



# MEMO

**To:** Commissioner Persichilli  
**From:** Maria Del Cid-Kosso and Yannai Kranzler  
**Date:** December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
**Subject:** Executive Directive No. 20-036 Approval of Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Training Programs for School Personnel Pursuant to Paul's Law (P.L. 2019, Chapter 290)

On January 9, 2020, Governor Murphy signed into law "Paul's Law," requiring all school personnel to be educated about epilepsy and seizure disorders, how to recognize and provide care for epilepsy and seizure disorders, and when to call for assistance. The Law requires that the training for staff include a Department of Health-approved on-line or in-person course of instruction provided by a non-profit national organization that supports the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

The role of the Department of Health in implementation of the Law is to identify and approve the available trainings that are in compliance with the law, so that the Department of Education can direct Boards of Education in the State to coordinate the provision of epilepsy and seizure disorder care at school and ensure that all staff are trained in the care of students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. The attached Executive Directive prepared by NJDOH Director Office of Legal and Regulatory Compliance provides approval to two trainings:

- Online or in-person "Seizure Training for School Personnel" offered by the Epilepsy Foundation; and
- Online or in-person "T.R.U.S.T. Seizure Recognition and First Aid" offered by the Epilepsy Alliance of America.

Based on research at the programmatic level and in consultation with subject matter experts both in New Jersey and nationally, both trainings comply with the requirements of the law, and would effectively provide school staff in the State with the ability to effectively care for and support students with epilepsy and seizure disorders. The Epilepsy Foundation's training is currently offered in four other states with laws similar to Paul's Law, and the Epilepsy Alliance of America is already providing their training in schools across New Jersey. Both trainings are provided by non-profit national organizations that support the welfare of individuals with epilepsy and seizure disorders.