



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

August 9, 2025 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:12 am
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance:
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Stephen Papenberg, 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 — Dr. Donna Lisi, Franklin/Somerset BOH, Colleen McKay Wharton, Rutgers School of Public Health
 - Excused — Diana Lachman, Robert Uhrik
 - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:

June 21, 2025 as amended by Ms. Harris – MSP – Harris, Ember
Abstain: None
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report
6. President's Report
President Roman thanked Mr. Saccenti for sending out NJLBHA polo shirts to Dr. Cheriyan and Mr. Ember. He will order new polo shirts to include women's polos.

President Roman reported that he sent DOH's current reorganizational chart out to the members. DOH is still working on the chart.

President Roman stated that he sent members the link for the *2024 Forces of Change* report. The link is also on the National Association of County & City Health Officials' (NACCHO) website.

President Roman reported that he signed a letter, on behalf of NJLBHA in support of the Association Business Solution's (ABS), *Help Strengthen Youth Protections from Flavored Vapes* project. There are bills in the NJ Legislature to protect youth by increasing penalties of illegal vape sales to youth, increasing retail inspections and prohibiting deliveries to customers under 21 years of age.

President Roman congratulated the NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP); they were named the *2024 Outstanding Very Large Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics*. Dr. Cheriyan is involved with NJAAP.

President Roman introduced Colleen McKay Wharton, Rutgers School of Public Health. Ms. Wharton is the Program Director for the Center for Public Health Workforce Development under Drs. Perry Halkitis and Mitch Rosen. She has been working closely with President Roman in revising our training program. Ms. Wharton shared her screen and presented the training in detail. Drs. Halkitis and Rosen are interested in adding a similar course to the student health officer



curriculum programs. President Roman and Ms. Wharton will work on an alternate student course derived from this training. EXCOM members had the opportunity to ask Ms. Wharton questions and make suggestions. She will email members the training for review and to provide comments. President Roman and Ms. Wharton request that each EXCOM member perform a thorough review and make comments while taking the draft course. To Ms. Wharton by Saturday, August 30th. **Please do this now!**

President Roman reported that the Governor signed his budget. Public Health money was not included in the budget. Senator Paul Sarlo, Head of the Senate Budget Committee, initially announced that he would post the Public Health Priority Funding Bill but then rescinded his decision the next day. President Roman and others sent Senator Sarlo pleas for support but did not receive any response.

President Roman reported that the *Costing Model* done by NJACCHO, is under review. From this model, there will come a truer picture of the actual cost of governmental public health service delivery and the staffing required.

President Roman reported that the Senate just passed the Labor and HHS Bill. The Bill will be returned to the House for review where the cuts may grow again. The CDC also took a hit in the Senate, but not as bad as we anticipated and not as bad as the original House version.

President Roman reported that we will receive an honorarium of \$500 from Karen Blumenberg of GASP, for our participation on the *County Health Rankings and Road Map Funding Opportunities* project. Ms. Valas is working with Ms. Blumenberg on the project and reported that the project is just about complete.

President Roman reminded everyone that NJACCHO approved a \$7,000 sub-grant to NJLBHA from the State’s Workforce Development grant prior to the Federal Government’s clawback of 360 million dollars on March 24th. We received \$5,000 in 2024 and were to receive \$7,000 in 2025. President Roman was able to send NJACCHO a report showing our expenditures prior to the March 24th deadline. NJACCHO was able to send NJLBHA \$5,759.02 of the \$7,000. President Roman reported that the State was able to get approval to reinstate the rest of the grant. We now have an additional \$1,240.98 to spend by March 2026. President Roman explained how the initial grant funds were disbursed. He requested approval to reimburse him for \$1,312.41 for the following services he paid for from these funds. He wavered reimbursement of \$102 in costs he paid to the League of Municipalities.

- Lauren Ungar for clerical work \$744.00
- Office Supplies \$568.41
- \$1,312.41

The motion to approve the reimbursement payment from the NJACCHO grant to President Roman:
MSP: Cheriyan, Ember

Abstained: Roman

President Roman thanked NJACCHO for providing NJLBHA the grant.

President Roman asked EXCOM to register for the NJ Society of Public Health Educators’ summit program on August 21, 2025 at Montclair State University. President Roman will be the panel facilitator, and Ms. Valas will be on the panel. NJLBHA is supporting this program with \$200; he is waiting to find out where to send the money.



Motion to pay NJSPHE \$200 to support their program: MSP: Cheriyan, Papenberg

President Roman reported that he is doing research on the *Optional County Charter law*. He explained the definition of the law.

President Roman reported that the NJ Public Health Association's Advocacy Committee created a white paper on healthcare. They will be sending the draft to PHACE for comments.

President Roman asked Dr. Cheriyan if he had a report on the pediatric group he is working with; he did not have anything to report.

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

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg
Mr. Papenberg reported on NJLBHA's financial information.

9. Presentation and Approval of Other Bills

Julie Moy — June 2025 Meeting Invoice	\$100.00
John Saccenti — Shipping invoice	\$26.78

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

11. Committee Reports

A. By-Laws — No report

B. Finance — No report

C. Membership — No report

D. Legislative — No report

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website — No report

F. Audit (as necessary) — No report

G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)

President Roman reported that the new logo is now official in blue and gold and the bank account is now open.

13. Public Health Institute — No report

14. Public Health Council

Committee work on infrastructure Phase 2 will start. The August meeting was moved to the 18th to give time to the members to review NJAC 8:57 the Communicable Disease, etc. regulation which was finally published for adoption with changes after 2 years of work on hundreds of stateholders' comments and State Health Dept. staff work. On August 12th Chair Stephanie Carey and Vice Chair Paul Roman will meet in person with the Acting Commissioner Jeff Brown.

15. Liaison Reports — None

16. Old Business

President Roman reported that he received the contact information for the NJ Conference of Mayors' (COM) new president, Borough of Dunellen, Mayor Jason Cilento. He sent Mayor Cilento an email describing NJLBHA's activities. Amanda M. De Palma, Executive Director spoke with



President Roman. Ms. De Palma informed him that a number of staff have retired, and staff assistance is limited. NJCOM does not have much funding; they are trying to raise money through sponsorships. At their 2024 conference, we purchased 2 business card size ads for \$200. The 2025 Annual Spring Conference did not have a printed journal. This year they are having a get together BBQ and education offering at the Bay Head Yacht Club. There will be a printed journal. We should place our 2 card sized ad for \$200

The motion to approve \$200 for the NJCOM business card ad for their conference: MSP: Valas, Papenberg

President Roman reported that he spoke to Brett Nance from the Freehold Health Dept. Ms. Nance is the Program Chair for NJACCHO's *New Health Officer Forum* programs. President Roman will be a presenter at their November 12, 2025 session.

President Roman reported that he will write to the Dept. of Human Services' Advisory Council, Commissioner Sarah Adelman regarding the OPIOID settlement. The settlement does not include funds for public health **BUT SHOULD!**

17. New Business

President Roman reported that Dr. Lisi sent him information on the following items which he forwarded:

- *NJ Healthy Aging Summit: OPIOID Safety and Alternatives* on September 26, 2025
- Trust for America's Health article: *Age Friendly Public Health Systems: How the 10 Essential Public Health Services Align with the AFPHS 6Cs Framework for Supporting Healthy Aging*

President Roman reported he was invited by NJACCHO to speak at the League of Municipalities following the Commissioner. NJACCHO will present the Osborne Award at the same session so time will be tight.

NJLBHA Awards, President Roman reminded members that Mr. Saccenti suggested we reinstitute our awards. President Roman reached out to NJPHA, who is celebrating 150 years of advocating public health at their 2025 Conference & Awards Dinner on October 16, 2025 at the National Conference Center, Route 33 in East Windsor. We will partner with NJPHA, who is allowing us to present some of our awards in collaboration with NJPHA at their event. President Roman and Vice President Saccenti will meet and plan this out.

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion

Dr. Lisi announced that the NJ Advocates for Aging Well, is presenting a free webinar, *Age Friendly Health Systems – The AF Pharmacist Champions*, on September 18, 2025.

Dr. Lisi announced that the Osher Life Long Learning Institute at Rutgers University catalog is available for older adults to register for programs. Dr. Lisi will be teaching a 4 week course on *Are You Health Literate?*

20. Announcement of Next Meeting

September 13, 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



The meetings for remainder of the year are October 11, November 8 and December 13.

21. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:25 pm: MSP: Valas, Papenberg

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

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Recording Secretary