senator Joseph Vitale is in support of our efforts. Senator Vitale posted the Public Health Priority Fund (PHPF) Bill.

**The PHPI Bill** went through the Health Committee, however, has not moved any further. **The PHPF Bill** has moved through the Senate Health Committee; if Assemblyman Conaway does not post the bill, it will not move in the Assembly.

President Roman reported that Mickey Gross, former Chair of the Public Health Council and still a member, will assist him in setting up a meeting with his friend, Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin. Mr. Gross is a REHS for Middlesex County Health Department and is President of South Amboy Council.

Dr. DiFerdinando reported that a long time member Princeton's Board of Health received a notice from the Dept. of Health that she is in violation of submitting her Financial Disclosure Statement (FDS) late. He has not seen the letter so cannot confirm who sent it. The DOH is not normally the group who would oversee this issue. Mr. Papenberg stated that a new member of their BOH, who was not aware of the requirement of the FDS, received a letter from the DCA, also regarding the lateness of her response. Mr. Papenberg will ask for a copy of the letter to confirm.

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that the *On Board* click rate increased to 4.6%. He sent a pre-amble message along with our recruitment letter directed to all Health Officers on our mailing list. Cary Chelenza sent a special *On Board* email about 3 weeks ago.

F. Audit (as necessary) — No report

G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report



11. PHACE — No report

12. Public Health Institute:

President Roman reported that Monica Lallo, Vice President at the Acenda Integrated Health and a member of the NJPHA Board, sent a letter requesting our participation in a state wide survey of our Health Depts. No one is aware of why or who is requesting this information. Lisa Gulla, immediate past President of NJ Public Health Association, has begun inquiries regarding this request. Just before Acenda's request, NJACCHO put out a notice to gather similar information.

13. Public Health Council:

President Roman is in contact with the Attorney General's office on what he as Chair can/cannot do.

14. Liaison Reports — No report

15. Old Business:

President Roman reported that he read the *Grant Watch* information and called them for additional information. To join *Grant Watch*, the annual fee is \$199 to receive monthly information. Grants can be targeted to certain areas if requested. President Roman will consider joining; it maybe beneficial to us, but he will need assistance in reviewing all the grant information.

President Roman reported that he met with Colleen Wharton from Rutgers University's School of Public Health, regarding our Orientation Training Manual. In a past discussion with Perry Halkitis, Dean of the School of Public Health, President Roman informed him that their program does not include training on the business aspect of running a health department, as well as the structure of local public health boards; Dr. Halkitis agreed. President Roman and others will create a series of training videos in this area, which will be included in the School's program and our training. Ms. Wharton will also assist us in securing an intern through the Rutgers' Graduate School of Public Health.

President Roman had a meeting scheduled with Sally George from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to discuss the Institute and funding for NJLBHA. However, due to the conflict, they had to reschedule. President Roman is trying to get a new meeting date as soon as possible.

President Roman reported that he has a planned meeting with the Deputy Commissioner on Thursday, July 25, 2024.

President Roman reported that NJACCHO has funds available and has asked PHACE and its six organizations to participate. He will draft a proposal on NJLBHA's behalf and will work with Mr. Sumner to do a similar request for PHACE.

17. New Business — No report

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion:

*Public discussion:*

*Kim Laloma* reported that August 4–10, 2024 is National Health Center's Week; information can be found at <https://healthcenterweek.org/> for event activities.



President Roman asked Mr. Laloma to add Mr. Ember to his advocacy group; he agreed.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

**August 17, 2024**, at 10:00 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 11:20 am: MSP: Saccenti, Papenberg

Respectfully submitted,

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*Julie M. Moy*

Recording Secretary

*Adopted: August 17, 2024*