



## State of New Jersey

PHILIP D. MURPHY  
*Governor*

NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY  
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TAHESHA L. WAY  
*Lt. Governor*

Lisa A. Asare  
*President & CEO*

### NEW JERSEY MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION AUTHORITY ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

#### Minutes of the Meeting March 26, 2025

Minutes of the in-person meeting of the New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority ("MIHIA") held on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10:00 AM Daylight Savings Time.

#### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD IN ATTENDANCE

Barbara George Johnson – Public Member  
Andrea Martinez-Mejia – Public Member  
Dr. Damali Campbell – Oparaji – Public Member  
Shakira Abdul-Ali – Public Member  
Maritza Raimundi-Petroski – Public Member  
Dr. Philip Bonaparte<sup>1</sup> – Public Member  
Rosalee Boyer – Public Member  
Holly Low – Governor Representative  
Dr. Kaitlan Baston – Governor Representative  
Tim Sullivan – Governor Representative  
Katherine Stoehr – Governor's Representative  
Vineeta Kapahi – Designee for Sarah Adelman – Governor Representative  
Trish Wallace – Designee for Justin Zimmerman – Governor Representative  
Nicole Bailey – Designee for Dr. Brian Bridges – Governor Representative

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

Lisa Asare, President & CEO, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
First Lady Tammy Snyder Murphy  
Lauren Lalicon, Policy Director, Office of the First Lady  
Stephanie Lagos, Chief of Staff, Office of the First Lady  
Michael Eleneski, Associate Counsel, Office of the Governor, Authorities Unit  
Roza Dabaghyan, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Law and Public Safety, Division of Law  
Catherine Terrero, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority  
Cindy Cortez, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. Philip Bonaparte missed the roll call but joined the meeting prior to the consideration of matters requiring action.

Laura Wilton, Chief of Corporate Governance, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Eric Carlsson, Chief Financial Officer, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority

Chair Barbara George Johnson presided over the meeting with Catherine Terrero and Cindy Cortez keeping the minutes.

President & CEO Asare called the meeting to order and announced that Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (MIHIA) was in compliance with the provisions of Open Public Meetings Act and that adequate notice of the meeting had been provided in the manner prescribed by law.

President & CEO Asare took roll call and welcomed representatives from the First Lady's Office, Governor's Authorities Unit, and the Attorney General's Office of the Board.

### **Chair update**

Chair Barbara George Johnson addressed the Board and advised that the next Maternal Care Quality Collaborative (MCQC) meeting will be held on May 30, 2025.

Chair George Johnson announced that March 26, 2025, marked MIHIA's first year and the celebration of its First Annual Board Meeting. She stated that in its inaugural year, the Board has been instrumental in advancing maternal health equity and strong stakeholder support was evident, as seen in the Nurture NJ Summit's high attendance. Chair George Johnson highlighted her excitement for this work in partnership with MIHIA.

### **President & CEO Statement**

President & CEO Asare addressed the Board and commemorated MIHIA's first birthday. She indicated that over the past year, MIHIA has built its team, established partnerships, and overseen the development of the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (MIHIC). In addition, President & CEO highlighted that collaboration with twenty-two state agencies has been crucial in advancing MIHIA's maternal and infant health initiatives.

Key achievements in MIHIA's inaugural year include national recognition, engagement in multiple states, and partnerships with doulas to develop a New Jersey-specific training program. The first Annual Report, detailing legislative milestones, community engagement, and future plans, was shared with the Board. President & CEO Asare stated that as MIHIA looks ahead, it remains committed to expanding efforts and ensuring every mother and child in New Jersey receives the support needed to thrive.

President & CEO Asare welcomed First Lady Tammy Murphy and invited her to address the Board. First Lady Murphy commended MIHIA on its first-year accomplishments and shared her optimism for the future. She highlighted New Jersey's leadership in maternal

health equity and its commitment to developing the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center from the ground up.

President & CEO Asare was proud to announce that MIHIA received formal notice that its application to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation was approved for funding. Lastly, Eric Carlsson, MIHIA Chief Financial Officer, provided a fiscal update.

### **Matters Requiring Board Action**

#### **a. Approval of Minutes of February 26, 2025.**

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of February 26, 2025, by Governor Representative, Kaitlan Baston, and was seconded by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia. Five members abstained from the vote: Dr. Philip Bonaparte, Commissioner Stoehr, and Vineeta Kapahi, Designee for Sarah Adelman, Trish Wallace, Designee for Justin Zimmerman, and Nicole Bailey, Designee for Dr. Brian Bridges. Remaining members voted in favor. The motion carried.

#### **b. Approval of NJMIHIA Board Meeting Dates through March of 2026.**

A motion was made to approve the Board meeting dates, by Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali and was seconded by Public Member, Maritza Raimundi-Petroski. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

#### **c. Approval of NJMIHIA Budget for FY 2025.**

A motion was made to approve the FY2025 budget, by Governor Representative, Katherine Stoehr, and was seconded by Public Member, Dr. Damali Campbell-Oparaji. During discussion, Maritza Raimundi-Petroski inquired about the budget. Eric Carlsson, CFO, clarified that the budget was presented in thousands, totaling \$3.2 million. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

#### **d. Approval of the Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of the Amended Bylaws.**

A motion was made to approve the resolution, by Public Member, Dr. Philip Bonaparte and was seconded by Public Member, Shakira Abdul-Ali. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

#### **e. Resolution to Approve Annual Report.**

A motion was made to approve the annual report by Public Member, Andrea Martinez-Mejia, and was seconded by Governor Representative, Kaitlan Baston. During discussion, Tim Sullivan inquired if MIHIA's audited financial statements should have been included in the Annual Report. Laura Wilton, MIHIA's Chief of Corporate Governance, clarified that audited financial statements are not yet available for the past year, but audited financial audited statements will be included in future Annual Reports. All members voted in favor. The motion carried.

### **Other Business**

Governor Representative, Tim Sullivan, updated the attendees that MIHIA is now the official owner of the land where the MIHIC will be built.

Chair Barbara George Johnson announced that, as part of MIHIA’s ongoing efforts to involve the community in the Center’s development, Kean University will host a Community Engagement event on April 8, 2025.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session**

There was no Executive Session.

**Adjournment**

Chair Barbara George Johnson made the motion to adjourn. Governor Representative, Tim Sullivan, seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

I hereby certify this to be a true and original copy of the March 26, 2025, New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority Board meeting minutes.

*Lisa Asare*

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Lisa Asare,  
President and CEO.