NEW JERSEY LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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

1. Call to Order at 10:04 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 — Derrick Webb (Mt. Olive), President NJ Environmental Health Association (NJEHA)
   - Guests Present — None
   - Excused — Diana Lachman
   - Absent — Laura O'Reilly–Stanzilis

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s):
   September 12, 2026 – MSP – Fields, Ember
   Abstained: Valas

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

6. President's Report
   President Roman reported that Dr. Lindsay Shea, DrPH, MS is the new director for Rutgers Center for State Health Policy (CSHP), which is part of the School for Public Health.

   President Roman reported that he was supposed to testify at the virtual budget listening session, but was unable to, due to his health issues. He will submit a written testimony.

   President Roman reported that he sent an email asking members to participate in various events representing NJLBHA.

   - *Middlesex Fire Academy* for the NJAFFNA – no one attended
   - *NJ Environmental Health Association* (NJEHA) Fall Conference – no one attended
   - *Public Health Advocacy Day, Oct. 5th* – Mr. Ember will attending during the afternoon
   - *Camden County Summit* – President Roman will not be able to attend this year
   - *Public Health & Transitions, Building Our Future Together Regional Convening* on Oct. 7th – Dr. Lisi

   President Roman reported that the new NJ Journal for Public Health put out a call for papers for the new NJ Journal for Public Health. President Roman has been invited to be on their Advisory Board. He asked members if anyone would be interested in writing a paper on local boards of health. Dr. Cheriyan has volunteered to start a draft paper.

   President Roman reported that *Governor Mikie Sherrill* has created a task force to study health and public health. There are no one representing PHACE or any of our member groups. Dr. Novneet Sahu is a member of this task force representing the Commissioner.

   President Roman reported that on October 1, 2026, Governor Sherrill will launch the *State Health Benefits Program Reform Working* group, to study state health benefit programs and other groups. Kevin Sumner (PHACE) and Lisa Gulla (NJPHA) are trying to get onto this group. There is representation from the two majorities and two Republicans. Their first meeting is October 16th.

President Roman asked members if anyone is interested in providing testimony to the *Senate Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee* chaired by Senator Joseph Vitale, on October 22nd at the State House. Committee will receive testimony from invited guests concerning the implementation of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* on NJ, PL 119-21. Lisa Gulla, as a representative of PHACE and NJPHA, has been invited by Senator Vitale for testimony, however, she will not be available, and asks if anyone is interested. President Roman was not invited to testify.

7. Executive Vice President's Report — John Saccenti
Mr. Saccenti reported that he and Mr. Ember are working together processing applications; Mr. Ember will report later in the meeting. Mr. Saccenti reported that there was one letter from a company that helps support associations; Mr. Ember will forward to President Roman. He opined that it is a marketing correspondence only looking for support.

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

9. Presentation and Approval of Bills
Julie Moy — September Meeting Invoice $100
Cary Chelenza — Invoice for $500

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

10. Legal Counsel's Report
President Roman reported that he received a request from John Wisniewski's assistant for our By–Laws to review.

11. Committee Reports:
A. By–Laws — No report
B. Finance — No report
C. Membership — Steve Ember
Mr. Ember reported that we are up to 55 members; 40 renewals and 15 new

Grant Project: NJACCHO awarded NJLBHA $2,000 to use towards increasing new memberships. Ms. Hill contacted Ewing, Lawrence, East Windsor and Trenton's health departments in Mercer County as requested. She was able to speak to Lawrenceville and Trenton. She left messages for the other two towns and is waiting to contact her back. Mr. Ember reported that Ewing sent in a purchase order.

Dr. Lisi and Devangi Patel developed a list of 14 towns to contact in Somerset County as requested. Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Far Hills, Mannsville, North Plainsboro and South Bound Brook are part of the County's Health Dept. and the others are not. For the first round, Ms. Patel reached out to all the health officers; Dr. Lisi will follow up. President Roman stated that towns served by the County Health Dept. can still join.

Per President Roman, there are approximately 450 boards in NJ; 104 health departments.

President Roman read the email from Deserie Foster, Assistant Treasurer, BOH Secretary for the Borough of Fanwood. Their board is requesting information of benefits of the membership before renewal. The information requested is all on the website. Mr. Ember stated that he can go to Fanwood's meetings and is willing to do a presentation on NJLBHA to the BOH.

D. Legislative

President Roman reported that he has been trying to reach Jenna Lopez, Deputy Chief of Staff / Policy Director, Senator Vin Gopal's legislative representative for any update on the Bills he is trying to get introduced.

E. Communications, Including Newsletter(s) and Website
President Roman stated that the website update and training manual has been delayed.
F. Audit (as necessary) — No report
G. Nominating (as necessary) — No report

12. Public Health Associations Collaborative Effort (PHACE)
President Roman reported that at the *Public Health Advocacy Day* on Oct. 5th, each PHACE member organization hosted a table display at the State House. Mr. Ember attended and summarized what he saw and did.

President Roman sent the PHACE meeting minutes for the members to read. He will be sending them out monthly now.

13. Public Health Institute (PHI) — No report
14. Public Health Council (PHC) — President Roman reported that the PHC's September's meeting was canceled.

15. Liaison Reports — Derrik Webb encouraged members to attend the transformational meetings; the October 15th meeting is full. The next available meeting is the State wide session on December 2nd; Dr. Raynard E. Washington, Commissioner Of Health will be in attendance.

16. Old Business
17. New Business
18. Educational Presentation (as necessary) — No report

19. General Discussion
Regional Transformational Meeting, Oct. 7, 2026 – Dr. Lisi attended; she summarized what was discussed.

Mr. Saccenti asked for an update on collaborations with other organizations. President Roman provided an update with NJPHA; their next conference is tentatively scheduled for 2027. He spoke to representatives from a few other organizations, and they are not interested in collaborating for various specific reasons.

Ms. Harris asked Dr. Cheriyan if he had information on the cancer vaccination. Dr. Cheriyan summarized what study is occurring for this vaccination.

Mr. Saccenti reported that there was an article on data center concerns in the New Jersey Monthly Magazine. He stated that he will propose to his township Council, that they should implement ordinances requiring the Sentinel Data Center to provide its own electricity and restrict water pollution standards. President Roman stated that Washington representatives are beginning to see the issues with data centers. Mr. Uhrik stated that the data center is seeking their air permits from NJDEP. They have several diesel backup generators. The concern is that each center has a large number of generators. NJDEP will accept public comments until November 7th.

Mr. Uhrik asked for a list of who were not members; per President Roman, we have a list who are members. He will request the list of members from Mr. Ember.

20. Announcement of Next Meeting:

November 21, 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 11:25 am: MSP: Cheriyan, Fields

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Moy

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Recording Secretary