



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

April 11, 2026 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:17 am
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance
 - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Stephen Papenberg, Steve Ember, Robert Uhrik, Jojoy Cheriyan, Donna Lisi
 - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — Christine Harris
 - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
 - Liaisons Present — None
 - Guests Present — None
 - Excused — JoAnn Hill, Diana Lachman
 - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:
 - March 21, 2026, EXCOM Minutes – MSP: Papenberg, Cheriyan*
 - Abstain: Harris*

Annual Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2026, will be voted on at the Annual Meeting in 2027. There were no comments to the 2026 annual meeting minutes.

5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence: No report

6. President's Report

President Roman reported that Dr. Perry N. Halkitis, Dean, Rutgers School of Public Health, published his new book, *"Humanizing Public Health: How Disease-Centered Approaches Have Failed Us"*. President Roman sent EXCOM members the link to his article, *"Why Preventing the Next Pandemic Involves Humanizing Public Health"*. President Roman read the email he sent to Dr. Halkitis.

President Roman reported that he spoke to Marjorie Kaplan, Chair of Pennington Board of Health, about joining our EXCOM team. Ms. Kaplan is overwhelmed at work at Rutgers and cannot join at this time.

President Roman reported that he spoke to Marilyn Bernstein, President of the Glen Rock Board of Health. Ms. Bernstein took the time to review the By-Laws and sent comments. Ms. Bernstein is retired now. She was formerly with the Bergen County Health Dept. and was one of our former award winners as Public Health Nurse of the Year. President Roman asked her to consider joining our EXCOM team. She may be interested but at this time, will be traveling out of the country.

President Roman reported that he met with Senator Vin Gopal, who is the Chairman of the Education Committee in the Senate. Senator Gopal has been appointed as the Senate Majority Whip. Senator Gopal with co-sponsor, Senator Joseph Vitale, who is head of the Health Committee, re-introduced



the Public Health Funding Bill. President Roman requested an amendment to 12.5 million dollars. President Roman reported that he also spoke to Senator Gopal about creating a Bill to mandate education for all Board of Health members. President Roman is working with Jenna Lopez, Senator Gopal's Legislative representative, to draft the Bill. President Roman is also working with the Senator's office on a Bill he and Margie Jahn drafted to restore the powers of the Public Health Council (PHC). Mr. Saccenti asked, if the Bill mandating education does not work out, can a Bill be created for all members of the Local Boards of Health, advisory or regular, and non-elected officials be required to be educated? President Roman agreed and thought it could be a good idea.

President Roman reported that Governor Mikie Sherrill signed the Bill S2996/A4052, eliminating practice restrictions for Advanced Practice Nurses (APN). APNs who qualify will be able to prescribe medications without collaborating physician. Dr. Cheriyan provided additional details of the Bill and what types of prescriptions APNs can write.

President Roman reported that Linda Brown, Executive Director for NJ Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) is currently on medical leave and anticipates returning in May. He was working with Ms. Brown to create an organizational membership for NJLBHA. Derrick Webb, at our past meeting, had suggested we build a stronger relationship with NJACCHO, which is what President Roman has been trying to establish. NJACCHO has an organizational membership for \$300. President Roman has an approval for the membership fee already. He explained NJLBHA's benefits as members.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

President Roman reported that Osner Charles, Staff Lobbyist with MBI reached out to him seeking support of the *Whiskers Rescue Bill A2105/S2864*. President Roman explained what the Bill entails. Mr. Saccenti reported his opinion of the Bill; the Bill will place the Health Officer as supervisor to the Animal Control Officers (ACO). President Roman stated that an amendment to the Bill will be coming out. Mr. Charles will send the amendment to President Roman when it is available; President Roman will forward to Mr. Saccenti for review. Mr. Ember opined that the State needs to take a closer look at how the animals are being handled.

Mr. Saccenti praised President Roman for his Senate Budget Hearing testimony. President Roman sent a copy of his testimony to EXCOM members. Mr. Saccenti suggested we include the 3-minute testimony in our newsletter and encouraged members to read the testimony.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Papenberg

Mr. Papenberg went over the financials. He sent the annual sponsorship payment to NJPHA.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills

Julie Moy — EXCOM and Annual Meeting Invoices \$200

Cary Chelenza — \$217.50

Travelers Insurance — \$312

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

President Roman, Mr. Saccenti, Mr. Ember and Mr. Papenberg will meet on Wednesday to transition the bank account.

10. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

11. Committee Reports:



- A. By-Laws — No report
- B. Finance — No report
- C. Membership

President Roman reported that Ms. Moy met with him to go over the membership mailing. She is emailing the letter, brochure and invoice to the towns. Ms. Moy is transferring over the contact information in to an excel file for future use, which is taking time since there are so many towns. Mr. Saccenti suggested that when we send the email to the Health Officers, to include the newsletter.

- D. Legislative

President Roman stated that we tried repeatedly to get our voice heard by the Opioid Council, who distributes the Opioid funds, to include Health Depts in the funding distribution. The funds can only go to eligible Municipalities and Counties who apply for the funds. The funds are supposed to be used for Opioid harm reduction among other statutorily authorized uses.

The Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC) held hearings for use of the Social Equity Excise Fee (SEEF) which is collected through a wholesale to retail tax. President Roman, Lisa Gulla and others sent testimony months ago. CRC held an executive meeting on March 31st, opening the floor to the public 90 minutes after the meeting begun. CRC's report has been written but not made public. There are about 40 Health Depts. in the "impact" areas designated as social equality poor. President Roman explained how the SEEF tax is collected and how the taxes are could be redirected to the Health Depts. as part of working with the social equity piece. The Council must include this in their recommendations to the Legislature which decides on the distribution. Per Dr. Lisi, the fee is \$2.50 an ounce of usable recreational cannabis, not for the medicinal purposes.

- 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 PHACE's website is being built by TAPP. PHACE received a \$10,000 grant to build the new website. Blythe Ulrich, a consultant will create web pages for each organization. Her draft should be out by June. The next PHACE meeting is Monday, April 27th.

- 13. Public Health Institute (PHI) — No report

- 14. Public Health Council (PHC)

President Roman reported that the next PHC meeting is April 13th. Dr. Raynard E. Washington, new Commissioner of Health, will be in attendance. This will also be their Annual Meeting. Stephanie Carey would like to stay on as Chair with President Roman as Vice Chair.

- 15. Liaison Reports — No report

- 16. Old Business

Orientation Manual – President Roman reported that he has started updating the Orientation Manual. Once completed, he will work with Colleen Wharton from Rutgers University Public School of Health, Ms. Chelenza and Ms. Moy to get it up on our website.

IV Party Ordinance – Mr. Ember reported that this issue was discussed at their BOH meeting with their attorney present. The Far Hills BOH is also working on this type of ordinance.

- 17. New Business — None

- 18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report



19. General Discussion

The next two meetings are scheduled for May 9 and June 6, 2026.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

May 9, 2026, at 10:00 am

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/92523641555>

Meeting ID: 925 2364 1555 Passcode: NJLBHA26!

21. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:14 am: MSP: Cheriyan, Papenberg

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

Julie M. Moy
Recording Secretary