



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2025
Virtual Meeting**

Present

Unable to Participate

Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, *Chair* Gopal Sankaran, MD, DrPH, MNAMS, CHES
Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Rebecca Boulos, PhD, MPH
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
Benjamin H. Hernandez, MBA
Claude A. Jacob, DrPH, MPH
Amy Lee, MD, MPH, MBA, CPH
Toby Levin, PhD, MPH, CPH, CHES
Nandi Marshall, DrPH, MPH, CHES, CLC, CDE
Rebecca Nevedale
Shirley A. Orr, MHS, APRN, NEA-BC
Donna-Marie Palakiko, PhD, MS, APRN
Virginia Reising, DNP, RN, PHNA-BC, PEL-CSN
Jimmie Smith, MD, MPH
Veena Thamilselvan, MSPH
Melissa Toledo-Ontiveros, MA, MCJ, MPA
Deanna J. Wathington, MD, MPH, FAAFP

Monday, March 10, 2025

APHA Board Chair, Dr. Alperin called the meeting to order, called roll and made brief opening remarks. Dr. Alperin then requested a motion to approve the Executive Board's March meeting agenda. The motion was moved by Dr. Marshall and seconded by Dr. Wathington, and with no further comments, a vote was called.

Motion: To approve the Executive Board's March meeting agenda.

Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Dr. Alperin then called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda which included the January Executive Board meeting minutes; new agency members; APHA leadership appointments and the updated Governing Council seat allocation. The motion was moved by Dr. Wathington and seconded by Dr. Lee and hearing no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda.
Items on the consent agenda included the January Executive Board meeting minutes; new agency members; APHA leadership appointments and the updated Governing Council seat allocation.

Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

At the conclusion of the vote, Dr. Alperin called for volunteers to constitute a second Code of Conduct Subcommittee. Dr. Alperin informed the Board that the Subcommittee was necessary due to the number of Code of Conduct Complaints received by the Association. Dr. Alperin then introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Governance Committee Training Activity - Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES, Committee Chair

Ms. Dixon, the Chair of the Governance Committee of the Executive Board facilitated a training session focused on the use of Roberts Rules of Order. The session was planned and organized by the members of the Governance Committee based on a needs assessment taken at the beginning of the Executive Board term.

At the conclusion of the training activity, Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Dixon and the members of the Governance Committee for their work and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Association Update - Georges C. Benjamin, MD, Executive Director

Dr. Benjamin began his presentation by discussing the search to replace Dr. Alfredo Morabia as the Editor-in-Chief of the *American Journal of Public Health*. Dr. Benjamin noted that Dr. Morabia will conclude his 10-year term as Editor-in-Chief on June 30, 2025. Dr. Benjamin also noted that the Association retained the services of Jack Farrell and Associates to conduct the search and convened a seven-member search committee chaired by APHA Past President, Dr. Kaye Bender. Dr. Benjamin then outlined the search process sharing that the Executive Board will be asked to meet with the final candidates and select the next Editor-in-Chief of the Journal at the May 2025 meeting.



Dr. Benjamin then shifted his attention to APHA operational activities. He noted that the elevator refurbishment project is complete and that the lobby level floor renovation will begin in April and has a completion date of July (or early August). Dr. Benjamin also shared that APHA staff will begin a three-day in the office work schedule beginning the week of March 31.

Dr. Benjamin then discussed APHA's operational security plans. Dr. Benjamin noted that we are living through uncertain times and that it is important that the Association evaluate its vulnerabilities including but not limited to cyber security and physical security concerns (APHA headquarters building and security risks to key individuals).

Dr. Benjamin said that APHA retained the services of Imperial Events Security to perform an assessment of the APHA building and that IES provided senior management with a list of upgraded security recommendations. Dr. Benjamin shared information related to APHA's continued vigilance concerning cyber security and that APHA's legal team provided senior staff with a briefing on what to do in case federal officials enter the APHA headquarters building. Dr. Benjamin reiterated his commitment to ensuring the safety of APHA staff and headquarters building.

Dr. Benjamin then shared information related to key APHA activities including National Public Health Week (the first full week of April), the Policy Action Institute (June 16 – 17, 2025) and the 2025 APHA Annual Meeting (Nov. 2 – 5, 2025) in Washington, DC. Dr. Benjamin noted the call for Annual Meeting Abstracts opened on January 6, 2025 and will close on March 28, 2025.

Dr. Benjamin then spent the remainder of his time discussing the impacts of the Trump Administration on APHA and the field of public health. He discussed APHA's actions to date as well as the Association's approach to working with the Administration. He concluded his remarks concerning the Administration by discussing the work of various public health coalitions and what individuals can do to advocate on behalf of public health.

Dr. Benjamin concluded his report by sharing information related to the work of the Alliance and a new initiative launched in February 2025 called For Our Health. For Our Health was created so that public health leaders speak with a unified voice to defend evidence-based health and safeguard critically important public health authorities. The initiative is led by Mary Pittman, DrPH, Thomas Higgins, MD, David Lawrence, MD and Matthew Marsom.

Dr. Benjamin took questions from Executive Board members throughout his presentation. Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Benjamin for his presentation and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Report of the Treasurer – Benjamin Hernandez, MBA, Treasurer

Mr. Hernandez began his presentation by discussing the status of the FY2025 budget as of January 2025. Mr. Hernandez reported that total revenue is \$19,039,961 (85% of the budget), which is over budget by \$2,006,471. He noted that membership dues, book sales, convention revenue and rent are under their projected revenue targets and that subscriptions, fees and royalties, interest income, miscellaneous revenue (contributions, sponsorships, etc.) and contracts and grants are over their projected revenue targets.



Mr. Hernandez reported that total expenses \$18,060,767 (72% of the budget), are over budget by \$1,301,277. Areas over their expected expenses include, but aren't limited to consulting and temporary personnel, subcontractor costs, travel and related costs.

Mr. Hernandez summarized the FY2025 budget situation by noting that year-to-date, the Association has income from operations in the amount of \$979,194 and with investment appreciation, \$1,640,640 and that APHA's investment value is up by \$337,637 while net dividend and interest is at \$323,809. Mr. Hernandez then shared the first year-end projection, which has APHA ending the fiscal year with a deficit of \$2,352,787 from operations and when adding in investment appreciation the Association is projecting a year-end deficit of \$1,572,081 (which is less than the Executive Board approved deficit budget).

At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Hernandez answered questions related to APHA's budget situation. Hearing no additional questions, Dr. Alperin thanked Mr. Hernandez for his presentation and introduced the next agenda item.

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

Dr. Guest began his presentation by outlining the Governing Council Spring orientation schedule leading up to the Mid-year Governing Council Meeting on Mon., June 9, 2025. Dr. Guest asked members of the Executive Board to contact him by March 30th if they would like to speak at the mid-year meeting. Dr. Guest then discussed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nominations. He said the Committee is looking at both the structure of the Nominations Committee and the candidate selection process. He noted that former APHA Executive Board member, Durrell Fox is Co-Chairing the Ad Hoc Committee.

Dr. Guest then discussed the work of the Ad Hoc Committee tasked with implementing the newly approved policy process. He said the members of the Science Board were tasked with creating an initial draft of the policy process and the Ad Hoc Committee is reviewing the information and will provide feedback. The Ad Hoc Committee is also requesting feedback from Section Policy Chairs as well as the membership.

Dr. Guest then discussed the status of the 2025 policy process, noting that no policies were accepted into the process this year, except for the two policies commissioned by the Executive Board. Those policies address hate as a public health issue and the impacts of war on public health. Dr. Guest concluded his remarks by requesting that Executive Board members direct all questions related to the policy process to him.

Hearing no questions for Dr. Guest, Dr. Alperin thanked him for his report and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Report of the Development Committee – Amy Lee, MD, MPH, MBA, CPH

Dr. Lee provided the Executive Board with an update on the work of the Development Committee. She noted that under work plan item one 73.8% of executive board members and 24.1% of Governing Councils contributed to APHA as of March 7, 2025. Dr. Lee then outlined the strategies to engage key APHA leadership groups to promote giving. Dr. Lee then discussed the Committee's strategies to promote giving by outside entities and organizations to APHA. Dr. Lee concluded her presentation by discussing

the progress of the newly established 1872 Giving Society, highlighting the Society's eleven founding members.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Dr. Lee took questions from the Executive Board related to her presentation. Hearing no further questions, Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Lee for her report and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

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

Ms. Boyer opened the presentation with brief remarks on behalf of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and then introduced Dr. Philip who provided the Executive Board with her thoughts related to the strategic planning process before turning the presentation over to Dr. Ann Ramosz, from Brighter Strategies, APHA's strategic plan implementation consultant.

Dr. Ramosz began her presentation by sharing the strategic plan year-one roadmap, noting that all the tasks are complete. Dr. Ramosz then shared the year-two roadmap, highlighting key tasks and dates. Key tasks include finalizing the metric and evaluation plan, tactic implementation kick-off and data evaluation and reporting. Dr. Ramosz then provided the Board with an overview of the methodology Brighter Strategies is using to implement the APHA strategic plan and reintroduced the five workgroups and staff leads outlined below.

- Workgroup 1: Build Workforce Capacity and Effectiveness – Yeatoh McIntosh
- Workgroup 2: Champion Public Health – Don Hoppert
- Workgroup 3: Advance Equitable Public Health Practice and Outcomes – Lawrence Haynes
- Workgroup 4: Improve Member Engagement and Satisfaction – Demond McWilliams
- Workgroup 5: Executive Operational Excellence – Vina HuLamm

Dr. Ramosz then provided the members of the Executive Board with a detailed update on the current metrics and the status of each workgroup. At the conclusion of her report, members of the Executive Board asked a series of questions related to the strategic planning process and next steps.

Hearing no further questions, Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Boyer, Dr. Ramosz, Dr. Phillip for their presentation.

Dr. Alperin then made several closing announcements related to upcoming Executive Board and APHA activities. Dr. Alperin then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was made by Dr. Jacob and seconded by Dr. Smith. Dr. Alperin called for comments, hearing none, Dr. Alperin called for a vote. The motion was approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m. eastern.

The next meeting of the APHA Executive Board will take place on May 4 – 6, 2025 in Washington, DC.