

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
NEW JERSEY SMALL EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM BOARD
HELD VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
September 16, 2026**

Members Present:

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

Others:

Jeffrey Posta (DAG)
Jessica Lugo (DAG)
John Rossakis (DOBI)
Rayanna Haile (DOBI)
Ethan Zlotchew (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 and via videoconference 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 August 19, 2026. The motion was seconded by K. Fernandez. All voting members present approved the motion, with S. Grant abstaining, as she was not present at the August 19, 2026 meeting. The motion carried.

Updated Policy Forms

M. Fahncke stated that the draft proposal for annual amendments to the Small Employer Health Benefits Program standard plan documents (the “Policy Forms”) were pending additional review, and that the Board would plan to formally approve the amendments at the October meeting. M. Fahncke outlined the timeline associated with the Board’s special rulemaking process and provided an overview of the review process.

Several Board members voiced concern over the tight timeframes involved in meeting the goal of adopting the Policy Form amendments by the end of the calendar year. M. Fahncke stated the Board could call a special meeting to facilitate timely adoption, if needed.

IV. Discussion

Market Update

K. Hempstead presented information regarding trends in the small group insurance market in the national context from a recent Congressional Budget Office publication using the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (“MEPS”), as well as data regarding developments in Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangements (ICHRA) (recently renamed “CHOICE”), and perspectives from the standpoint of providers. K. Hempstead agreed to share her presentation slide deck with the Board after the meeting.

V. Close of Meeting

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

[The meeting adjourned at 11:02 A.M.]

Members of the public known to be in attendance:

Dana Kelly (Horizon)

Veronica Diaz (AmeriHealth)

Joan Fusco