

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

**Members Present:**

Margaret Koller  
Michael Fahncke  
Adam Young  
Gary Cupo  
Kelly Fernandez  
Katherine Hempstead  
Staci Grant  
Taylor Kopelan

**Others:**

Jeffrey Posta (DAG)  
Jessica Lugo (DAG)

**I. Call to Order**

M. Koller called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 February 18, 2026. This motion was seconded by K. Fernandez. All voting members present approved the motion, with T. Kopelan, S. Grant, and K. Hempstead abstaining, as they were not present at the February 18, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

#### **IV. General Updates and Discussion**

##### Small Employer Market Status Discussion

K. Hempstead suggested the Board hold a discussion concerning Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) uptake in the small employer marketplace, as well as a general discussion concerning the status of the small employer marketplace in New Jersey. S. Grant expressed support for this discussion. The Board agreed to tentatively hold discussions on these topics at its May meeting.

##### Special Enrollment Period

The Board discussed whether the expiration of the enhanced federal marketplace subsidies constitutes a qualifying event for a special enrollment period (SEP), potentially allowing impacted consumers to return to employer health plans. M. Fahncke advised the Department is continuing to review this question. It was agreed the Board would review actions taken in other states to determine whether they had established SEPs in the small employer market based on affordability issues in the individual marketplace. In addition, there was conversation about whether any other states had similarly considered the Medicaid disenrollment SEP as a basis for allowing the proposed SEP based on individual market affordability and whether other states' SEPs had been subject to challenges or pushback.

#### **V. Close of Meeting**

S. Grant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Koller seconded the motion. All voting members present approved the motion. The motion carried.

[The meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M.]

Members of the public known to be in attendance:

Dana Kelly (Horizon)

Kelly Ferreira (Horizon)

Kristin Jarosz (Horizon)

Theresa Sullivan (Horizon)

Sandra Araujo (Horizon)