

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
HELD TELEPHONICALLY
February 18, 2026**

Members Present:

Margaret Koller
Michael Fahncke
Adam Young
Gary Cupo
Kelly Fernandez
Amirah Hussain

Others:

Jeffrey Posta (DAG)
Jessica Lugo (DAG)
John Rossakis (DOBI)

I. Call to Order

M. Koller called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. She announced that notice of the meeting had been posted at the Department of Banking and Insurance (the “Department”), on the Department’s website, at the Office of the Secretary of State, submitted to the State House Press Corps, and published in two newspapers of general circulation in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

M. Koller stated that the means by which the public could attend the meeting telephonically was posted on the Board’s website and issued electronically to all known interested parties.

M. Koller determined a quorum was present. She stated that voting would be by roll call.

Members of the public in attendance were asked to identify themselves. Public attendees are identified at the end of these minutes.

II. Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

III. Administrative Items for Review & Approval

Meeting Minutes

A. Young made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025. This motion was seconded by M. Koller. All voting members present approved the motion. The motion carried.

Invoices for Payment

G. Cupo made a motion to approve the following invoices:

- NJ Advance Media invoice dated January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$78.32; and
- Invoice for legal services from the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law, in the amount of \$4,816, for the second quarter of fiscal year 2026.

The motion was seconded by A. Young. All voting members present approved the motion. The motion carried.

IV. General Updates and Discussion

M. Fahncke stated that the Department recently welcomed a new Commissioner, Susan Ochs. M. Fahncke noted that various aspects of both the Small Employer Health Benefits Program and the Individual Health Coverage Program were under discussion with Department leadership.

M. Koller expressed excitement for new leadership at the Department.

V. Qualifying Event Criteria

The Board engaged in discussion regarding whether the expiration of the enhanced federal marketplace subsidies constitutes a qualifying event for a special enrollment period, potentially allowing impacted consumers to return to employer health plans. S. Grant asked if there were any updates from Department leadership regarding this issue. M. Fahncke indicated that the Department is continuing to review this issue and that he hopes to provide an update to the Board soon.

J. Fusco expressed concern and stated that the issue has become increasingly urgent. J. Fusco indicated that prompt official guidance is needed.

M. Koller stated that the Board will revisit the issue at its next meeting.

VI. Close of Meeting

K. Fernandez made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A. Young seconded the motion. All voting members present approved the motion. The motion carried.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.]

Members of the public known to be in attendance:

Dana Kelly (Horizon)

Kelly Ferreira (Horizon)

Kristin Jarosz (Horizon)

Theresa Sullivan (Horizon)

Joan Fusco