

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
HELD TELEPHONICALLY PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 103 (MURPHY)
August 16, 2023**

Members participating: Herbert Ames; Jess Bowker (Oscar Garden State); Phil Gennace, (DOBI), Gary Cupo; Margaret Koller; Taylor Kopelan (Horizon); Bob Morrow (United); Thomas Pownall (Aetna Health); Adam Young (AmeriHealth).

Others participating: Jeffrey Posta, Deputy Attorney General, Theresa Sullivan (Horizon), Kelly Ferreira (Horizon) and Christina Wulle (AmeriHealth).

I. Call to Order

M. Koller chaired the meeting and 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.

M. Koller 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,¹ 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. M. Koller determined that a quorum was present, and that voting would be by roll call.

II. Opening Public Comments

There were no members of the public attending this meeting.

III. Review of Minutes – June 21, 2023

G. Cupo made a motion, seconded by T. Pownall, to approve the Open Session minutes of the meeting of June 21, 2023. By roll call vote, the motion carried, with one abstention from P. Gennace who had not attended the June meeting.

¹ 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. (Notably, E.O. 280, issued January 11, 2022, resulted in another Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19, which was extended by E.O. 288 on February 10, 2022, then lifted by E.O. 292 on March 4, 2022.)

G. Cupo then made a motion, seconded by H. Ames to approve the Executive Session minutes of the meeting of June 21, 2023. This vote could be taken in open session as there was no amendments to or discussion about the Executive Session minutes. By roll call vote, the motion carried, with one abstention from P. Gennace who had not attended the June meeting.

IV. Closing Public Comments

There were no members of the public attending this meeting.

V. Close of Meeting

G. Cupo made a motion, seconded by H. Ames, to adjourn the meeting. By roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:12 A.M.]