



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

March 15, 2025 * 10 am * By Zoom

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, Robert Uhrik, Joan Valas, Steve Ember, Jojoy Cheriyan
 - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — Christine Harris
 - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
 - Liaisons Present — None
 - Guests Present — Donna Lisi (ABOH, Township of Franklin), Maria Quigley (Florham Park Resident)
 - Excused — Diana Lachman, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
February 15, 2025 – MSP – Papenberg, Saccenti
Abstain: Harris, Valas
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report
6. President's Report
President Roman introduced Dr. Jojoy Cheriyan, President of Bergenfield Board of Health. President Roman provided his credentials. We will be asking Dr. Cheriyan to join the EXCOM.

President Roman reminded members that we are invited to join NJDOH, Division of Local Public Health's monthly call for the local health departments. President Roman stated that the calls are informative. Ms. Valas attended the last two meetings. Members have to pre-register to join the monthly meeting.

President Roman reported that the NJ Health Care Coalition (NJHCC) hosted a summit meeting on February 19, 2025. He, Valas, Harris and Stanzilis attended. President Roman summarized what NJHCC does and what was presented at the summit.

Governor Murphy has put out a million dollars to increase vaccination outreach for NJ. Bellevue Hospital has been designated as the regional center for unusual outbreaks coming from other countries that can be brought to the United States. NJ hospitals are not equipped for an unusual outbreak. If a patient in NJ is an outbreak, NYC Fire Dept. EMS will pick up the patient and transport them to Bellevue. NY is in FEMA Region 2 and Bellevue has been chosen as the infectious disease center for the region.

President Roman stated that the FIFA, the group handling the World Cup Soccer Championship in 2025 and 2026 will host some of the games at MetLife Stadium, including the final game and there will be related events in 5–6 cities in NJ. Public Safety Command Post will be located at Liberty State Park.



President Roman reported that the OP-SAIL 250 will be held on July 4, 2026. The tall sails will sail into the NY Harbor to celebrate America's 250th anniversary. Both events will require a closer look at security issues.

President Roman reported that Rutgers School of Public Health – Center for Public Health Workforce Development will host their 30th *Annual Public Health Symposium* on April 7, 2024.

President Roman reported that NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) will be hosting their conference, *Communicating Public Health Authority to Protect Communities* on April 17, 2025 in Edison.

President Roman reminded members that he spoke with Madison Mayor Robert Conley, President of the NJ Conference of Mayors (NJCOM) and Mt. Arlington Mayor Michael Stanzilis, NJCOM Board Member. They will discuss including NJLBHA in a future conference or event at their Board meeting. President Roman will contact them for further discussion. Last year we took out a double business card ad. Mr. Saccenti asked if they will consider allowing us to host a workshop at their conference.

President Roman reported that he responded to a request for comment for a tentative report and amendment to *Title 18A and Title 26*, in regard to Epinephrine *Administration and Nursing* titles. NJ Law Revision Commission to review the titles since they are outdated. President Roman explained the comments he made to the report.

President Roman reported that the *NJ Wealth Disparity Task Force's* report came out in February, *New Jersey, Building a State of Opportunity*, a report to close opportunity gaps and repair structural disparities. He summarized the report. It is pursuant to Executive Order 262.

President Roman reported that he is still in discussion with Linda Brown from NJACCHO to get a voice at their forums group. He plans on attending their retreat in May and is trying to get an opportunity to speak at the retreat.

President Roman reported that he met with Senator Vin Gopal to discuss the Public Health Priority Funding and other issues. Michael Iliano will draft a Bill mandating education for BOH Members. Currently, mandated training is only required for Planning Board and BOE members. Elected Officials are not required to participate in any training.

President Roman reported that he met with Senator Vin Gopal regarding the Public Health Priority Funding. The Senate and Assembly are not aware of Public Health activities. Senator Gopal suggested that he and Linda Brown should send a mass mailing to the Legislature and include a copy of *NJSA 8:52, Health Chapter 52: Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in NJ*.

President Roman reported that the Environmental Justice Advisory Council is sending out notices through the NJPHA, seeking members from the public health sector to join their group. President Roman sent this information to EXCOM members to consider volunteering and to represent NJLBHA. Mr. Ember will consider and speak with President Roman off line.

Ms. Valas reported on the *County Health Ranking* project from the University of Wisconsin. She participated in the project and explained what it entailed. She worked with Karen Blumenberg from GASP. Funding was through Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The RWJF funding will end in 2025.



7. Executive Vice President’s Report — John Saccenti – No report

8. Treasurer’s Report — Steven Papenberg
Mr. Papenberg went over the financials.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills —
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|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Julie Moy — February Meeting Invoice | \$100 |
| Cary Chelenza — Invoice | \$1,160 |
| G&M Throphy — Plaque for Dr. D | \$25 |
| Omega Graphics — Stationary | \$250 |
| J. Saccenti — State Annual Report | \$33 |

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

10. Legal Counsel’s Report — No report

11. Committee Reports:

A. By-Laws — No report

B. Finance

President Roman reminded members that at the last meeting, we agreed to promote sponsorships starting at \$300. He asked all Members to promote the sponsorship

C. Membership — Mr. Papenberg reported that we have 17 members for the new year and 3 rolled over from November 1st.

D. Legislation

President Roman reported that the American Public Health Association has sued the Trump Administration to save CDC, FDA and another health related organizations. NJ just lost 1,200 federally funded positions of which 700 were in the State Dept. of Health.

President Roman reported that the budget hearings will begin March 25, 2025; 2 for the Senate and 2 for the Assembly. He signed up to secure a spot at one of each meeting to speak. All the PHACE organizations are in agreement on our bullet points. President Roman reported that when grants end (June, September 2025 and/or March 2026), over to 20% of the Public Health work force may be unemployed unless picked up by local government funds. A number of people from the NJDOH have already lost their jobs. This is happening in all states.

President Roman reported that the *Costing Assessment Survey* was created by NJACCHO, with the help from the State of Ohio’s Public Health staff along with others from across the country. The link can be found *On Board* with a note from President Roman to complete the report by mid-April and return to NJACCHO. These reports will be collated and should tell us the true cost for sustained funding for foundational services. The estimated cost is \$150 million dollars. The NJ Public Health Association (NJPHA) Advocacy Committee is working on a flyer and white paper to send to the Stakeholders, Legislator, and the media. The document will express our concerns. President Roman asked the members to reach out to their Legislators to inform them of the situation. Senator Gopal is trying to get President Roman a meeting with Assembly Speaker Coughlin. Ms. Valas will try to get a meeting with Assemblyman John Azzariti for her and Dr. Cheriyan. Assemblyman Azzariti used to be on the Saddle River BOH.

New Assembly Chair of the Health Committee is Carol Murphy.

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website —

President Roman reported that the recent *On Board* received a 5% click rate and 34% open rate.



- F. *Audit:* President Roman reported that he and Mr. Papenberg completed the informal audit for 2024 and closed out the books; everything is in order. In 2024, we spent \$7,585; we received approximately \$5,000 and received \$500 for the Narrative Project. Last year, we lost \$620. In 2023, we had 70 members; in 2024 we were down to 57 board members and 3 individuals. We do not have a database with names, emails and full addresses. President Roman is still working on securing an intern to create this database; he is working with TCNJ’s coordinator. President Roman’s cousin will assist with creating the matrix which will eventually include the information we are interested in.

End of Year Report and Proposed 2025 Budget

President Roman and Mr. Papenberg created a projected budget. This would include 90 members, which would bring us \$8,500. We have a \$7,000 grant from NJACCHO which will offset Ms. Chelenza’s and other administrative expenses and fees. Projected expenditures for 2025 are approximately \$11,533. President Roman asked Members to reach out to their contacts to encourage them to join. We need a minimum of 90 members to break even and 100 to produce some income.

Mr. Saccenti will send Members a proposal to reinstate our awards dinner with two award categories: Health Officer of the Year and Board of Health Member of the Year. Mr. Saccenti opined that since this event has stopped, our membership has declined slightly. We need to get our name back out there to increase our membership.

The motion to approve the 2024 Annual Report: MSP: Valas, Uhrik

The motion to approve the 2025 Budget as presented in writing: MSP: Ember, Valas
\$15,550 projected receipts
\$11,533 projected expenditures

- G. Nominating

President Roman previously introduced Dr. Cheriyan who expressed interest in joining the EXCOM. President Roman nominated Dr. Cheriyan to fill an interim At–Large seat on the Board; seconded by Mr. Saccenti, all in favor by voice vote.

We usually have an election every two years. An election was not performed in 2024. We have difficulty getting members to respond. President Roman will sort out the appropriate course of action and brief at the next meeting.

- 12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)

President Roman reported that the next PHACE meeting is in May; they will discuss meeting monthly in place of bi–monthly meetings. PHACE will be the recipient of a paper from NJ Public Health Association in regard to PHPF, for review.

- 13. Public Health Institute: President Roman is no longer a Board member. He reported that PHI has been chastised for not yet raising funds for public health, which is one of their main goals. Their interest seems to lie in some of the equity items that Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is supposed to be funding.

- 14. Public Health Council (PHC)

President Roman reported they organized two committees: 1) support youth swimming training beginning with the 2nd grade level; 2) infrastructure and funding for local public health. PHC’s next meeting is April 14, 2025.



15. Liaison Report: No report

16. Old Business

President Roman provided an update on the *Montgomery Township BOH* with the problem Devangi Patel, Health Officer has brought to his attention. John Wisniewski, Esq. is helping them with their current situation. Ms. Patel drafted a resolution for her Board to pass and present to their administrator; she has not received a response. The administration is trying to cut salaries of the health officers and inspectors.

President Roman reminded Members that Ms. Stanzilis has been supervising an intern from Fairleigh Dickenson University. She wrote a one page article on public health, which has been posted in the *On Board* newsletter. The intern will also be creating a matrix for future grant applications.

President Roman and Linda Brown have both spoken to Senator Gopal about the Opioid funding. They suggested that Public Health should be included in the distribution of funds. Ms. Brown spoke to Senator Murphy, Chairman of the Education Committee, to try to get the Public Health agencies written into future Opioid funding.

Online Training Update

President Roman reported that Colleen Wharton from Rutgers University School for Public Health is 2/3 complete with revising our online training program. There will be a quiz at the end of each module and a final exam at the end of the training. EXCOM members will be able to review and comment when Ms. Wharton forwards the draft documents.

Sustainable Jersey

President Roman reported that he has a scheduled meeting with Lauren Skowronski from Sustainable Jersey. He wants to renew relationship with Sustainable Jersey, and ask for help in securing grants and interns.

Linkedin Account

President Roman reported that that Ms. Chelenza has informed him that NJLBHA has a LinkedIn account with 500+ connections. He believes it may have been started by Ms. Stanzilis. Ms. Valas sent a message via LinkedIn and will wait for a response. She is willing to manage the account if we can get access.

17. New Business

President Roman reported that *Sustainable Jersey* is hosting a summit on May 9, 2025. Mr. Ember will attend the summit on behalf of his town.

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion

Public Discussion

Donna Lisi (ABOH, Township of Franklin) stated that Franklin Township was a recipient of the Sustainable Jersey Technical Assistance Grant. Franklin received technical assistance with their local needs assessment two years ago. Dr. Lisi stated that their town issues proclamations during Public Health Week. She asked if there was a template they can follow; President Roman will forward.

Dr. Lisi reported that Jersey Healthy Communities Network is hosting a conference on April 2, 2025, *Healthy Minds, Healthy Communities, Building Healthy Environments for Active Living*.



Dr. Lisi asked if we have considered doing public service announcements (PSA) on local cable networks to boost membership. President Roman responded that during COVID, the NJ Broadcast Association did a recording to broadcast throughout the state, however it never was broadcasted. Dr. Lisi mentioned the various promotions we can do on LinkedIn.

Ms. Harris commented that we need to keep focused on growing the organization and try to ensure that Health Officers recognize their responsibilities, and the overall health of the community they serve. The Health Officers needs to work with their local boards and departments. President Roman has been trying to communicate this information to the Health Officers; we do not have contact with most board members. Ms. Valas agreed that Health Officers need to approach their BOH to join NJLBHA.

Maria Quigley (Florham Park Resident) agreed that the idea of a recognition would be a viable way to get NJLBHA's name out there, recognizing the important activities and justifying the work of public health. We should find a way to share the information beyond the health officers. She agreed that they are not getting the information to their administration.

There was continued discussions on the role of the Health Officers. Some of these Health Officers oversee several towns where they can promote NJLBHA. President Roman suggested members to reach out to Stephanie Gorman, the new President for NJACCHO and Deputy Health Officer in Morris County to express their concerns.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting

April 12, 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 12:25 am: MSP: Saccenti, Valas

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

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Recording Secretary

Approved: April 12, 2025