NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EXCOM)

MEETING MINUTES

September 12 , 2026 * 10 am * By Zoom

1. Call to Order at 10:05 am
2. Salute to the Flag:
3. Attendance:
   - Voting EXCOM Members Present — Paul Roman, John Saccenti, 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 — None
   - Excused — Diana Lachman, Joan Valas
   - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):
   August 8, 2026 – MSP – Fields, Lisi
   Abstain: None

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

6. President's Report:
   President Roman reported that he sent the link to the Trust for America's Health to members to read the annual report.

   President Roman reported the statics from the Dept. of Health's Local Public Health (LPH) meeting.

   President Roman reported that the Health Dept. announced that the 2027 LPH Outbreak Preparedness Response Grants have been awarded. He recited the names of the health departments who received the grants. Somerset County Health Dept., where Dr. Lisi provides support and to the department and represents one of the recipients.

   President Roman reported that he sent Members the link, from Public Health Communications Collaboratives, called, *Soaring Demand, Declining Resources in Public Health*. The article is a guide on how to information to apply for funding and what has been done across the country.

   President Roman reported that he sent the link to NJ State Policy Lab at Rutger's University; a paper entitled, *Making Sense of NJ Hospital Consolidation in a Challenging Policy Environment*. There is approximately 5–6 groups which owns all of the hospitals and most health care clinics. There are only 1–2 independent hospitals remaining in NJ.

   President Roman reported that Governor Mikie Sherrill signed the *Data Center Guardrail Legislation*. Prior to her legislation, the Governor also issued the *4 Pillars of Data Center Plan* putting the power back into the communities. This is the issue Mr. Saccenti brought out Statewide and nationally. Congressman Frank Pallone also brought this issue to Washington's attention.

   President Roman commented that at the last meeting, there was discussion on increasing our membership. He will be speaking more on the fee schedule and marketing over the next few months.

   President Roman reported that he and Cary Chelenza will re–evaluating our website. They will be work on updating the website when both are available.

President Roman reported that NJ Association of County and City Health Officials' (NJACCHO) has awarded us a grant. We will use our grant to offer memberships to eleven non-NJLBHA members. President Roman will need the help of the EXCOM members to recruit.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti
   Mr. Saccenti stated that he would like to see a subcommittee created to develop and find newsletter articles and policies of updated information to be sent out to our members. President Roman thinks this would be a great idea and will further discuss at a later time.

   Mr. Saccenti reported that he has seen an increase in mail since the last mailing.

8. Treasurer's Report — Steven Ember
   Mr. Ember went over the financials.

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills —
   Julie Moy — August Meeting Invoice $100

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report — No report

11. Committee Reports:
    A. By-Laws — No report
    B. Finance —
    C. Membership —
       Mr. Ember reported that we have 29 members, of which approximately 10 are new members. He reported that he and President Roman mailed out approximately 230 membership recruitment letters: 103 to health departments, 53 for renewals and 74 based on President Roman's recommendation.

       President Roman requested the help of Ms. Fields and Dr. Lisi in recruiting additional health departments applying the NJACCHO grant as an incentive. Mr. Ember will meet by Zoom with Ms. Fields and Dr. Lisi to further discuss.

    D. Legislative
       President Roman has been meeting with Jenna Lopez, the Legislative Representative from Senator Gopal's office, and Assemblywomen, Dr. Margie Donlon and Luanne Peterpaul. Ms. Lopez informed him that the three Bills, *Public Health Priority Funds Amendment, the Education for Local Boards, and the Public Health Council Restoration of Power* will be filed on or after September 28th which will be after the first new quorum meetings that the Legislation will have. If they are introduced, President Roman will meet with Ms. Lopez to get the specifics, speak to the Senator and Assemblywomen. Dr. Donlon is the Vice Chair of the Assembly Health Committee. Senator Gopal is the Majority Leader in the Senate.
    E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website
       President Roman will be working with Ms. Chelenza on the website beginning sometime in October.
    F. Audit (as necessary) — No report
    G. Nominating
       President Roman stated he spoke with Marilynn Bernstein, Glen Rock BOH President. Ms. Berstein is still interested in joining NJLBHA, however she is currently still busy. He will call her again a couple of weeks to follow up.

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)
    President Roman reported that the next PHACE meeting is September 28th. They will discuss Advocacy Day on October 5th. Lisa Gulla, NJ Public Health Association is working on finding a new location to host Advocacy Day. NJPHA has asked all PHACE organizations to contribute funds for beverages at this event. President Roman asked EXCOM to vote approve funds not to exceed $150. He asked EXOM for volunteers at this event. Update: only $50 will be needed.

13. Other Events
    - *State Dept. of Health, Sept. 10th* – Dr. Cheriyan attended the meeting and provided a summary of the meeting.
    - *Public Health Council Meeting, Sept. 14th* – President Roman will attend the live meeting in Trenton.
    - *Public Health Nursing Summit, Sept. 16th* – hosted by the NJ Public Health Nursing Association in conjunction with Rutgers Center for Public Health Workforce Development.
    - *The 2026 NJ Environmental Health Association (NJEHA) Fall Conference, Sept. 22nd* – Derrick Webb will be their new incoming President at the State level. Mr. Ember announced that Sustainable Jersey will host its annual conference on May 7th, *the 2027 New Jersey Sustainability Summit* where more active community members will attend.
    - *SOS for Health – American Public Health National Day of Action, Sept. 24th* – President Roman summarized the event's mission.
    - *Executive Board of the NJ Conference of Mayors, Oct. 1st* – sent NJLBHA a request to sponsor or host a table, which is expensive.
    - *Camden County's Annual Summitt for Boards of Health & County Commissions, Oct. 14th* – Paschal Nwako, Camden's Health Officer is a strong supporter of NJLBHA. President Roman will try to attend, however needs someone to go with him to help set up.
    - *Public Health Council Meeting, Sept. 14th* – President Roman will attend the live meeting in Trenton.
    - *Transformational Collaborative,* led by NJACCHO, will host three regional meetings, south, central and north. Meeting dates are Oct. 1st, 8th and 15th. President Roman would like NJLBHA to be fully represented at their Statewide meeting on Dec. 2nd.
    - *League of Municipalities*, *Nov. 18–19* – President Roman has been invited to speak at the NJACCHO luncheon following Dr. Raynard E. Washington, New Commissioner Of Health.

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

17. Old Business
    President Roman reported that due to his health issues, he has put aside the orientation manual update and will resume the review before he gets to the website review.

18. New Business — No report
19. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report
20. General Discussion
    President Roman reported that we recently found out that a task force was formed from the Governor's Office, to discuss the future of local public health in NJ. 21+4 has resurfaced and being reviewed by this task force. The County Health Officers Association (CHOA) that was formed a year or more ago, has started up again; this is a separate group from NJACCHO. CHOA's Executive Committee is being led by Karen DeMarco, Dept. Head/Health Officer of Hunterdon County Health

Dept. and Daniel Regenye, Public Health Coordinator/Health Officer from the Ocean County Health Dept. and two others. CHOA reached out to President Roman. President Roman will meet with CHOA on Sept. 21st; his intent is to only discuss the relationship of local boards and county health officers because almost none of our membership comes from counties where there is a county health officer. Deputy Commissioner of Public Health, Dr. Novneet Sahu is part of the newly formed task force; they have met a few times already. In 1938, the Legislator passed the Bill to create Regional Health Commissions as a way to consolidate Boards of Health and Health Departments to work together on a shared services basis. President Roman reported that the County Health Departments in the southern seven and four western counties represent almost all the towns. Only three counties, Ocean, Cumberland and Monmouth, have a County Board of Health. Atlantic County's Commissions serve as as the BOH.

Dr. Lisi announced the following events:

- *Expanding Your Public Health Took Kit*, Sept. 23, 2026
- *Save a Life Date*, Sept. 24, 2026
- *Healthy Somerset Coalition Meeting*, Sept. 16, 2026

President Roman announced the next several meetings is October 10th, November 21st and December 19th.

21. Announcement of Next Meeting:
October 10, 2026 at 10:00 am
Zoom Meeting Link: https://zoom.us/j/92523641555
Meeting ID: 925 2364 1555

Dial by your location
+13052241968,,92523641555# US

21. Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn at 11:30 am: MSP: Fields, Ember

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

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Recording Secretary