

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD  
HELD TELEPHONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 103 (MURPHY)  
February 16, 2022**

**Members participating:** Herb Ames; Robert Benkert (United); Chrissy Buteas; Natalie Bernardi (Cigna); Gary Cupo; Laura Gunn; Randi Imbriaco (Oscar); Margaret Koller; Taylor Kopelan (Horizon); Thomas Pownall (Aetna Health); Gale Simon (DOBI); Tony Taliaferro (AmeriHealth).

**Others participating:** Ellen DeRosa, Executive Director; Chanell McDevitt, Deputy Executive Director; Rosaria Lenox, Managing Financial Officer; Jeffrey Posta, Deputy Attorney General.

**I. Call to Order**

E. DeRosa called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. She announced that notice of the meeting was provided to three newspapers of general circulation and the State House Press Corps, and posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (“DOBI”), on the DOBI website, and at the Office of the Secretary of State in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

E. DeRosa noted that, pursuant to P.L. 2020, c. 2, as a result of the state of emergency and public health emergency declared by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020 through Executive Order 103, as subsequently extended,<sup>1</sup> due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SEH Board’s regularly scheduled meeting is being held entirely telephonically rather than at the Board’s offices in Trenton. She stated that, in accordance with P.L. 2020 c. 11, electronic notice of the meeting and the means by which the public could attend the meeting telephonically was posted on the Board’s website, and issued electronically to all known interested parties.

E. DeRosa determined that a quorum was present, and that voting would be by roll call.

Members of the public were asked to identify themselves, and are listed at the end of these minutes.

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Minutes of January 19, 2022**

**T. Pownall made a motion, seconded by M. Koller, to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 19, 2022 without amendment. By roll call vote, the motion carried.**

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:13-3(b), a Public Health Emergency lasts for 30 days unless extended, while States of Emergency declared in accordance with N.J.S.A. App A:9-33 et seq. remain in effect until declared ended by a subsequent executive order. The Public Health Emergency was continuously extended through multiple executive orders until E.O. 244 (Murphy), issued June 4, 2021, declared the Public Health Emergency ended. However, Governor Murphy has not yet ended the State of Emergency established by E.O. 103 (Murphy). Thus, the Board continues to meet remotely, and public access is limited to telephonic means. (E.O. 280, issued January 11, 2022, resulted in another Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19, which remains in effect pursuant to E.O. 288, issued February 10, 2022.)

**IV. Staff Report – Expense Report**

R. Lenox presented the expenses for January, at \$8,772.50, payable to WithumSmith+Brown for FY2021 audit costs, as well as \$35 for R. Lenox's annual CPA license fee, the latter expense being half of the fee shared equally with the Individual Health Coverage Board. R. Lenox recommended transferring the total expense amount from the Board's Money Market account to its Checking account, both in Wells Fargo, to pay the expenses, if approved.

**T. Taliaferro made a motion, seconded by H. Ames, to approve payment of the reported expenses, and transfer of \$8,807.50 from the Board's Wells Fargo Money Market account to the Board's Wells Fargo Checking account in order to make the payments. By roll call vote, the motion carried.**

**V. Other Business**

E. DeRosa reminded Board members that they should have received a copy of Executive Order 281 (E.O. 281) and its appendix forwarded by email from her for informational purposes. She noted that E.O. 281 specifies the effective date of termination of some Executive agency actions taken pursuant to the State of Emergency and/or the Public Health Emergency, while extending other such actions, and she thought it might be helpful for Board members to be aware of the information.

**VI. Public Comments**

There were no comments.

**VII. Close of Meeting**

**M. Koller made a motion, seconded by H. Ames, to close the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried.**

*[The meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.]*

Public known to be in attendance:

- Suzanne Fitzgerald, Savoy Associates