



**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**

**December 13, 2025 \* 10 am**

**Live – 380 Fresh Ponds Rd., North Brunswick, NJ**

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1. Call to Order at 11:03 am
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance:
  - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Stephen Papenberg, Robert Uhrik, 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 — Maria Quigley, Florham Park Resident
  - Excused — Diana Lachman, Donna Lisi, Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis, Joan Valas
  - Absent —
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):

November 8, 2025 – MSP – Papenberg, Uhrik  
*Abstain:* Ember
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence:

Ms. Moy did not have anything to report. President Roman presented Ms. Moy with the President's Award for her work with NJLBHA.
6. President's Report:

President Roman reported that for the current *On Board* edition, we only had 3.4% click rate. Mr. Saccenti stated our membership has declined over the years and opined that if we mail printed copies of the *On Board* newsletter to members, they would have hard copy to review. President Roman stated that 2–3 times a year, we ask the members to register for the newsletter. Ms. Harris stated that Mr. Saccenti's request is valid; we have a number of members from the older generation who may not be tech savvy and a printed document in hand could be a good idea.

President Roman reported that we have a LinkedIn account and Carey Chelenza will be managing the account and posting information from President Roman.

President Roman stated that Ms. Chelenza had foot surgery, and we wish her well during her recovery.

President Roman reported that he spoke at the NJACCHO's new Health Officer Forum and has asked to speak again to more new Health Officers.

President Roman reported that he attended the Camden County Health Department Boards of Health Summit. Michael Richmond used to attend their meetings to promote the local boards. He explained what was going on with our membership situation with Camden County.



President Roman reported that NJACCHO is hosting their annual retreat in the Spring. Speakers are invited to present; President Roman requested time.

President Roman reported that the Transformation Project is known as *21C, New Jersey Transforming Public Health Initiative*. President Roman penned a letter to the steering committee requesting them to rewrite the initiative to an 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. The current proposal is written in technical terms, making it difficult for the layman to understand. This project falls under Shereen Semple, Assistant Commissioner, Division of Local Public Health. He will be meeting with Ms. Semple soon. President Roman will also be meeting with Dr. Novneet Sahu, Deputy Commissioner for Public Health and Medical Director for NJDOH.

President Roman reported that Rutgers University issued a report, “*Shaping the Future of Public Health of NJ Perspective*” on the Public Health Liaison Program. With funding from the federal government, the NJDOH created a workforce development program. Under this program, they hired several people to be liaisons to health departments where they are meeting on a rotational basis. Rutgers wrote a report of their findings. The report can be found on their website under workforce development. Mr. Ember stated that this was discussed on the DOH monthly Zoom meeting. Mr. Ember explained the role of the liaisons between health depts. and DOH. Mr. Uhrik stated that there are also liaisons from NJDEP.

President Roman reported that he signed up for the grassroots organization, *Stand Up for Science*. This organization is trying to get Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. out of office. They were able to get a U.S. Representative to deliver a document with 150,000 signatures and wrote an article of impeachment and presented it to the Speaker of the House, Michael Johnson. Several medical facilities are closing throughout the country because of the new Federal Health Policies regarding insurance and Medicaid.

7. Executive Vice President’s Report — John Saccenti

Mr. Saccenti stated that in the past he suggested we develop a permanent relationship with NJPHA. He attended the awards ceremony at their conference and noted that the program does not mention NJLBHA (Note: this is incorrect, we are mentioned and given a complete write up on our mission). He would like to see us work with NJPHA and he is willing to be a liaison between the two organizations. President Roman will present this idea to PHACE. Mr. Saccenti suggested we email to the Health Officers and ask them to forward the *On Board* to their board members. The NJ Environmental Health Association (NJEHA) and Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) hosts events once a year and get them to sign up for our newsletter. We should also try to join in on their conferences. Dr. Cheriyan suggested we try to get in on the other organization’s newsletters and include the QR code for people to access our site. There was continued discussion on membership.

Mr. Saccenti found an old calendar from 1995. We received grant funds to create the calendar and hosted a contest amongst the schools and winners’ pictures were used in the calendar.

8. Treasurer’s Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills

Julie Moy — November Meeting Invoice \$100

US Liability Insurance — \$1,241.49

Omega Graphic — \$90

P. Roman’s Annual Invoice for Supplies — \$210.65

Class Marker — \$198

Carey Chelenza — \$540

G&M Trophy — \$151.20

Honorarium for David Pisco (Camden) — \$50

P. Roman’s Travel (3 events) — \$295.82



President Roman stated that we still have not received the \$500 check from Karen Blumenfeld for participation in the narrative project which Ms. Valas participated in. Mr. Saccenti will call Ms. Blumenfeld.

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

President Roman reported that Karla Pollack, partner in an advocacy firm, sent him information on Tobacco bills. He signed up on behalf of NJLBHA, to receive information on Tobacco bills and the clean water act. Ms. Pollack lobbies at the national levels and is engaged with a consortium of organizations fighting Tobacco. President Roman handed out information on S4509; he asked members to read. Ms. Harris commented that cannabis sales are out of control. There was a discussion of the dangers of vaping. Lisa Gulla and Rutgers School of Public Health testified against the Bills against vaping and supporting stricter enforcement.

President Roman reported that the NJ Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (NJCAAP) is hosting their 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee Celebration on December 13, 2025. We placed an ad in their journal.

President Roman reported that the US Dept. of Education is talking about excluding the public health and potentially nursing degrees to no longer be defined as professional degrees. This means federal funds are in danger of being eliminated for these programs.

10. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

11. Committee Reports:

A. By-Laws — President Roman reported that he is in the midst of drafting revisions to the By-Laws to include input from EXCOM members about administration and operations. He should be ready to present the revisions in January to the EXCOM.

B. Finance — President Roman reported that he, Mr. Papenberg and Mr. Ember will meet in January to discuss a possible transition from Mr. Papenberg to Mr. Ember and do the audit and budget.

C. Membership

Mr. Papenberg reported that we have a total of 66 members; 63 towns and 3 individuals.

D. Legislative —

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

F. Audit — See section B, above

G. Nominating — President Roman reported that he is appointing Mr. Saccenti, Ms. Valas, Mr. Papenberg and Mr. Uhrig as the nominating committee. They will review any input received from paid members who will receive a letter shortly requesting candidates by February 15<sup>th</sup>. President Roman stated that he will invite Joann Hill from the Princeton BOH to be NJLBHA Member at Large.

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)

President Roman reported that Karen DeMarco (Hunterdon County HO) and other HOs formed the County Health Officers' Association/Links Health Officers Association and reached out to PHACE asking to join. Since PHACE President Sumner received a letter from this group, he agreed to place their request on the agenda. President Roman explained how an organization can join PHACE.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI) – No report

14. Public Health Council (PHC) – No report

15. Liaison Reports – None

16. Old Business:



*Intern:* President Roman reported that he was contacted by Gabriel Penzo looking for internship opportunities with NJLBHA. President Roman told her what we are looking for as an intern and will contact her after the new year.

*Training:* President Roman reported that Colleen Wharton, Rutgers University School of Public Health, has completed the video integration. She will be building in the NJEHA piece about the duties of REHS. At the request of Dr. Perry Halkitis and President Roman, Ms. Wharton is creating a student version of the training for Public Health schools to use in their classes. President Roman has to update our manual to meet the updates in our new course. This may take a couple of months due to NJLBHA organizational priorities.

17. New Business

President Roman reported that the Governor's Public Health Alliance submitted a comment regarding the support for safe and affective vaccines for children.

Mr. Ember attended the Rural Health Conference on December 4<sup>th</sup> in Princeton. NOTE: as a follow up, the grant applications for nonprofits and communities will soon be published.

Dr. Cheriyan attended the NJDOH meeting; he summarized the meeting's discussion.

President Roman distributed to EXCOM the history of local public health in NJ; please read.

President Roman reported that Lisa Gulla made him and others aware of who the transition team would be for our new Governor. President Roman recited the names of people we know.

President Roman stated if we have the funding, he will ask NJLBHA to purchase the 2025 Pocket Part updates for the NJSA Title 26 Statue books for \$132 each; he may need 2 for reference. The NJSA Title 26 is now contained into four volumes at a cost of \$1,045 per volume.

President Roman stated that there is an article in the November Science Magazine, *The Pandemic Next Time* that he recommend EXCOM members read. He stated that we are on the brink of outbreaks of several diseases.

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion:

*Maria Quigley*, Florham Park Resident, questioned the Governor's Alliance and Northeast Collaboration. President Roman stated she has to contact NJDOH. President Roman stated that the NJDOH has representatives in these organizations. The DOH is working with other states through those agreements.

President Roman handed out the proposed Executive Board chart for 2026; this has to do with the By-Laws and election process. Since there was no success in these positions, he proposes to eliminate the titles of Vice President for Membership and VP for Communications. They should be relegated to Committee Chair positions. He proposes to replace the two positions with one VP, so we would have a President, Executive Vice President and Vice President. The Secretary position has been vacant. He listed Mr. Ember as our Treasurer; Mr. Papenberg has held the position as Treasurer for many years and has asked to be relieved of the position when possible. Mr. Ember has agreed to take on the role as the Treasurer and be the conduit for the membership applications. These proposals will come into fruition after the election in March and after the By-Laws have been approved. President Roman went over the order of positions. Mr. Papenberg will serve as Secretary pro tem. He has actually been doing this all along.



Mr. Saccenti reported on the data center approved in South Brunswick. He expressed his concerns for the center. President Roman responded that the NJ Legislator is looking into these centers as huge consumers of electrical power and their effect on future pricing.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:  
January 17, 2026, at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92332501703>

Meeting ID: 923 3250 1703

Passcode: NJLBHA26

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,92332501703#,,,,\*53263951# US

+13092053325,,92332501703#,,,,\*53263951# US

21. Adjournment:  
Motion to adjourn at 1:30 pm: MSP: Papenberg, Ember

Respectfully submitted,

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*Julie M. Moy*, Recording Secretary