

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTY & CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS

September 17, 2020

Conference Call

PRESENT: Unknown, though quorum was confirmed

GUESTS:

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 AM by President-Elect Marconi Gapas.

II. ROLL CALL

Noted above

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

P. Tabbot moved to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes of the February 2020 meeting. Motion seconded by C. Merkel. All were in favor.

IV. REPORTS & ASSOCIATION UPDATES

- a) President's Report – M. Avallone reported:
 - NJACCHO is here to help everyone so if anyone has any thoughts or requests please let the officers know so we can try to address.
 - NJACCHO has been advocating for sustained and permanent funding. The current funding streams are temporary and COVID is being used to demonstrate need the needs of the public health system.
 - C. Merkel and M. Avallone are representing NJACCHO on the NJDOH vaccination task force. In addition, there is a vaccination POD subgroup that also has local health representation.
 - NJACCHO is still administering COVID-19 grant funding. We are halfway through the grant period, so everyone is encouraged to submit expenses soon. If we do not spend the money we likely will not get anymore.
- b) Treasurer's Report – M. Jahn reported the general checking account balance as \$157,302.44 and the grant checking balance as \$1,616,783.19 as of August 31, 2020. L. Gulla moved to approve, second by F. Wilpert. All were in favor.
- c) Program Update – C. Merkel reported that the Annual League Conference will be virtual this year. NJACCHO is still on our involvement and also is working with NJDOH on the Commissioner's Annual Address. To attend sessions you must register for the League Conference for a cost of \$55.00.
- d) PHACE Update – K. Sumner reported that PHACE has been active on advocacy efforts, especially related to funding and support for local health departments as they respond to COVID while being under-resourced.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Resolution Opposing Division of Health Official Affiliation and Advocacy Efforts (attached)

K. Sumner moved to adopt Resolution No. R-20-1 as presented. Second by M. Jahn.

- C. Merkel stated that as Vice President of NJACCHO and a LINCS Health Officer he does not believe the creation of a second organization in the right action. He believes it will lead to divisiveness. We need to unite as a profession, not come apart. C. Chamberlain agreed)
- P. Nwako stated he is opposed to the last paragraph of the resolution as he believes the new organization has nothing to do with NJACCHO and it will strengthen public health in NJ. He further stated that LINCS Health Officers have unique issues.
- K. DeMarco advised that the issues are not just LINCS, but also CEHA
- P. Summers stated that there are advantages to having LINCS HO meetings. He further stated that NJACCHO is a top down organization and a County organization will be all inclusive.
- R. Gubernick stated a new organization will create more confusion. She suggested that LINCS Coordinator meetings be held as part of NJACCHO to address needs.
- L. Gulla suggested a subgroup of NJACCHO to address LINCS needs (A. Puloso agreed)
- P. Tabbot stated there is nothing that prevents smaller groups from meeting, but that the creation of a new 501 (c) 3 or similar non-profit organization is entirely different. He suggested optics are important.
- D. Regenye stated :t is not a this or that” He also said this was the first time he is seeing resolution.

Discussion continued with various iterations of the same statements so M. Gapas closed discussion and advised that members should submit their votes in favor or opposed by email.

Resolution passed with 29 members voting – 20 Ayes, 8 Nays, 1 abstention

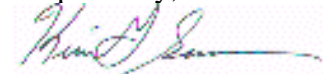
VI. ADDENDUM

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by K. Sumner and affirmed by M. Jahn. All were in favor.

Respectfully,



Kevin G. Sumner
Secretary

NOTE: Actionable items in bold text.

NJACCHO RESOLUTION NO. R-20-1

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE DIVISION OF HEALTH OFFICIAL PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS, AND SUPPORTING THE INCLUSIVE MISSION OF THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials (NJACCHO) is a private, non-profit organization of local public health leaders and allied health professionals who work together to protect and improve the health of the people of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, The NJACCHO advances the art and science of public health and ensures conditions that promote health, prevent disease and protect the health of the State's population through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and the assurance of workforce competencies; and

WHEREAS, the NJACCHO has for many years sustained by-laws, procedures and mechanisms that afford all Health Officers the means by which they may convene or otherwise organize, whether in affinity groups or for the purpose of addressing causes of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, the NJACCHO has for over 100 years demonstrated a commitment to local public health in New Jersey, and has created and maintained a unified voice, vision and mission for all local health officials, regardless of their form of government or jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the accepted vision of the NJACCHO is to be an effective organization, a trusted advocate and a key supporter in the development of its members, such that the organization will encourage members to be resilient, work together, remain optimistic and take action to shape the future of public health; and

WHEREAS, all licensed Health Officers possess identical professional licenses, share similar academic credentials and experience, perform comparable job functions and are responsible for assuring compliance with the same State Statutes and Administrative Codes; and

WHEREAS, during times of a public health crisis, it is even more critical that all local public health professionals unite in protecting and advocating for the public's health, and in seeking statewide support for strong public health practice that is legislated and funded without prejudice; and

WHEREAS, the NJACCHO represents all public health professionals, and finds unacceptable any action that impedes its mission in serving all of public health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials is committed to representing all of public health, and condemns any action that would divide public health practitioners in this mission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials opposes the formation of any entity or organization that has the potential to undermine a unified voice for the advancement of public health in New Jersey.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Kevin Sumner, Secretary of the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials, hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of a Resolution adopted by the New Jersey Association of County and City Health Officials at a duly convened meeting held on September 17, 2020.

Kevin Sumner, Secretary, NJACCHO