



**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**

**May 9, 2026 \* 10 am \* By Zoom**

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1. Call to Order at 10:12 am
2. Salute to the Flag:
3. Attendance:
  - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Steve Ember, Robert Uhrik, Jojy Cheriyan, JoAnn Fields
  - Past Presidents Present (other than Elected Officers) — Christine Harris
  - Staff Present (Legal Counsel, Paid Secretary, Webmaster, Interns) — Julie Moy
  - Liaisons Present —
  - Guests Present — None
  - Excused — Diana Lachman, Donna Lisi, Stephen Papenberg
  - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis
4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):
  - April 11, 2026* – MSP – Cheriyan, Valas
  - Abstain:* Fields
5. Secretary's Report, Including Correspondence

President Roman reported that he received a Zoom Meeting Summary with an AI Companion summary from the last meeting. It was relatively accurate but not necessary as long as Ms. Moy produces accurate minutes
6. President's Report:

President Roman reported that he sent everyone a copy of his Senate budget testimony. It will be posted on our LinkedIn account and *On Board* newsletter.

President Roman reported that we are now a NJACCHO Organization Member. EXCOM are secondary members and now have access to the website and information. President Roman is the primary member.

President Roman reported that he is now a member of the Founding Editorial Board of what is about to become the *NJ Journal of Public Health*, created by NJ Public Health Association (PHA).
7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti

President Roman asked if Mr. Saccenti heard from Osner Charles regarding the animal welfare Legislation he sent him. Mr. Saccenti reviewed the materials and does not believe it will pass. The NJACCHO will probably be opposed to the Bill. Per President Roman, there was supposed to be an amended Bill. Mr. Charles was supposed to send it to President Roman, but he has not heard from him.



*Sentinel Data Center, South Brunswick*

President Roman reported that Mr. Uhrik sent him and Mr. Saccenti a report on the Sentinel Data Center's air produced by Kirk Frost. Mr. Uhrik stated that the Planning Board is a qualified quasi-judicial Board and has legal authority to approve / disapprove applications. By law, the Planning Board accepts comments from the staff / departments and the public. The Health Department can only make comments in applications. They do not approval any application. Mr. Saccenti was not happy that the Advisory BOH was not notified of this project by the town or Health Dept. Mr. Saccenti would like to see the HO or BOH have veto powers over projects that are dangerous to public health.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steve Ember

President Roman reported that he, Misters Saccenti, Papenberg and Ember met at the Bank of America Branch in Dayton to revise the signers to the account. Mr. Ember went over the financials.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills

Julie Moy — April Meeting Invoice \$100

Julie Moy — Mailing \$496.25

Cary Chelenza — \$217.50

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

11. Committee Reports:

A. By-Laws — No report

B. Finance — Mr. Papenberg is now the new Secretary and Mr. Ember is the new Treasurer.

C. Membership — President Roman reported that the mailing is still in process to the town Clerks; it should be completed by end of the week. We still have to do the mailing to the Heath Depts. and to the regional health commissions.

D. Legislative

President Roman reported that after he receives health clearance, he will start working on the Public Health Priority Bill, Public Health Council Bill and the Board of Health Mandatory Education Bill with Senator Gopal's staff.

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website

President Roman reported that that newsletter has started up again now that Ms. Chelenza's health has improved some. She has also been able to start posting on LinkedIn. President Roman reported that he had a personal note posted on LinkedIn and *On Board* to all Boards; he read his letter to the EXCOM. The Constant Contact email results regarding the invoices are open rate 23%, click rate 7.4%. Mr. Uhrik suggested we consider blast email, which is what we just switched too. Ms. Fields suggested we send to both Clerk and HO together. President Roman stated that is the goal for next year. This year, we updated the information. Mr. Uhrik suggested to address it to the BOH Chair and sent to the Clerk.

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 under construction by TAPP with consultant Blythe Ulrich to design the pages. Deputy Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Novneet Sahu was



invited to PHACE's next meeting. A formal request has been sent to the Commissioner to establish a working relationship at his level.

President Roman spoke with Colleen Wharton from Rutgers' School of Public Health regarding our training. President Roman that based on his conversation with the Commissioner on April 13<sup>th</sup> and Ms. Wharton's conversation with Dr. Sahu and Ms. Semple, and the Director of the Office of Licensing within the Division of Public Health Division, she agreed to include on the State website a link for BOH to take the training when it is launched. This will be a major endorsement for our training program. Our training program is for BOH members to take, however, HOs are also welcomed to take the training. Ms. Harris expressed her concerns for the need and benefits of board members taking the training; Mr. Ember agreed with her.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI)

14. Public Health Council (PHC)

April 13<sup>th</sup> was PHC's most recent meeting held in Trenton. Following this meeting, Commissioner Washington had a private meeting which included five members of the Public Health Council, Shereen Semple and Dr. Sahu. President Roman provided an update from the meeting. He was able to speak on our three issues: Public Health Priority funding, Public Health Council structure and authority to be restored and our training program.

15. Liaison Reports — No report

16. Old Business

*IV Party Ordinance* – Mr. Ember reported that the Middlesex Boro's BOH draft IV Party ordinance is with their attorney to complete. They would prefer the Council to pass the ordinance, making it easier to enforce and inform the public. However, the Council only meets once a month and their agendas are full, so they do not know when it can get on the agenda. The BOH will discuss a new strategy at their next meeting.

17. New Business — No report

18. Educational Presentation — No report

19. General Discussion

Ms. Valas asked if we will discuss the Hantavirus. President Roman stated that two NJ residents were on the plane to the US where a passenger tested positive for Hantavirus. They have not shown symptoms, and it has not been confirmed that they have the virus. They are being tracked by their local health departments; we do not know what towns they are from.

Dr. Cheriyan reported that he presented himself before the County Prosecutor's Office and the US Investigators last week to report the misuse of public funds for Bergenfield Mayor's Wellness Program to host dance party events and the nurse taking overtime, which is double time pay. This activity was not approved by the HO or the BOH, but approved by the Mayor. At one time the Administrator called it a political event. This is still occurring and has been for 3+ years now. Dr. Cheriyan reported these events and submitted 165 documents to support his claim to the US Attorney's Office and County Prosecutor's Office. The investigators are still looking into it. They are aware it is corruption and still nothing has been done to stop these events. The first year of the event, the nurse claimed \$10,000 in overtime pay. These funds should be used toward public health



emergencies. The nurse reports to the autonomous BOH; the HO has never been consulted on these events.

*Tentative Meeting Dates for 2026*

July 11	September 12	November 21
August 8	October 10	December 12

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

**June 6, 2026 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 11:20 am: MSP: Cheriyan, Fields

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie M. Moy*

*Julie M. Moy*  
Recording Secretary