



## **New Jersey One Health Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, May 23, 2025**

**200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, NJ, 08611 and Microsoft Teams**

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Amar Patil at 10:05 AM.

### **Notice of Public Meeting**

Public meeting notice was given on May 16, 2025.

Pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by giving written notice of the time, date, location and to the extent known, the agenda of this meeting to Gannett and Advance Media Legal Publications and the Office of the Secretary of State. In addition, at least 48 hours in advance, this notice has been posted in the lobby and on the third floor of the offices of the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, 200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton, New Jersey.

### **Roll Call**

The following members were present: Dr. Amar Patil, Dr. Darby McDermott, Ms. Christine Schell, Dr. Gloria Bachmann, Dr. Heather Fowler (on Teams), Dr. Ashley DeNegre (on Teams), Dr. Matthew Edson, and Dr. Michael Taylor.

### **Swearing-In of Members**

Dr. DeNegre was sworn-in virtually by New Jersey Department of Agriculture (NJDA) Legal Specialist Chris LaRegina at 10:10 AM.

## **Approval of the Minutes**

Dr. Bachmann motioned to approve the Minutes from February 21, 2025 as written. The motion was seconded by Dr. McDermott. The Task Force approved the February 21 minutes with one abstention (Dr. Edson).

## **Invited Guests**

Representatives from BioNJ, a life sciences trade organization in NJ, were invited to establish a dialogue between the NJ One Health Task Force (OHTF) and the life sciences private sector in NJ.

Dr. Ian McLaughlin, Vice President of Government Affairs, explained that BioNJ represents the life sciences sector in New Jersey, from small biotech startups to some of the largest biopharma companies in the world. Ms. Debbie Hart, President and CEO of BioNJ, was also invited but was unable to attend, and Dr. McLaughlin expressed her regrets.

Dr. McLaughlin shared facts on the NJ life sciences industry:

- As of last year almost half of all FDA approvals of new drugs globally came from companies that have a very significant footprint in New Jersey.
- The state is home to nearly 5,600 biopharma companies including 8 of the top 10 global pharma companies and 9 of the top 10 R&D companies.
- 40% of all cell and gene therapies are being developed in our state's region and the sector produces over 350,000 direct and indirect jobs.
- NJ is one of very few places across the country that has a meaningful presence of nearly every subsector, from biologic therapeutics and pharmaceuticals to medical devices.
- This state is the densest and most diverse state in the country and that has translated to the highest concentration of scientists and engineers in the country.

An area of mutual interest between the OHTF and BioNJ is the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). BioNJ is aware it is only a matter of time before current antimicrobials are no longer effective, at a scale that will be a public health crisis. The organization is pursuing policy solutions to address the fact that the current market environment fails to incentivize the private sector to bring novel antimicrobials to patients. One example mentioned is their support of the Pasteur Act, bipartisan legislation at the federal level.

In closing, Dr. McLaughlin thanked the OHTF for the opportunity to speak and offered BioNJ as a resource regarding the position of the private sector on public health priorities identified by the NJ OHTF.

In the subsequent discussion, the following salient points were raised:

- Dr. Bachmann: There is a need to educate patients and healthcare providers on prudent prescribing. It is difficult to require patients to pay (sometimes large amounts, depending on insurance) for the proper testing and cheaper to simply prescribe antimicrobials.
- Dr. Fowler: Veterinary practitioners are under the same pressures to prescribe antimicrobials as human providers. We need to ensure new products are evenly distributed across all medical fields, not just human medicine.
- Dr. Edson: To echo Dr. Fowler, there is even more pressure to prescribe antimicrobials in the veterinary industry due to the lack of insurance coverage (all testing is paid out of pocket). There is also a convenience factor, as there are antimicrobials that can be prescribed as a long-lasting single injection, widely embraced by owners and profitable to industry.
- Dr. Edson: The development of parasiticide resistance is a major concern for the veterinary industry, less so in human medicine. In the US, veterinary parasites are becoming resistant, making treatment difficult and leading to patient loss. In the UK, this is less of a problem as veterinary parasiticides require a prescription. There is a need for novel parasiticides to be developed and to require prescriptions in the veterinary space.

## **Committee Reports**

Education, Training & Workforce Development: The following report was submitted by Dr. Michael Taylor, Chair of the Education, Training & Workforce Development Committee:

*The committee met four times: March 10<sup>th</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>, and April 25<sup>th</sup> to develop a set of strategic goals and an action plan for achieving them.*

*The committee is guided by two broad questions:*

1. *What are the various types of learning (cognitive, affective, experiential, connective, etc.) that are essential to One Health education, training, and workforce development and where do they occur (higher education, K-12, nonprofits, public interest groups, industry groups)?*

2. *Who is the future One Health “workforce”? Where will this workforce be employed and what skills, training, and knowledge will this workforce need?*

*Committee Work (March – May):*

*Action: Develop an inventory of One Health focused academic credentials (certificates, minors, majors) offered at colleges and universities. Identified thirteen (13) certificate programs, four (4) minors, six (6) graduate degrees, six (6) undergraduate degrees.*

- *Next Steps: Continue to develop inventory and collect relevant programing materials (student learning outcomes, syllabi, URLs) for analysis of common curriculum, specialization, and to identify gaps.*

*Action: Develop an inventory of One Health public education programming and best practices with special attention to target audiences (K-12, public, FFA, etc.) and learning outcomes. Identified multiple nonprofit organizations with extensive public education resources.*

- *Next Steps: Participate in upcoming One Health conferences to better assess the current best practices in One Health public education and to begin to develop a more formal network of specialists.*
- *Next Steps: Work with K-12 educators and consortiums to better understand how One Health modules can be incorporated into existing education standards across multiple grades.*

*Action: Develop short-term and long-term objectives for the One Health Task Force Strategic Plan. Established one (1) short-term and two (2) long-term objectives for Goal 3. Established 1 (one) short-term and three (3) long-term objectives for Goal 4.*

Research & Innovation: The following report was submitted by Ms. Christine Schell, Chair of the Research & Innovation Committee:

*The Committee identified goals and tasks to accomplish those goals over the next year:*

1. *The Committee’s first goal is to stimulate New Jersey-based research efforts to address One Health issues. To accomplish this goal, the Committee decided to survey Chief Research Officers at NJ and nearby colleges and universities to determine what research is already on-going, where there are gaps in critical research and if there is an impact to existing on-going research due to funding changes at the Federal level. The Committee has crafted a request to the Chief Research Officers asking for this information and is currently deciding the best way to collect that information before sending out the request. Rutgers University has developed a script for querying its research database, and the Committee hopes to*

*share this method as an example of how other colleges and universities could more easily pull this data. A second task is to determine how to gather this type of information from industry and the private sector. To that end, the Committee reached out to BioNJ, the life sciences trade association for NJ, representing 450 research-based organizations across healthcare. We already heard from Ian McLaughlin, Vice President for Government Affairs at BioNJ, this morning about this aspect of One Health research in New Jersey and we hope to continue the dialogue in this space. Also, as part of this first goal, the Committee noted the need to identify possible funding mechanisms/sources to facilitate needed research, with the hope of eventually establishing a One Health Task Force research grant program. The Committee has started the effort to identify potential funding sources. It's possible that this funding-related task could be combined with similar efforts outlined by the Education, Training and Workforce Development Committee to avoid working at cross purposes.*

- 2. The Committee's second goal is to improve accessibility of data across sectors and disciplines. This would require the Committee to first determine the barriers to data sharing/access, both technological and legal/administrative. The ultimate goal would be to establish a One Health data portal to improve and enhance shared collaboration. Work on this goal has not started.*

Strategic Planning: The following report was given by Dr. Darby McDermott, Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee:

The Committee has been meeting on a biweekly basis with its primary objective to draft the Strategic Plan. The Committee looked at the legislation to evaluate the primary objectives for the Strategic Plan. The draft was shared with other Task Force members ahead of this meeting and posted publicly on the NJDA website. We would like to bring the draft forth today for discussion and to see if Task Force members have any edits or comments prior to voting on the document.

### **New Business**

Strategic Plan: Dr. McDermott opened the floor for comments and edits on the draft that was shared with the Task Force prior to the meeting. Suggestions and supportive comments were received from members of the public Dr. Wendy Purcell and Dr. Dina

Fonseca, both from Rutgers University. Minor edits to Goal 1, Objective 3 and Goal 4, Objectives 3 and 4 were agreed upon by Task Force members.

Dr. Bachmann motioned to approve the plan with the suggested edits, seconded by Dr. Edson. The One Health Task Force members voted unanimously to pass the Strategic Plan.

Vacancy – Zoonotic Disease Expert: Dr. Patil shared that there is a vacancy (Zoonotic Disease expert) due to the departure of former member Dr. Alison Stout. In consideration of the amount of time the appointments process takes, Dr. Patil urged Task Force members to share suggestions as soon as possible.

Funding: Dr. Patil pointed out that the Task Force will need funding to support the activities in their Strategic Plan, and as state officials they will need to be mindful of actual or perceived conflicts of interest. He advised that once a potential funding source is identified, Task Force members should share the details with NJDA Ethics and Legal staff to determine on a case-by-case basis if the Task Force can accept and whether recusals are needed to proceed with the funding.

Dr. Patil also shared that the NJDA will be receiving some funding (H5N1 grant from CDC to NJDOH, part of which will be shared with NJDA) and among the allowed activities is One Health coordination. The NJDA proposed to organize a 1-day One Health needs assessment workshop and conduct outreach activities.

### **Public Comment:**

There were no additional comments from the public.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the NJ One Health Task Force will be held Friday, September 26, 2025, beginning at 10:00 AM at 200 Riverview Plaza, Trenton and on Microsoft Teams.

### **Adjournment**

On the motion of Dr. Edson, seconded by Ms. Schell, the NJ One Health Task Force voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:46 AM.