

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Bergen County Board of Social Services
July 2, 2012**

PRESENT: Freeholder John A. Felice, Chairperson
Freeholder John D. Mitchell, Vice-Chairperson
Randi Duffie, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mayor Vincent Barra, Board Member
Tom Toronto, Board Member
Frank Catania, Jr., Esq., General Counsel
Robert Calocino, Acting Director
Michele Darmochwal, Administrative Secretary

ABSENT: Deborah Viola, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer
John M. Carbone, Esq., County Adjuster
Leah Puzzo, Board Member
William E. Connelly, Jr., Board Member
Bob Nyman, Board Member

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Social Services previously scheduled for July 3, 2012 was rescheduled and held on July 2, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, 216 Route 17 North, Building A, Rochelle Park, New Jersey.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman John A. Felice called the meeting to order. Counsel read the notice required by the Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

"Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of the meeting scheduled for July 2, 2012 has been provided in the following manner:

1. By a prominent posting of the schedule of meetings for 2012, including a notice of the scheduled time, scheduled date, and location of this meeting at the Bergen County Administrative Building, One Bergen County Plaza, Hackensack, New Jersey.

2. The mailing of this notice of the time, date, and location of this meeting to "The Record", which was published on June 8, 2012 and to the Herald News, which was published on June 8, 2012.
3. By filing of the notice of the time, date, and location of this meeting with the Bergen County Clerk, said filing having taken place on June 6, 2012.

The notice required by the "Open Public Meeting Act" was read as follows:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, the Bergen County Board of Social Services shall now exclude members of the public from the meeting for the following reason:

1. The Board shall discuss property matters involving individuals who have received assistance from the Bergen County Board of Social Services. The identification of such individuals or their property may result in a violation of their rights to privacy and may result in the loss of public funds by this agency.
2. The Board shall discuss matters which are covered pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b)(1,2,3) involving individuals who have received assistance from the Bergen County Board of Social Services or who have applied for assistance. To disclose the names of such individuals would work an unwarranted invasion of their rights to privacy.
3. The Bergen County Board of Social Services shall discuss personnel matters which are specifically exempt from public meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b)(8).
4. The Board shall discuss matters with Counsel to the Board which matters shall fall within the attorney-client privilege and are therefore excluded from the public meeting.
5. The Board may discuss other matters pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12.

Please be advised that at the conclusion of this session, the Board shall return to a public session and the members of the public are invited to return in order to observe. Thank you.

A quorum being achieved, the Board met in Public Session.

PUBLIC SESSION:

Flag Salute

Magdalena Witkowska led those present in a salute to the flag.

Roll Call

A Roll Call was taken for Open Session:

MEMBERS	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X	
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X	
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY-TREASURER		X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X	
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER		X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER		X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER		X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X	
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X	
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER		X

Open Public Comment Period

A motion to open the Open Public Comment Period, for a three-minute limit with the option of speaking again, was offered by Mrs. Duffie, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Diane Baillif– Hasbrouck Heights, NJ

Mrs. Baillif commented that several meetings ago there was a discussion about SOAR, which is a program to help people get SSI and SSD who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless with mental illness. She wanted the Board to know that she sent two Social Workers to the two-day training and they said it was terrific. Mrs. Baillif is now waiting for a meeting with the Planning Committee. Mrs. Baillif was advised that either she or the Acting Director will be contacted. Also, at a previous meeting, Mrs. Baillif spoke about APS and the regulation changes. There was a chance that if at some point we would be promoted into APS we could have somebody there for a year or two years, all they can do is answer the phone. This was discussed at a meeting and two Social Workers in other units have gone to the training and have completed the first half of it. The next half will start in the fall. Mrs. Baillif has been hearing it has been very helpful. She thinks it will help them in Emergency Assistance and the other one is in the Home Care Unit. Thirdly, Maria Aberasturi went to a conference recently at the Bergen County Health Care Center. She came back and told Ms. Baillif that they may be able to help with respite beds in emergency situations so the Administrator called her. They had a meeting and Ms. Baillif asked the Home Care Supervisor to come with her as well. He is going to be presenting to the County with a

Memorandum of Understanding or some sort of an agreement when it is all developed. APS once in a while can use the help but the Home Care Unit uses respite beds a lot because the clients can get up to 30 days respite so there families can go to work. Peter Cafone who is the supervisor explained the whole program to them. They would get these people already approved for Medicaid so it would be an easy transition and also to recommend them for long-term care. In final, Mrs. Baillif announced that the Emergency Assistance Supervisor had a baby girl! Ms. Baillif reported that everybody is fine, but we need help.

Michael Ganley– Bogota, NJ

Mr. Ganley commented that this is his last Board Meeting since he is retiring in two weeks. He thanked everyone on the Board for their cooperation that he has received over the last year and a half. He wished the Board good luck the rest of the way and advised that he is only a phone call away.

A motion to close the Open Public Comment Period was offered by Mr. Toronto, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Vice-Chairman Mitchell introduced his Aide Maggie Witkowska to all those present.

Adoption of Minutes:

(a) Open Session Minutes June 5, 2012

A discussion ensued. A motion to accept the Open Session Minutes of June 5, 2012 was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Toronto, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Treasurer’s Report:

Scott Modery, Assistant Fiscal Officer, introduced himself to the Members of the Board. He summarized both the Bills List and Schedule of Vouchers.

Bills List:

The Bills List was discussed. A motion to approve the Bills List was offered by Mr. Toronto, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Schedule of Vouchers:

The Schedule of Vouchers was discussed. A motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers was offered by Mr. Toronto, seconded by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Acting Director’s Report:

(a) Monthly Reports – Statistical & Financial:

A snapshot of caseload and expenditures were provided to the members for the month of May 2012.

President’s Report:

Chairman Felice reported that the Board is interviewing for the Executive Director’s position. In regard to Building & Grounds, there are two firms scheduled to make presentations to

the Board this evening. In regard to Fair Hearings, they are still working diligently on trying to get space so nobody has to go to Newark. Don Diorio and Ed Trawinski have been very helpful in trying to find space for Fair Hearings.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Update on Fair Hearings

This item was previously discussed during the President’s Report.

(b) Next Board Meeting Date

The Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bergen County Board of Social Services.

Action Items:

Resolutions:

(a) 2012.07.02 (1) –Resolution to place the Position of Executive Director into that of the Unclassified Position of Civil Service

A motion to waive the reading of Resolution 2012.07.02 (1) was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Chairman Felice, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to approve Resolution 2012.07.02(1) was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Chairman Felice, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			

JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

(b) 2012.07.02 (2) –Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open to the Public in Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12

A motion to waive the reading of the remainder of Resolution 2012.07.02 (2) was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Chairman Felice, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to approve Resolution 2012.07.02(2) was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Chairman Felice, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

CLOSED SESSION:

The Bergen County Board of Social Services shall now exclude members of the public from the meeting and move into Closed Session for the following reasons: The Board may discuss property matters involving individuals who receive assistance from the BCBSS. The identification of such individuals or their property may result in a violation of their right to privacy and may result in a loss of public funds by this agency. The Board shall discuss matters which are covered pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12B(1,2,3) involving individuals who received assistance from the Board or the

Bergen County Board of Social Services or who have applied for assistance. To disclose the names of such individuals would work an unwarranted invasion of their rights to privacy. The Bergen County Board of Social Services shall discuss personnel matters which are specifically exempt from public meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 (b)(8). The Board shall discuss matters with Counsel to the Board which matters fall within the attorney-client privilege and are therefore excluded from the public meeting. The Board may also discuss all other matters which are exempt from public meetings pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. The minutes from these closed sessions shall be made available to the public upon the expiration of a 45-day appeal period. Please be advised that at the conclusion of this session, the Board shall return to a public session and the members of the public are invited to return at that time.

A motion to go into Closed Session was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Chairman Felice, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 5:50 p.m.

OPEN SESSION:

The meeting reconvened in Open Session at approximately 8:10 p.m.

Chairman Felice requested a Roll Call:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

Adoption of Minutes:

Closed Session Minutes June 5, 2012

A motion to table the Closed Session Minutes of June 5, 2012 was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to appoint Scott Modery as the temporary CFO for a period of six months or until further replaced by the Board was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to promote a Social Worker to a temporary Social Work Supervisor to cover a leave of absence commencing June 27, 2012 for the remainder of CY2012 was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mrs. Duffie, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to move one (1) Keyboarding Clerk 1 Bilingual Spanish/English in Reception to full time based on two (2) full-time bilinguals being promoted to current approved openings was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Toronto, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to recruit and hire two (2) HSS1's from current certifications on a part-time basis was offered by Vice-Chairman Mitchell, seconded by Mr. Toronto, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
FREEHOLDER JOHN FELICE	CHAIRPERSON	X			
FREEHOLDER JOHN MITCHELL	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER				X
RANDI DUFFIE	ASST. SEC. TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER				X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER				X
WILLIAM CONNELLY	BOARD MEMBER				X
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
TOM TORONTO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
BOB NYMAN	BOARD MEMBER				X

With no further business to conclude, a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m. was offered by Mr. Toronto, seconded by Mrs. Duffie, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Calocino
Acting Director