



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

October 11, 2025 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:10 am
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance:
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, Stephen Papenberg, Steve Ember, Christine Harris, Jojy Cheriyan, Donna Lisi
 - 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)
 - Excused — Diana Lachman, John Saccetti, Joan Valas
 - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis, Robert Uhrik
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):
 - September 13, 2025 – MSP – Papenberg, Lisi
 - Abstain:* Harris
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report
6. President's Report

President Roman reported that Robert Kennedy replaced the national advisory panel members with inexperienced members. The Governor announced that the State of NJ is now a part of the Northeast States Public Health Collaborative (NSPHC). All the States from Maine to Maryland are working together as part of a new collaborative.

President Roman reported that the CDC is dropping their recommendations for COVID vaccines leaving the choice by patient; he read the CDC statement dated October 6, 2025. NJ is open to providing vaccinations. Per Dr. Lisi, the Governor signed an order allowing pharmacists to dispense the vaccinations across the age range. The CDC expanded the access to the vaccination to pregnant women. Dr. Lisi stated that Somerset County DOH will not be holding COVID-19 vaccine clinics. They are giving out the influenza vaccine and holding flu shot clinics.

President Roman reported that he testified at a transformation for rural health delivery grant proposal hearing dealing with a federal application NJ will be submitting. The Governor asked for stakeholder's input. The total grant is 50 billion dollars; NJ would stand to receive 1 billion dollars. President Roman summarized what he presented in testimony.

President Roman reported that the NJ Conference of Mayors (NJCOM) hosted their conference on May 25th; we placed an ad in their journal. He will try to approach NJCOM and try to get an opportunity to speak with them to discuss collaboration.



President Roman reported that he will speak at the League of Municipalities following the Acting Health Commissioner, Jeffrey Brown.

President Roman reported that NJACCHO, in conjunction with the DOH will host *Public Health in Transition, Building Our Future Together* on October 22, 2025.

President Roman reported that Dr. Margaret C. Fisher, MD, FAAP, from Sea Bright who was the former Regional Health Commissioner and special assistant to the Commissioner of Health during COVID, will be recognized by the NJ Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (NJAAP) with their *Pediatrician Lifetime Achievement Award* at their 75th anniversary celebration on December 13, 2025.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

President Roman reported that Mr. Saccenti put him in touch with Sharon Salvador, who owns a consultant and grant writing firm. Ms. Salvador's firm does charge for their services and requested a number of other documents, which she will review when received and provide a tentative cost for service.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills —

Cary Chelenza — \$64.79 for postage and copying

Cary Chelenza — \$500 Invoice

NJACCHO — \$40 for the League lunch for President Roman

Julie Moy — \$100 for the Sept. 13, 2025 Meeting Invoice

John Saccent — \$26.78 for postage

The motion was made to authorize the payments: MSP: Cheriyan, Ember

10. Legal Counsel's Report

President Roman reported that he received an email from Debbie Whelan, who is the secretary/ registrar for the Borough of Norwood's BOH. She asked if they could conduct salon inspections without a REHS credentials. President Roman read his response to Ms. Whelan.

11. Committee Reports:

- A. By-Laws — President Roman stated that in accordance with our By-Laws, we have to have an annual meeting and election, which is scheduled on March 15, 2026. President Roman stated that he will make a slight revision to the By-Laws, which he will forward to EXCOM to review. President Roman went over the election process. Once the election is complete, officers will begin April 1st.
- B. Finance — Mr. Papenberg has not received the \$500 check from Karen Blumenberg from GASP for our participation in the *County Health Ranking* project.
- C. Membership — Mr. Papenberg reported we have 61 members and 3 individuals.
- D. Legislative — President Roman reported that the *Costing Tool* developed by NJACCHO's Health Departments had 35 board responses. It should be ready for review soon.
- E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website — President Roman thanked Dr. Cheriyan for his work in gaining access and activating the LinkedIn account. There are approximately 600 contacts on the LinkedIn account. President Roman will give information to Ms. Chelenza to post onto the LinkedIn account. In the next *On Board* blast, we will invite people to connect with our LinkedIn account.



- F. Audit (as necessary) — No report
- G. Nominating — President Roman asked Tina Mereos, Health Officer for Morristown Health Dept. and President of the Mid Bergen Regional Health Commission, to consider joining NJLBHA. Ms. Mereos cannot join at this time due to her work schedule but was honored to be asked.
- 12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE) — President Roman reported that the \$10,000 from NJACCHO has been re-approved. PHACE can now start moving forward in creating a website that will feature all six member organizations.
- 13. Public Health Institute — No report
- 14. Public Health Council — President Roman reported that the August meeting was primarily to review and to make recommendations for approval the communicable disease regulation that has been in review for two years. At the September meeting, there was discussion on infrastructure and there was a vote on blood cancer regulations. The October meeting was canceled.
- 15. Liaison Reports — Mr. Ember participated in the Environmental Justice zoom meeting for approximately 40 minutes. He summarized what was discussed during that portion of the meeting.

Dr. Cheriyan attended the last NJ Pediatric Association which meets once every two months; he gave his brief at the last meeting. Dr. Cheriyan will attend the NJDOH Local Public Health call discussion on vaccines on October 14, 2025.

Kim Laloma reported that the NJPHA award ceremony will be October 16, 2025. He also announced the Rural Health Conference will take place on November 20, 2025.

- 16. Old Business — *Orientation Training* by Colleen Wharton: President Roman reported that Ms. Wharton has concluded eight interviews and introduction to the training by President Roman. He and Ms. Wharton are still working on the program. Ms. Wharton still needs to address the National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) *Pillars of Governmental / Environmental Public Health* report that explains the health department's responsibilities to environmental health and REHS's responsibilities. Ms. Wharton will also be creating a students' version of the training to be used by the public health schools with Rutgers hosting the pilot program. Once the training is complete, President Roman and Ms. Wharton will strategize how the program will be implemented.

NJPHA Conference, October 16, 2025 — President Roman reminded EXCOM members that we are partnering with NJPHA to present our awards at their award dinner. He reported that the list of awardees was emailed to EXCOM members. President Roman will present Cookie Richmond, widow of Michael S. Richmond, Esq. who has been our attorney since the founding of this organization until his passing, with a plaque in Mr. Richmond's honor. President Roman announced the four Professionals awardees. The *President's Award* will go to Ms. Wharton for her work on our training program. The *Christopher Saccenti Board Member of the Year Award* will go to Joann Hill-Fields, VP of the Princeton BOH. The *Walter A. Stein Advocate of the Year Award* will go to Dr. Eddie Bresnitz. The first *Michael S. Richmond, JD Memorial for Legislator of the Year* will be shared with NJPHA and be given to Senator, Joseph Vitale. Ms. Harris will assist President Roman with set up of the exhibit table.

- 17. New Business — No report
- 18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report
- 19. General Discussion — Mr. Papenberg reported that he received a call from Devangi Patel, Montgomery Health Officer; she had a question about embargo power specifically related to vaping products for tobacco; do they have the power to inspect the embargo. President Roman suggested Ms. Patel should reach out to Shereen Semple or a staff member to discuss.



20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

November 8, 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 11:25 am: MSP: Cheriyan, Papenberg

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

Recording Secretary