



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025
Zoom**

Present

Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, *Chair*
Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Jessica Boyer, MPH, MSW
Monique J. Brown PhD, MPH, FGSA
Bryan O. Buckley, DrPH, MPH, MBA, ACC
Karl Cooper, JD
Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES, *Vice Chair*
Ella Greene-Moton
Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW
Claude A. Jacob, DrPH, MPH
Amy Lee, MD, MPH, MBA, CPH
Toby Levin, PhD, MPH, CPH, CHES
Rebecca Nevedale
Shirley A. Orr, MHS, APRN, NEA-BC
Donna-Marie Palakiko, PhD, MS, APRN
Virginia Reising, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, PEL-CSN
Gopal Sankaran, MD, DrPH, MNAMS, CHES
Jimmie Smith, MD, MPH
Veena Thamilselvan, MSPH
Melissa Toledo-Ontiveros, MA, MCJ, MPA
Deanna J. Wathington, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Unable to Participate

Rebecca Boulos, PhD, MPH
Benjamin H. Hernandez, MBA
Nandi Marshall, DrPH, MPH, CHES, CLC, CDE

Monday September 8, 2025

Welcome – Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, Chair

APHA Board Chair, Dr. Alperin called the meeting to order. She called roll, established a quorum, and welcomed candidates for Association-wide elections and next year’s 1-year board members. Dr. Alperin requested a motion to approve the Executive Board’s September meeting agenda. The motion was moved by Dr. Sankaran seconded by Dr. Jacob and with no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

Motion: To approve the Executive Board’s September meeting agenda.
Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Dr. Alperin then called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda which included the July 2025 Executive Board Meeting Minutes; New Agency Members; APHA Leadership Appointments, Policy on Executive Session, and CSR Statement of Values. The motion was moved by Dr. Wathington and seconded by Dr. Smith and with no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda which included the July 2025 Executive Board Meeting Minutes; New Agency Members; APHA Leadership Appointments, Policy on Executive Session, and CSR Statement of Values.
Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Association Update – Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director

Dr. Benjamin shared Information Technology updates which included iMIS Migration to the Cloud (project kickoff meeting is complete; stakeholder meeting are being scheduled; project is scheduled to be complete in February 2026); Hardware Deployment (It is disseminating computers to staff with fully depreciated and out of warranty laptops); and AI Training and Policy (staff received an introduction to AI; a AI policy for the Association is being developed and will be complete by the Annual Meeting). Dr. Benjamin also reported on the first floor renovation project at the APHA Headquarters Building which is nearly complete. Staff will participate in active shooter and Annual Meeting security training at the end of September. The window treatment project at the Headquarters Building is also complete and will help insulate the building. Increase privacy; and block harmful UVA and UVB rays.

Annual Meeting registration and planning are in process with the following metrics:

- In-person registrations: 6098
- Virtual registrations: 69



- Exhibit booths sold: 333 from 270 organizations
- Number of sessions: 970
- Number of abstracts: 5758

Ticketed events included (ticket sales close on October 10):

- President's Welcome Reception (Sat. Nov 1, 6:30-8:30p)
- APHA Awards Ceremony and Luncheon (Mon. Nov 3, 12:30-2:00p)
- APHA Night Out at the African American History and Culture Museum (Mon. Nov 3, 6:30-8:30p)
- Section Lunch Tickets

Dr. Benjamin then shared APHA media activity since July 1 which included 12 news releases, 2 media briefings, 40+newscasts (4 live hits) 20+ print interview sand 2 podcasts; STAT op-ed; multiple stories on the ACIP lawsuit, CDC shooting and firing of Monarez, calls for RFK, Jr. to resign, and vaccines; coverage in AP, NPR, Washington Post, STAT, NYT, ABC, Bloomberg, MedPage Today, CNN, and BBC. APHA has participated in multiple USA Today Supplements including a piece on aging by Dr. Aaron Guest and a piece on workforce by Dr. Moose Alperin.

Dr. Benjamin shared legislative update which included information about FY25 funding and FY26 appropriations. Information about the Campaign for the Public's Health was shared. Initial priorities for the campaign include hiring an overarching campaign coordinator; advocacy; communications; legal and litigation strategy and support; partnership and grassroots efforts; and research and data. The Campaign will hold sessions at the Annual Meeting and a rally on the Mall (November 5, 2:30-4:00p).

Dr. Benjamin provided a legislative update and updated the Executive Board on the legal cases in which APHA has participated. Awards to be presented at the Annual Meeting include:

- Legislator of the Year: U.S. Senator Raphael Warnock
- President's Award: Democracy Forward
- Executive Director's Citation: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Dr. Benjamin discussed the National Guard's deployment in Washington, DC and assured everyone that the Association is taking security concerns seriously. Dr. Benjamin took questions from Executive Board members. Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Benjamin and APHA staff for their leadership.

Report of the Treasurer – Shirley A. Orr, MHS, APRN, NEA-BC

Ms. Orr presented for Mr. Hernandez who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Orr presented on the FY25 Financial Statements (pre-audit): The FY25 ended with APHA going into reserves by \$809,791 and including Investment Appreciation/Depreciation, APHA's pre-audited profit is\$170,938. This is over budget by \$2,531,780 and under the prior year by \$1,539,015. Ms. Orr



shared that the FY26 financials only included July and it is too early to make an assessment on what the year will look like.

Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Orr.

Report of the Speaker – Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW

Dr. Guest shared that the Ad Hoc Implementation Committee, in conjunction with the Evidentiary Review Committee, continues to focus on: 1.) development of tools and resources to support the policy brief process and 2.) educational tools to support continuing education about the policy brief process. Related to the Policy Brief Letter of Intent Process, Dr. Guest shared that 18 letters of intent, plus 1 letter of intent for a fast-track policy brief were received. This is in line with prior years and demonstrates that the letter of intent process did not slow down or prevent engagement. Author groups plan the policy briefs well in advance, and this process provides an opportunity to provide feedback earlier.

Dr. Guest shared the following dates to remember:

- September 9, 2025, 12:30-1:30p (ET): Policy Brief Listening Session
- October 14, 2025, 2:00-3:00p (ET): Annual Meeting Overview and Preparation
- October 21, 2025, 4:00-7:00p (ET): Candidate Forum
- Session I: Saturday, Nov. 1, 3:00-6:00p (ET)
 - Brief Orientation: 2:00-2:45p (ET)
 - Registration open from 1:00-3:00p (ET)
- November 3, 2025, 10:30-12:00p (ET): Governing Council Roundtable (Candidates Forum)
- Session II: Tuesday, Nov 4, 8:30a-1:30p (ET)
 - Registration open from 7:30-8:30a (ET)

Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Guest.

Governance Update – Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES, Vice Chair

Ms. Dixon shared events that all Executive Board members should attend at the Annual Meeting including Executive Board Meeting (October 30-31); Affiliate Day and Awards Lunch (November 1); Governing Council Session I (November 1); and Governing Council Session II (November 4); and Executive Board New/Old Members Lunch (November 5).

Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Dixon.



APHA Strategic Plan Update – Jessica Boyer, MPH, MSW, Chair, Strategic Planning Committee; Celeste Philip, MD, MPH Senior Public Health Advisor- Health and Medical Affairs; Liz Scott, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Brighter Strategies, LLC and Ann Ramosz, PhD, Senior Consultant, Brighter Strategies, LLC

Ms. Boyer shared a brief update on the strategic plan and asked Executive Board members for their ideas on how the Association should communicate with its members about the strategic plan. Different ideas were shared with Ms. Boyer.

Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Boyer.

Announcements – Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, Chair

Dr. Alperin made closing announcements and thanked staff and guests for joining the meeting.

Executive Session to Discuss Code of Conduct and Past Presidents’ Letter

Dr. Alperin called for a motion for the Executive Board to enter a period of executive session. The motion was moved by Dr. Sankaran and seconded by Dr. Jacob, and with no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

Motion: To enter a period of executive session.
Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Upon exiting the period of executive session, Dr. Alperin provided a motion and it was seconded by Dr. Smith.

Motion: To not develop and implement a process for soliciting “Emergency Action Statements” from our Sections, Caucuses, Affiliates, SPIGS, Forums, and individual members for discussion and disposition at the 2025 APHA Annual Meeting
Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Adjournment – Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, Chair

Dr. Alperin called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, The motion was approved by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the APHA Executive Board will take place on October 30-31, 2025, in Washington, DC.