



**Executive Board Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2025
Virtual Meeting**

Present

Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, *Chair*
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*
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
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

Ella Greene-Moton
Rebecca Nevedale



Monday July 7, 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 made brief opening remarks. Dr. Alperin requested a motion to approve the Executive Board’s July meeting agenda. The motion was moved by Dr. Sankaran seconded by Ms. Dixon and with no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

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

Dr. Alperin then called for a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda which included the May 2025 Executive Board meeting minutes; new agency members; and APHA leadership appointments. The motion was moved by Dr. Wathington and seconded by Ms. Boyer and with no discussion, Dr. Alperin called for a vote.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda which included the May 2025 Executive Board meeting minutes; new agency members; and APHA leadership appointments.
Outcome: Approved by acclamation.

Code of Conduct Training – Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES, Vice Chair and Melissa (Moose) Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES

At the conclusion of the vote, Dr. Alperin introduced Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES, Vice Chair, who provided an overview of the Code of Conduct Policies and Procedures. Dr. Alperin shared two fictional examples to illustrate the procedures. The confidential nature of this process was emphasized.

Dr. Alperin thanked Ms. Dixon, the Code of Conduct Subcommittees, and Mr. Carbo.

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

Dr. Guest shared that the Evidentiary Review Committee (formally the Science Board) and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Policy Brief Implementation Task Force continue to work on developing resources and tools to launch the policy brief process. They are currently seeking feedback on the Subject Matter Expert Application and ERC Rubric 2. Feedback was requested through LEAD.

Dr. Guest also shared that during the Mid-Year Meeting (MYM) of the Governing Council, they approved the sun-setting of the JPC and renaming of the Science Board to the Evidentiary Review Committee. Additionally, Dr. Guest shared feedback from the MYM Evaluation. Voting member attendance was 163 of 206 voting members (79%). Two sections (PHSW, OHS) had no representation, and 14 sections had all governing councilors present. Non-voting member attendance was 21 of 88 non-voting members (24%). Overall attendance was 184 of 294 governing councilors (63%). Sixty-four individuals started the evaluation. Key findings from the evaluation:

- Did you feel prepared for the MYM? 98% responded Yes
- There was adequate communication prior to the MYM. 100% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- The Governing Council processes were clearly explained. 98% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- If I wanted, I felt I could participate in the discussion of the Governing Council. 98% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- My member unit (affiliate, section, caucus, SPIG) met and discussed our questions, recommendations for voting, and the Governing Council Agenda prior to the MYM. 49% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- The expectations of my role were communicated to me by my member unit. 76% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- The agenda items were appropriate for the meeting. 100% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree
- I access the Governing Council LEAD Community. 98% indicated Agree/Strongly Agree

Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Guest for his leadership.

Report of the Treasurer – Benjamin Hernandez, MBA

Mr. Hernandez shared a FY2025 budget update. As of the end of May 2025, APHA projects to end the fiscal year with a loss of (\$1,374,826) from operations and when factoring in intermediate and long-term investments, this results in a projected loss of (\$736,269).

Mr. Hernandez reported on the May 2025 financials. The total revenues are \$24,148,116 (108% of annual budget), which is over budget by \$2,961,011. Mr. Hernandez reported that total expenses are \$25,042,165 (100% of annual budget), which is over budget by \$2,058,136. Mr. Hernandez reminded the Executive Board that expenses always lag behind revenue.

Dr. Alperin thanked Mr. Hernandez, the members of the Finance and Audit Committee and Ms. Oluwafemi.



Association Update – Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director

Dr. Benjamin shared that the Policy Action Institute (PAI) which was held June 16-17, 2025, had 415 registrants (258 in-person, 159 virtual). Over 60 individuals visited Capitol Hill on June 18 to advocate on behalf of public health. Recordings are now available for free to anyone who registered for virtual or in-person attendance; or for sale, for anyone looking to learn from the speakers. Individuals can purchase access to portions or all of the Policy Action Institute on APHA Now: <https://www.pathlms.com/health>. Dr. Benjamin also shared that donations from Executive Board members sponsored 12 students and early career professionals who were posting on social media during the event and will write a blog post for Public Health Newswire.

Registration is now open for the Annual Meeting which will be held in Washington, DC November 2-5, 2025. July 14 is the Early-Bird Registration Deadline; and September 15 is the Advance Registration Deadline. The Marriott Marquis is the Headquarters Hotel. Dr. Benjamin reported that as of July 7, in-person registration is 1857 (vs. 1055 in 2024) and 252 exhibit booths have been sold. There are 970 sessions scheduled and 5758 abstracts.

Dr. Benjamin reported the APHA will be migrating its customer management system (iMIS) to the cloud. The implementation plan is currently being created. A kick-off meeting will be held in July followed by a series of listening sessions with key stakeholders. This change to iMIS will allow APHA to stay current with upgrades as well as allow for better user and staff experiences. Dr. Benjamin also shared photos of the first-floor renovation project at the APHA Headquarters Building. Construction began at the end of March 2025 and is on schedule to be completed in early August 2025. The October Executive Board meeting will be held in the renovated space. Several partner organizations have reached out to inquire about using the renovated space for meetings beginning in September.

Dr. Benjamin provided a legislative update and updated the Executive Board on the legal cases in which APHA has participated. A new lawsuit (American Academy of Pediatrics v. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.) was filed on July 7, 2027. APHA joined leading medical professional societies in this suit which asks the court to declare unlawful and set aside the Secretarial Directive on Pediatric Covid-19 Vaccines for Children Less Than 18 Years of Age and Pregnant Women. It also asks the court to order the Secretary to reinstate those immunizations to the CDC schedules. Dr. Benjamin also reminded the Executive Board of APHA's advocacy approach.

Dr. Benjamin took questions from Executive Board members. Dr. Alperin thanked Dr. Benjamin and APHA staff for their leadership.



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 that moving forward, the Strategic Plan updates will focus on one workgroup while all workgroups will provide written updates. Ms. Boyer then introduced Dr. Ramosz from Brighter Strategies who set the context for the Strategic Planning presentation. Dr. Ramosz introduced Ms. Vina HuLamm, workgroup 5 lead. The focus on workgroup 5 is Organizational Excellence. Ms. HuLamm shared the workgroup’s strategies for Goal 5, progress, and feedback from APHA staff (staff survey, staff focus groups, leadership interviews). The Implementation Dashboard, used by all workgroups, was also shared.

Dr. Scott then shared a brief update from workgroup 6. This workgroup is exploring the restructuring of member units. Dr. Scott shared that the model they had been discussing needed tweaking based on workgroup feedback. They were going to present a new model at the workgroup’s next meeting in mid-July. If the model received positive feedback, it will be vetted by a larger group of APHA members.

Drs. Ramosz and Scott took questions and comments from Executive Board members. Dr. Alperin thanked Brighter Strategies, Ms. HuLamm, workgroup leads and all APHA staff for their engagement in the Strategic Plan.

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

Dr. Alperin made closing announcements and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was made by Dr. Jacob and seconded by Dr. Marshall. Dr. Alperin called for a vote. The motion was approved by acclamation. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the APHA Executive Board will take place on September 8, at 2pm ET via Zoom.