

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Bergen County Board of Social Services
June 3, 2014**

PRESENT: William E. Connelly, Jr., Chairperson
Randi Duffie, Vice Chairperson (Arrived Late)
Deborah Viola, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer
Tom Toronto, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (Arrived Late)
John M. Carbone, Esq., County Adjuster
Freeholder Joan Voss, Board Member
Freeholder Tracy Zur, Board Member (Arrived Late)
Leah Puzzo, Board Member
Mayor Vincent Barra, Board Member
John L. Schettino, Esq., General Counsel
Robert W. Calocino, Acting Director
Alex Morales, Interim Management Consultant
Mitchell Steinhart, Esq., Counsel
Michele Darmochwal, Administrative Secretary

ABSENT: None

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Social Services was held on June 3 2014 at 4:30 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:

John L. Schettino, Esq., called the meeting to order. General 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 June 3, 2014 has been provided in the following manner:

1. By a prominent posting of the schedule of meetings for 2014, 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 January 13, 2014 and to the Herald News, which was published on January 13, 2014.
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 January 10, 2014.

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:

For the record, Mitchell Steinhart, Esq., was present at the meeting.

Flag Salute

Chairman Connelly led those present in a salute to the flag.

Roll Call

A Roll Call was taken for Open Session:

MEMBERS	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
WILLIAM CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X	
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON		X
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER	X	
TOM TORONTO	ASST. SEC-TREASURER		X
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X	
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X	
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER		X
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER	X	
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	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 Freeholder Voss, seconded by Dr. Viola, and approved as follows:

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

There being no public, a motion to close the Open Public Comment Period was offered by Mr. Carbone, seconded by Dr. Viola, and approved as follows:

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

Adoption of Minutes:

(a) Open Session Minutes May 6, 2014

No discussion. A motion to adopt the Open Session Minutes of May 6, 2014 was offered by Freeholder Voss, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

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

Treasurer’s Report:

(a) Bills List:

A discussion ensued. A motion to approve the Bills List was offered by Mayor Barra, seconded by Freeholder Voss, and approved as follows:

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

(b) Schedule of Vouchers:

A discussion ensued. A motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers was offered by Dr. Viola, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

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

Acting Director’s Report:

(a) Monthly Reports – Statistical & Financial:

The Acting Director discussed that he volunteered to have trainers from the Division of Pensions & Benefits provide pension seminars at the Bergen County Board of Social Services. A snapshot of caseload and expenditures was provided to the members for the month of April. Mr.

Morales submitted a Medicaid letter to all the Board Members. In regard to the increase in Medicaid the agency will see that impact next year when we do redeterminations. Effective 1/01/15, the agency will need an increased staffing level to handle the process. A discussion followed.

For the record, Vice-Chairwoman Duffie arrived at 5:42 p.m.

(b) Memoranda to the Board

Mr. Morales reported that John McNamara from the N.J. Division of Family Development came to the BCBSS and trained staff on Food Stamps requirements and verifications during the week of May 27, 2014. The agency is going to spend the entire \$52,000.00 for Case Banking equipment. Mr. Morales discussed the final summary of all purchases made with the Case Banking Grant. During the month of May, many staff members also attended the Federal Health Care Law training in Trenton. On June 10, 2014, five staff members will attend training called “The Angry Client”. The agency met with officials from Hasbrouck Heights, Fair Lawn, and Dumont to coordinate and discuss outreach efforts in those communities. A moving checklist with timelines was discussed. In regard to a recent Amber Alert, staff from the BCBSS was called upon from the State Attorney’s Office and the Police Department to help. Staff came in to the office at midnight to try to locate records. Mr. Morales thanked those individuals for their community service and for responding at odd hours. In regard to the moving task list, the agency is on task and everything is going well. A discussion followed.

Chairman’s Report:

Chairman Connelly inquired about the status of the agency outreaching to the municipalities. The Acting Director reported the agency has reached out to towns, libraries, and school systems.

Committee Reports:

(a) Welfare, Fraud, and Abuse Committee

Freeholder Voss reported from May 1, to May 31, 2014 the agency received Medicaid recoveries in the amount of \$18,858. In May, the agency referred three cases to the Prosecutor’s Office. In these cases combined the agency is seeking \$104,036 in restitution.

Dr. Viola asked if the Fraud & Abuse Unit reports on recoveries as a percentage of Medicaid clients or data along those lines. The Board discussed collecting data from January, 2015 through the end of the year or possibly even going back. When staff starts with the recerts and process in Jan 2015 with all the additional customers that the agency will pick up it might give the Board a sense of what to expect because it could impact this unit.

(b) Audit & Budget Committee

No report.

(c) Building & Grounds Committee

Mayor Barra reported the committee had a lot going on the last couple of weeks. A contract with Extel for a phone system will be voted on tonight. In regard to 60 months, the Board discussed the resolution should leave open a purchase and/or 60-month lease and that the proposal be accepted. The committee met today with the agency's broker and the new landlord and one of the Principals of the landlord because the committee was very concerned about the timeline on the work. The landlord assured the committee that the 2nd and 5th floors will be complete on time. The 4th floor, which is the executive floor, is a problem. That floor will be delayed. Staff will be dealing with temporary space and eventually when more space becomes available they will move into permanent space on the 4th floor. Further discussion including negotiations will be discussed in Closed Session. The committee interviewed a lot of phone providers and the finalists were narrowed down to two; one of which will be recommended tonight. Extel came in with a really good price and they gave a great presentation. The Borough of Allendale has used Extel for several years and their services have been excellent. The mayor never dealt with them directly but through staff he was advised they were excellent to deal with.

For the record, Freeholder Zur arrived at 5:05 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Next Board Meeting Date – Tuesday, July 1, 2014 @ 4:30 p.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 1, 2014** at 4:30 p.m.

Action Items:

Resolutions:

- (a) 2014.06.03 (1) – Resolution Approving Month to Month Contract with Lightpath for Voice and Data Services
- (b) 2014.06.03 (2) – Resolution Approving Settlement Agreement with Communication Workers of America
- (c) 2014.06.03 (3) – Resolution Approving Amended Affiliation Agreement with Bergen Regional Medical Center
- (d) 2014.06.03 (4) – Resolution Approving the Termination of Liberty Power Contract
- (e) 2014.06.03 (5) – Resolution Requesting Claims Experience
- (f) 2014.06.03 (6) – Resolution Approving Labor Counsel Contract
- (g) 2014.06.03 (7) – Resolution Approving the Proposal from Extel for either a 60-month lease purchase or an outright purchase at \$131,750.00.
- (h) 2014.06.03 (8) – 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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolutions (a) Approving Month to Month Contract with Lightpath for Voice and Data Services was offered by Freeholder Zur, seconded by Freeholder Voss, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolutions (b) Approving Settlement Agreement with Communication Workers of America was offered by Freeholder Voss, seconded by Dr. Viola, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolutions (c) Approving Amended Affiliation Agreement with Bergen Regional Medical Center was offered by Dr. Viola, seconded by Freeholder Zur, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolutions (d) Approving the Termination of Liberty Power Contract was offered by Dr. Viola, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Duffie, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (e) Requesting Claims Experience was offered by Vice-Chairwoman Duffie, seconded by Dr. Viola, and approved as follows:

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

For the record, Mr. Toronto arrived at 5:15 p.m.

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (f) Approving Labor Counsel Contract was offered by Dr. Viola, seconded by Vice-Chairwoman Duffie, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (g) Approving the Proposal from Extel for either a 60-month lease purchase or an outright purchase at \$131,750.00. was offered by Mayor Barra, seconded by Freeholder Voss, and approved as follows:

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

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (h) 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 and to go into Closed Session was offered by Vice-Chairwoman Duffie, seconded by Dr. Viola, and approved as follows:

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

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board will go into Closed Session to discuss items as set forth on the agenda to discuss personnel matters, Closed Session minutes of 5/06/14, litigation, as well as, professional contracts, appointments, and office lease negotiations and location. The Board will be in Closed Session for approximately 30 minutes. Official action may be taken by the Board once they exit Closed Session and reopen the meeting. The doors will reopen when they resume in Open Session and may take further action. The minutes from the Closed Session will be available to the public once the items have been resolved or no longer requires the minutes to be held and not distributed to the public.

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 5:15 p.m.

OPEN SESSION:

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 6:24 p.m.

A motion to adopt the Closed Session Minutes of May 6, 2014 was offered by Freeholder Voss, seconded by Mayor Barra, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			

RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
DEBORAH VIOLA, Ph.D.	SECRETARY/TREASURER	X			
TOM TORONTO	ASST. SEC-TREASURER	X			
JOHN M. CARBONE, ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER			X	
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
LEAH PUZZO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			

A motion to accept the June personnel requests as discussed was offered by Dr. Viola, seconded by Freeholder Voss, and approved as follows:

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

With no further business to conclude, a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:25 p.m. was offered by Freeholder Zur, seconded by Freeholder Voss, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Calocino
Acting Director