NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)
MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2026 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:08 am
2. Salute to the Flag
3. Attendance
   - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, Joan Valas, Stephen Papenberg, Steve Ember, Robert Uhrik, Jojy Cheriyan, Donna Lisi, 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 — Linda Brown, Executive Director, NJACCHO
   - Excused — Diana Lachman
   - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting:
   July 11, 2026 as amened – MSP – Cheriyan, Valas
   Abstain: Fields, Harris

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

6. President's Report:
   President Roman reported on paid members and potentially increasing the fee. He and Mr. Ember will meet to coordinate the mailing to the Health Officers and past member boards. Mr. Ember expressed his concerns for the mailing cost. Mr. Saccenti reported that 2 payments were received from Linden and Princeton.

   President Roman reported that we may be eligible for a $2,000 scholarship from NJACCHO. These funds can be used toward funding 11 board membership fees. Ms. Fields suggested that our members, who wish to volunteer, reach out to the non-member health officers to discuss what the advantages are and encourage them to join NJLBHA. This would be before we chose to pay for their membership.

   President Roman reported that the Rural Health Transformation Grant information was recently issued by the State. President Roman explained who is eligible for this grant.

   President Roman reported that he received an email from Mr. Saccenti regarding Sharon Salvadore, PhD, who is interested in doing some work for NJLBHA starting with $500+ fee. Mr. Saccenti will contact Dr. Salvadore to see if she is willing to wait to be paid if a grant she gets is successful.

   President Roman reported that at the request of EXCOM, he pulled Congressman Pallone's recent editorial from all our communications.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti
   Mr. Saccenti reported that a number of organizations are expressing their concerns on the data center. He did not have anything new to report; Legislation is pending in different towns with different rules in regard to their locations. President Roman commented that the State and Federal governments are also working on this issue.

   Mr. Saccenti suggested we try to get the opportunity during NJACCHO's annual meeting at the League to make a presentation of NJLBHA to the Health Officers and Mayors. We want to let them know that we are the HO's biggest advocate by providing the tools needed to do their jobs to help the communities. President Roman reminded everyone that he has been doing this for the past three years and has been invited to speak again this year.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Ember
   Mr. Ember went over the financials. President Roman reported that Mr. Ember created a draft spread sheet of our members and funding.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills
   Julie Moy — July Meeting Invoice $100
   Omega Graphics — $290
   Postage $246

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report
    President Roman has been trying for a year now to contact John Wisniewski to see if he is interested in continuing to serve as our Legal Counsel. He last emailed Mr. Wisniewski and is waiting for his response.

    President Roman reported that Bayonne's Health Officer, Tina Siciliano contacted him. Per Ms. Siciliano, their law director told her that they did not have to have an autonomous BOH. President Roman spoke with their law director, Donna Russo. Ms. Russo clarified that they need an autonomous BOH. Bayonne is serviced by the County's Health Dept. They were in agreement that this does not preclude them from having an autonomous BOH. Bayonne is working on how they will formulate their BOH.

    President Roman reported that the Rutherford Boro's Health Registrar, Jennifer Galarza, reached out to him for information and to ask if their BOH is autonomous.

    Guest Speaker: Linda Brown, Executive Director, NJACCHO
    President Roman introduced Ms. Brown and provided her credentials. She provided updates on their membership and activities that NJACCHO is currently working on. She spoke about how their partnership with NJLBHA benefits NJLBHA. NJACCHO had two grants, *Enhancing Local Public Health Infrastructure Grant* and *Sustaining Local Public Infrastructure Grant.* Both grants provided amazing opportunities for NJACCHO to support the local public health groups. They received a federal level grant, *Public Health Infrastructure (PHI) Grant*. DOH is also granting significant amounts of that funding to local public health departments. The grant expires in November 2027. Ms. Brown provided an update in NJACCHO's programs that we may be interested in. They are offering resilience training at the end of October. Ms. Brown went over the grant that supports the PHACE organizations. $2,000 will be available for 2026 & 2027 to PHACE organizations to use to boost memberships for those groups. She opined that it might be beneficial that we either consider reducing our membership fee or use the extra funds to promote our membership. There was continued discussion on partnerships and NJACCHO's work with various organizations. President Roman reminded everyone that we are an organization member of NJACCHO and that all of our EXCOM members should be linked by an account that each set up to access NJACCHO information and forums. There next general membership meeting is September 10th and you are all invited.

11. Committee Reports:
    A. By–Laws — No report
    B. Finance — No report
    C. Membership — No report
    D. Legislative
       President Roman reminded EXCOM members that he met with Jenna Lopez, Deputy Legislative Aide to Senator Gopal to discuss three Bills; the PHPF Bill to be amended, a new bill dealing with Board of Health Education, and Operational Requirements and third bill to restore the authority of the Public Health Council.
    E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website
       President Roman reported that he and Colleen Wharton are finalizing the training manual updates and making sure it conforms to thew new training. Our training will be added as a link to the DOH's licensing resource information page as well as through our website and public health schools' curricular.
    F. Audit (as necessary) — No report
    G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)
    President Roman reported that the PHACE new website should be launched within the next few weeks. The Advocacy Committee is an open committee of PHACE, includes non-representative members from the six organizations. This committee will have a maximum of ten members. The Advocacy Committee will begin meeting after Labor Day. They will develop a schedule of things to support and will be their focus at Advocacy Day on October 19th at the State House for NJ Public Health. PHACE will exhibit at this event.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI) — No report
14. Public Health Council (PHC) — No report
15. Liaison Reports — No report
16. Old Business — No report

17. New Business
    President Roman reported that the Supreme Court maybe ruling on vaccine exemptions soon. Dr. Cheriyan provided an update of what is occurring in the medical field with this tentative ruling.

    President Roman reported that NJLBHA has again been invited to Camden's annual Summit. NJLBHA will host a table at this event.

    President Roman thanked Dr. Lisi for the contact with Trevor Martindale, American Heart Association State Government Relations Director for NJ. Mr. Martindale will provide President Roman with talking points and information they would like to discuss so we can potentially collaborate with them.

    President Roman stated that Dr. Lisi has already made EXCOM aware of the upcoming meetings Franklin Township BOH Advisory Council. They are hosting three educational events and encourages EXCOM to participate. Dr. Lisi provided additional details and updates on Franklin Township BOH's various activities.

    Mr. Uhrik attended the 2026 National Environmental Health Association Conference virtually. He shared that many health departments has computerized inspection program for food establishments, Middlesex County is one. There is one health department where their placard includes a QRC code for customers to scan and get additional information.

18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report
19. General Discussion — No report
20. Announcement of Next Meeting
    September 12, 2026 at 10:00 am

    https://zoom.us/j/92523641555
    Meeting ID: 925 2364 1555

    Remaining meetings are:
    October 10 November 21 December 19

21. Adjournment:
    Motion to adjourn at 11:40 am: MSP: Uhrik, Fields

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

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Recording Secretary