



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

For science. For action. For health.

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2024

Present

E. Oscar Alleyne, DrPH, MPH
Melissa “Moose” Alperin, EdD, MPH, MCHES, *Vice Chair*
Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Jessica Boyer, MPH, MSW
Monique Brown, PhD, MPH, MBA
Bryan O. Buckley, DrPH, MPH, MBA
Chris Chanyasulkit, PhD, MPH
Shontelle Dixon, MPH, CHES
Ella Greene-Moton
Aaron Guest, PhD, MPH, MSW
Benjamin Hernandez, MBA
Claude A. Jacob, DrPH, MPH
Amy Lee, MD, MPH, MBA
Nandi Marshall, DrPH, MPH, CHES, CLS, CDE, *Chair*
Stephen Modell, MD, MD
Shirley Orr, MPH, APRA
David Reyes, DNP, MPH, RN, PHNC-CPH
Gopal Sankaran, MD, DrPH, MNAMS, CHES
Anthony Santella, DrPH, MCHES, CPH
Denise Strehlow, MPH, MSW
Kevin Sykes, PhD, MPH
Veena Thamilselvan, MSPH
Deanna Wathington, MD, MPH

Unable to Attend

Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, MS

Call to Order and Welcome – Nandi Marshall, DrPH, MPH, CHES, CLS, CDE, Chair

APHA Executive Board Chair Dr. Nandi Marshall called the meeting to order and made brief opening remarks. Dr. Marshall then called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was moved and seconded, and hearing no discussion, the Chair called for a vote.

Motion: To approve the September 2024 Executive Board meeting agenda.

Outcome: Approved by Acclamation.

At the conclusion of the vote, Dr. Marshall called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Georges Benjamin pulled one of the items involving a new agency member from the consent agenda for transparency purposes. Dr. Marshall noted a correction to a name on the leadership appointment list. The motion was moved and seconded, and hearing no discussion, Dr. Marshall called for the vote.

Motion: To approve the amended Consent Agenda

Outcome: Approved by Acclamation.

Dr. Benjamin reported that, to expedite the new agency member approval process, he was given the authority to approve agency members on an interim basis until the next meeting of the Executive Board. He did not approve one agency on the list because it is a for-profit company. Staff investigated the organization further and found no red flags. Dr. Alleyne asked if there was a need for a CSR review. Dr. Benjamin confirmed that there was not the need for a CSR review of the group. Dr. Buckley asked if the agency memberships were only for non-profits. Dr. Benjamin reported that for-profit organizations could be agency members.

MOTION: Dr. Guest motioned to approve the agency for membership, which was seconded by Shirley Orr. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the agency for membership

Outcome: Approved by Acclamation.

Dr. Marshall thanked Dr. Benjamin for his report and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Report of the Strategic Planning Committee – David Reyes, DNP, MPH, RN, PHNA-BC and Celeste Philip, MD, MPH

Dr. Reyes reported that the strategic plan implementation report was provided to everyone in advance of the meeting. He stated that all staff working groups have been meeting since late June, and that the cross-team workgroup has also met several times. The cross-team group includes the leads of all the staff workgroups, APHA senior staff and members of the Executive Board. The cross-team workgroup allows participants from all the teams to hear about progress and discuss potential challenges. Dr. Reyes said the workgroups understand the importance of metrics and that staff will begin developing metrics once they complete their initial work, sometime after the Annual Meeting. Dr. Reyes recognized the work of Dr. Liz Scott and her team with Brighter Strategies, who are overseeing the strategic plan implementation process. Dr. Reyes concluded his remarks by noting that he will report the progress of the strategic plan at the Governing Council meeting in October.

Dr. Philip, APHA's senior consultant, shared her thoughts on the strategic planning process, noting that she felt the organization is doing a good job moving the project forward. She shared that there was an all-staff meeting held in August that focused on the strategic plan. The meeting emphasized that every staff member's voice mattered and that it is very important that they participate in their workgroup meetings.

Dr. Reyes and Dr. Philip then took questions from the executive board. At the conclusion of the question-and-answer period, Dr. Marshall thanked Dr. Reyes and Dr. Philip for their report and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

Report of the Treasurer – Benjamin Hernandez, MBA

Mr. Hernandez began his report by noting that he would not focus on the status of the FY2025 budget which began on July 1, 2024. He said the July financials could be found in the meeting materials and that more information regarding the FY2025 budget would be shared with the board at the October meeting.

Mr. Hernandez then discussed the status of FY2024, he said APHA ended the fiscal year with a profit from operations in the amount of \$647,679 and including investments and appreciation and depreciation, APHA's pre-audited profit is \$1,709,952, which means APHA ended FY2024 \$3,214,962 over budget. The total revenue for operations was \$29,828,611 compared to the approved budget of \$24,533,431. The biggest change was due to grants and contracts, which brought in more than was predicted when the budget was created. Mr. Hernandez then discussed expenses, he noted that \$26,185,161 was budgeted, and APHA spent \$29,180,932. The largest change in expenses was due to the costs associated with the work of APHA subcontractors.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Hernandez took questions from members of the executive board. After a period of discussion, Dr. Marshall thanked Mr. Hernandez for his report and introduced the next item on the meeting agenda.

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

Dr. Guest began his presentation by sharing the agenda for the October meeting of the Governing Council in Minneapolis, MN. He noted that materials are due to Courtney Taylor no later than Mon., Oct. 7, 2024. Dr. Guest then discussed the proposed amendments to the APHA bylaws, he reviewed the standing rules of the Council, discussed the Governing Councilor registration process and rules visitors must observe to participate in the meeting. He then shared information to important Governing Council activities including, but not limited to the optional candidate meet and greet and the optional Governing Council orientation and roundtables.

Dr. Guest then shared information related to the work of the Ad Hoc Committees created to address the APHA Policy Process. He discussed the project timeline through the Annual Meeting, highlighted challenges, and opportunities, and based on member feedback, outlined several revisions the recommendations Ad Hoc Committee took into consideration as they prepare to bring the revised process to the Council for consideration. Dr. Guest then briefly outlined the reimagined proposed policy statement process and implementation plan. Dr. Guest concluded his remarks by reiterated his willingness to meet with Member Unit, Affiliate and other leaders to ensure they understand the proposal.

Dr. Guest then took questions from the executive board related to his presentation. Hearing no further questions, Dr. Marshall thanked Dr. Guest for his report and introduced the next item on agenda.

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

Dr. Benjamin began his presentation by discussing the 2024 APHA Annual Meeting and Expo, Oct. 27 – 30, in Minneapolis, MN. He noted that as of Sept. 16th in-person registration is 7,668, digital registrations are 21, 375 exhibit booths were sold and that housing was sold out, but the Events team was in the process of securing three additional properties. Dr. Benjamin then discussed the newly created President’s Welcome Reception taking place on Sat., Oct. 26 at 6:30 p.m. (formerly the Affiliate Awards Reception). He discussed the upcoming registration deadlines, an Executive Board Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training, on Fri., Oct. 25 as well as other Executive Board member activities.

Dr. Benjamin then discussed the status of the Executive Board commissioned policy statement writing groups project. He reminded the members of the executive board that one writing group will address anti-hate and the other writing group will address the impacts of war and conflict on public health. Dr. Benjamin shared the scope of work of each writing group and next steps, including the timeline. He said his goal is to ask the Governing Council to approve the statements at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC.

Dr. Benjamin then informed the executive board that APHA’s Alliance for Disease Prevention and Response changed its name to the Alliance for the Public’s Health. He said he hoped that the new name better reflected the work APHA is doing in this area. Dr. Benjamin then discussed the nominee for the APHA Legislator of the Year Award and asked Executive Board members to vote to approve the nominee electronically at the conclusion of the meeting. Dr. Benjamin then discussed the search for the next Editor in Chief of the *American Journal of Public Health*, noting that Dr. Alfredo Morabia’s ten-year term ends on June 30, 2025.

Dr. Benjamin then asked the Executive to establish the APHA Executive Board Impact Award. The award is given to a living individual in recognition of his/her exceptionally meritorious contributions to the advancement of the association’s mission in a way that was significantly impactful. The award is not required to be given annual but is available to recognize meritorious individuals annually. The award will be funded by APHA operating funds.

Dr. Benjamin then made a motion that the executive board establish the APHA Executive Board Impact Award. The motion was seconded by Dr. Alperin and hearing no discussion, Dr. Marshall called for a vote.

Motion:	To approve the creation of the APHA Executive Board Impact Award.
Outcome:	Approved by Acclamation.

Dr. Benjamin then asked that a motion be made to present the inaugural APHA Executive Board Impact Award to Dr. Alfredo Morabia, the Editor in Chief of the *American Journal of Public Health*. Dr. Sankaran made the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Alperin. Dr. Marshall then called for discussion and hearing none, called for a vote.

Motion:	To present Dr. Alfredo Morabia with the inaugural APHA Executive Board Impact Award.
Outcome:	Approved by Acclamation.

At the conclusion of the votes, Dr. Benjamin noted that he is presenting the 2024 Executive Director's Award to William Keck, MD, MPH and that APHA President, Ella Greene-Moton selected the Jackson School District in Jackson, MS to receive the APHA President's Citation.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Dr. Benjamin took questions and comments from the members of the Executive Board. Questions and comments touched on a variety of subjects including the diversity, equity and inclusion activity during the Oct. board meeting to the rules around federal elections. Hearing no further questions, Dr. Marshall thanked Dr. Benjamin for his presentation and asked for a vote to enter a period of executive session to discuss a contract matter.

Dr. Jacob made a motion to move into a period of Executive Session. The motioned was seconded by Dr. Alperin. Dr. Marshall called for discussion and hearing none called for the vote.

Motion:	To move into Executive Session
Outcome:	Approved by Acclamation.

The executive board entered executive session at 3:35 p.m.

The executive board exited the period of executive session at 4:12 p.m.

Dr. Marshall made brief concluding remarks and called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved and seconded and hearing no discussion, Dr. Marshall called for the vote. The motion was approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Executive Board will take place on October 24-25, 2024, in Minneapolis, MN