



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

February 15, 2025 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:14 am
2. Salute to the Flag:
3. Attendance:
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Stephen Papenberg, Robert Uhrik, Steve Ember
 - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) —
 - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
 - Liaisons Present —
 - Guests Present — Kim Laloma (Dept. of Health), Dr. Donna Lisi (Franklin/Somerset BOH), Maria Quigley (Florham Park Resident)
 - Excused — Diana Lachman, Joan Valas, Christine Harris, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:
January 18, 2025 – MSP – Ember, Saccenti
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report
6. President's Report
President Roman reported that Congressman Chris Smith's Bill granting 1.95 billion dollars for Autism Care was signed into law. President Roman was one of the principal authors of the training program that New Jersey's first responders use.

President Roman reported that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been confirmed as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services. There is a possibility that he and his team are considering dismantling the CDC, and it is unknown what will happen to the FDA and other divisions under the Department of Health and Human Services under his leadership.

President Roman reported that there is a Bill in Congress, *Alternatives to Pain Act*; he explained what the Bill entails. There are new non-opioid medications coming out that has been FDA approved. President Roman sent a request to Senators Corey Booker, Andy Kim, Robert Menendez, Congressmen Frank Pallone and Donald Norcross for their sponsor consideration. Donna Lisi explained how the new drug works.

President Roman reported that Governor Murphy signed an Executive Order establishing an Advisory Council on HIV, STDs and viral hepatitis that will be led by the Commissioner of Health's representative.

President Roman reported that NJ received \$22 billion in federal funds in FY 2024, marking a 56% increase from pre-pandemic levels. He sent a letter to the Governor detailing his disappointment that funds were not provided for Public Health. A copy of his email was sent the NJLBHA EXCOM and PHACE members.



President Roman reported that on February 4, 2025, he met with Stephanie Gorman, the new President for NJACCHO. He summarized their discussion. Ms. Gorman is the Assistant Health Officer for the County of Morris in their Division of Public of Health.

President Roman reported that he spoke to Mayor Robert Conley from Madison, who is the President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors (NJCOM). He received his contact information from Mr. Uhrik. President Roman sent our tutorial to Mayor Conley and Mayor Michael Stanzilis from Mt. Arlington; they will bring up our information to their Board. Mayor Conley will also reach out to Amanda DePalma, Executive Director for the NJCOM, and discuss getting podium time to speak at one of their events.

President Roman asked EXCOM members to go on NJACCHO's website to look at the Profile Study of Public Health in the US. The data that is from 2022 includes information about health departments, their governance and leadership.

President Roman reported that he sent members the feedback and information from the Division of Local Public Health's recent call in. They hold a monthly call in to which we are invited. Anyone interested has to sign up to have access to the call.

President Roman reported that he has scheduled a meeting with Lauren Skowronski from Sustainable Jersey for March 19, 2025.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti asked about the memberships ending March 31st. President Roman reported that he and Mr. Papenberg will meet on Tuesday to close out the 2024 budget and develop the 2025 budget. They will also work on the new mailing. Mr. Saccenti asked if we can get NJACCHO to send a letter to their members requesting them to help get their Board to join NJLBHA; President Roman reminded everybody that he put a special request directed to the health officers in a recent addition of "On Board". He also brings it up on the NJACCHO quarterly membership meetings which he is invited to.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials. We finally received the \$500 payment for our participation in the *2024 County's Ratings and Ranking* project. President Roman and Ms. Valas participated in the webinars. Ms. Valas will continue to represent us.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills —

Julie Moy — January Meeting Invoice \$100

Mr. Papenberg paid the liability insurance bill \$1,241.49 in January

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report

President Roman provided an update of the issue regarding Montgomery County's situation. Representatives from the Montgomery County's BOH spoke with John Wisniewski, Esq. who was able to advise them. Mr. Papenberg attended their BOH orientation meeting. He explained what he spoke about to this group. Per President Roman, everything remains up in the air at Montgomery Co.

11. Committee Reports

A. By-Laws — No report

B. Finance —



C. Membership

Mr. Papenberg reported we have 60 members (57 Boards and 3 individual memberships)

D. Legislative — No report

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that our most recent click rate for *On Board* was only 2.1%. President Roman asked members to visit our website; changes have been made, and he added everyone's bio on the site.

F. Audit (as necessary) — No report

G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE):

President Roman reported that PHACE has chosen his submission to the logo contest as their new logo with some revisions to it. PHACE is continuing with their advocacy work. President Roman and Kevin Sumner met with the Commissioner on November 15, 2024 and requested a liaison to PHACE. Mr. Sumner will follow up with the Commissioner's office.

President Roman reported that PHACE is considering changing their bi-monthly meetings to monthly in order to be more effective.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI)

President Roman reported that the Senate Bill was revised to include the statement that there will only be one Institute, and that Commissioner of Health will have control of State funds only, not funds from private resources. The Assembly Bill was not changed and has not moved. President Roman reported that Assemblywoman Carol Murphy has been appointed as the new Assembly Health Committee Chair.

14. Public Health Council (PHC)

President Roman reported that PHC's recent meetings have been closed to the public. He has been trying to keep them open, however, since PHC was reorganized by former Acting Governor Cody in 2005 and has a limited advisory role to the Commissioner of Health, they are not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA). Meetings will remain closed for the time being. Two committees were formed to make recommendations:

- For public health infrastructure at the local and state levels including funding
- To make mandatory swimming lessons for children beginning at the 2nd grade level

15. Liaison Reports — No report

16. Old Business:

Online Training Program

President Roman reported that Colleen Wharton from Rutgers University School for Public Health has started revising our online training program. The proposed training course will be approximately one hour followed by a comprehensive exam. Ms. Wharton still needs participants to help do the short video clips for the training.

Intern

President Roman reported that Ms. Stanzilis has secured an intern from Fairleigh Dickenson University to handle the structural and grant research. Ms. Stanzilis will be the preceptor and work closely with the student.



President Roman reported that he is still working with Livia Lazzaro, Intern Coordinator from TCNJ to secure an intern to work on the data base collection. He read the criteria for this position.

17. New Business

President Roman would like to bestow the title, *Director Emeritus* on Dr. George DiFerdinando for his work and dedication to this organization. EXCOM members agreed that this is a great way to honor Dr. DiFerdinando.

The motion was made to authorize the title of Director Emeritus to Dr. DiFerdinando: MSP:
Roman, Uhrik

President Roman stated that our brochure currently shows we have five membership categories; we are only promoting four of the five; the fifth category is for a sponsoring membership. President Roman would like to offer the sponsorship member to start at \$300, which would include benefits similar to what other groups offer to us.

The motion was made to authorize setting a minimum fee of \$300 to the existing sponsoring member level: MSP: Roman, Papenberg

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion

Kim Laloma was going to bring up the Public Health Priority Funding issue, however it has been previously discussed.

Donna Lisi reported that their Franklin Township Advisory BOH has recently approved four new regular members and two new alternate members. Their next ABOH meeting is March 5, 2025. A representative from Zufall Health and the head of the Franklin BOE will be in attendance to discuss the expansion of their services into Franklin Township.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

March 15, 2025, 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 11:32 am: MSP: Ember, Papenberg

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary