



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

June 21, 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, Jojy 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 — Kim Laloma (Dept. of Health), Dr. Donna Lisi (Franklin/Somerset BOH), Justine Decker (Middlesex Boro BOH)
 - Excused — Diana Lachman, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

May 17, 2025 – MSP – Papenberg, Saccenti
Abstain: Harris
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report
6. President's Report:

President Roman reported that NJACCHO's new Strategic Plan has been published and available on their website to view.

President Roman reported that he sent out the minutes from the *Monthly Local Department Health* call. He suggested everyone read the minutes; it was very informative. Dr. Cheriyan was not able to get onto the call.

President Roman congratulated East Orange for having a public health vending kiosk in place. The kiosk provides free health information. Ms. Harris stated the kiosks are known as the *Harm Reduction Kiosk*. East Orange plans to distribute the kiosks in all five wards. It is too early to analyze the community assessment usage data at this time.

President Roman reported that the State announced through NJACCHO, that the ELPHI and SLPHI grants have been reinstated for the next grant year. Applications are pending due to federal and/or state cuts.
7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti stated that he did not have anything to report. President Roman reported that he spoke with Lisa Gulla regarding NJLBHA presenting our award at their event. Lisa likes the idea of NJLBHA presenting our awards at their event and will discuss with NJPHA leaders. NJPHA will be celebrating 150 years of Public Health, October 16, 2025.



8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg
Mr. Papenberg reviewed the financials.
9. Presentation and Approval of Bills
Beckerman & Co. — Fiduciary Bond \$186
Julie Moy — May Meeting Invoice \$100

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report
President Roman reported that he spoke with John Wisniewski, Esq. regarding the Municipal *Optional Charter Law* and secondary act, the *County Optional Charter Law*.
11. Committee Reports:

- A. By-Laws — No report
- B. Finance

President Roman reported that Ms. Valas continues to work with Karen Blumenberg from GASP on the *County Health Rankings and Road Map Funding Opportunities* project. We should anticipate an additional \$500 at the end of the year. Ms. Valas will meet with Ms. Blumenberg on Thursday, June 26th and will report back at the next meeting.

President Roman reported that we should receive a payment of \$5,700+ from NJACCHO.

- C. Membership — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg reported that we have 55 member full boards and 4 individuals.

- D. Legislative

Mr. Saccenti reported that he spoke with Jack Ciattarelli; if he is elected as Governor, he would be an advocate of local public health.

President Roman reported that the Federal District Court in Rhode Island granted an injunction against the Trump administration for the 11 billion dollars clawed back from the States. The Federal budget has not been approved yet.

President Roman reported that the State budget is in turmoil due to activities in Washington. He received a form letter from Senator Chris Smith thanking him for his support. He reported that there is no Priority Health Fund money, but they are looking for additional funding for the departments. Mr. Papenberg stated that at the Pennington BOH meeting, it was suggested that NJLBHA create a form template letter of support for the local boards to send to their legislators. President Roman stated that NJACCHO was supposed to do a major outreach campaign and tried to encourage the health officers to do it, but only a few participated. President Roman may draft a letter to send to the health officers. He is waiting to speak with Stephaine Gorman & Senator Gopal.

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

President Roman reported that the click rate for opening the newsletter was 34%.

Ms. Valas reported that Ms. Stanzilis will maintain the LinkedIn account.

- F. Audit (as necessary) — No report

- G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report



12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE):

President Roman reported that the next PHACE meeting is June 30, 2025. PHACE will now meet monthly.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI)

President Roman reported that the PHI Bill passed. The Bill allows the State to control state funds only. The Dept. Of Health *Executive Directive is 25-002, Designation of the State's Public Health Institute* pursuant to Public Law 2025, Chapter 46.

14. Public Health Council (PHC)

President Roman reported that he was not able to attend their last meeting. PHC made minor changes to the cancer registry registration and advanced their two recommendations about local infrastructure and funding and an endorsement recommending support of swim training statewide starting at 2nd grade.

President Roman reported that DOH had a major change in personnel. Dr. Kaitlan Baston has taken the Interim President of University Hospital in Newark. Jeffrey Brown is the new Acting Commissioner and Kelly Anderson–Thomas is the new Deputy Commissioner for Administration and is the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Dr. Novneet Sahu has been appointed as the new Deputy Commissioner for Public Health. Shereen Semple is the new Assistant Commissioner for the Division of Local Public Health

15. Liaison Report:

Kim Laloma announced that the *National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)* will be hosting their annual *National Health Center Week*, August 3–9, 2025. NACHC will be celebrating 60 years.

16. Old Business

President Roman is trying to reach out to the new President of the *NJ of Conference of Mayors* – Mayor Jason Cilento, Borough of Dunellen. Mr. Uhrik is trying to get his cell phone number. President Roman has had no success in connecting with this group's staff. He will continue to try to get on their Fall Conference agenda.

Brent Nance is the NJACCHO's Co–Host/Chair for the *New Health Officer Forum*, which is a training program for new or any other officers interested. The forums are held quarterly. President Roman has been invited to be on their August program; he will provide information on NJLBHA.

Dr. Cheriyan attended the New Jersey Immunization Network (NJIN); he summarized what was discussed. President Roman reported that about 450 staff members that were let go will be returning to the CDC. *National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)* currently does not have an executive director; some of their lost funding has been restored.

President Roman reported that he met with Colleen Wharton from Rutgers School of Public Health; she received the approval to continue working on our training program. Once the student has gone through all the training steps and passes the quiz, s/he will receive a certificate of completion as is now done. The next meeting is July 24th to firm up the draft. President Roman has invited Ms. Wharton to brief our EXCOM and then release the draft to them and certain other reviewers.

President Roman reported that he met Deborah Mans about possible grant help. She and her company are not able to help.



Ms. Mans is also the Mayor of the Borough of Glen Ridge. Their Mayor and Council act as the Board of Health for Glen Ridge Borough and has an Advisory Board of Health. This is incorrect according to the law.

Mr. Saccenti spoke with a grant writer he knows. The 3 areas President Roman would like to concentrate on reaching out to public utilities, banks and hospital corporations.

President Roman reported on the State's OPIOID Strategic Plan regarding the OPIOID settlement through 2030. When they announced the formation of the Advisory Council, President Roman testified at a listening session last year, where he spoke about the need to include Public Health. He stated that Public Health should be involved in the OPIOID money distribution process. The Health Care people will be the ones to deal with the after affects handling the harm reduction. President Roman will review the Executive Summary and construct a letter on NJLBHA's behalf, advocating for public health through the Boards to be included in the fund distribution.

- 17. New Business — No report
- 18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report
- 19. General Discussion:

Dr. Lisi reported that Somerset County's *Individual Community Health Improvement Plan*, was recently released in June.

President Roman reported that the *Northeast Supply Enhancement* (NESE) has an expansion project of the existing Transco natural gas pipeline system proposed to run through Central Jersey. Dr. Lisi explained what can occur if the pipeline comes through NJ and how the community's health will be affected. The pipeline will be a major public health problem.

- 20. Announcement of Next Meeting:
August 9, 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 11:35 am: MSP: Cheriyan, Valas

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy
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Recording Secretary