

**Minutes of the Meeting  
of the  
Bergen County Board of Social Services  
September 2, 2014**

**PRESENT:** William E. Connelly, Jr., Chairperson  
Randi Duffie, Vice Chairperson  
Tom Toronto, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer  
Freeholder Joan Voss, Board Member (Arrived Late)  
Freeholder Tracy Zur, Board Member (Arrived Late)  
John M. Carbone, Esq., County Adjuster  
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  
Michele Darmochwal, Administrative Secretary

**ABSENT:** Deborah Viola, Ph.D., Secretary-Treasurer

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Social Services was held on September 2, 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 September 2, 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:**

### **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 Mr. Toronto, 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 close the Open Public Comment Period was offered by Mr. Carbone, 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			

**Adoption of Minutes:**

**(a) Open Session Minutes of August 12, 2014**

A motion to adopt the Open Session Minutes of August 12, 2014 was offered by Mr. Carbone, seconded by Mr. Toronto, 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 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			

#### **(b) Schedule of Vouchers:**

A discussion ensued. A motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers was offered by Mr. Toronto, 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 (As to all except the Administrative Code)			
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:**

A snapshot of caseload and expenditures was provided to the members for the month of July. In regard to a weekly report that is submitted to the state for SNAP, as of the last report, the agency's timeliness is above what is expected. The state was extremely complimentary of the work the agency has done to increase the timeliness rate. A discussion followed.

John Ensslin, a reporter with The Record newspaper, was present in the public seating area during the meeting.

For the record, Freeholder Voss arrived at approximately 4:44 p.m.

### **(b) Memoranda to the Board**

Mr. Morales discussed the Board directed that the agency dispose of furniture. Several municipalities came, went through, and selected furniture that they wanted. The agency will hold a public action for the remainder furniture, which will be published in the newspaper on 9/04/14 and 9/11/14. The state contacted the agency regarding the backlog of Medicaid applications that exist. They offered to take them off of the agency's hands and have the vendor process them. The advantages to this are the clients will get service faster than we are able to provide them with. We do have some retooling to do in that department, and we can do that retooling better without the pressure of having a big backlog of applications. Additionally, they will not only determine eligibility. In most cases, they will also handle the redeterminations. In theory, we are losing funding but in reality we are saving the taxpayers of Bergen County having to fund 50% of additional staff members to pay for the processing of this service. With the Chairman's approval, we are currently in the process of transferring that backlog to the state.

For the record, Freeholder Zur arrived at approximately 4:50 p.m.

Mr. Morales talked about the state's vendor, Xerox, who processes thousands of cases on a monthly basis. In response to Freeholder Zur's inquiry regarding the state's turnaround time, Mr. Morales will get information from the state regarding how long they expect it to take for Xerox to process the pending Medicaid applications that are being transferred to them.

## **Chairman's Report:**

Chairman Connelly reported he toured the new building, and it is way ahead of where it was two weeks ago.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **(a) Welfare, Fraud, and Abuse Committee**

No report.

**(b) Audit & Budget Committee**

No report.

**(c) Building & Grounds Committee**

Mayor Barra reported that he toured the new building with the press today. They are making great strides. The 5<sup>th</sup> floor is virtually ready. All of the furniture was unloaded this morning by a couple of tractor trailers and they are going to start installing it tomorrow on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is in pretty good shape. Probably a week or so it will be just about ready for final coats of paint. The 4<sup>th</sup> floor is going to be temporary space. Mayor Barra commented Alex Morales has been a tremendous asset. He is at the new building multiple times during the day, and the agency saved money by not having a construction manager on site. Mayor Barra expressed he is particularly impressed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The security will be increased dramatically with the staff. A display will be put up in the waiting area for any clients interested in seeing what the new building looks like. There is one minor issue on the lease, which will be discussed in Closed Session.

In regard to the issue with the reimbursement of legal fees, Mr. Morales received a written response from Mr. Wielkotz. Mr. Wielkotz advised that the BCBSS should go back to the funding sources and request approval to utilize it in the manner as suggested. With the Board's approval, Mr. Morales will get a letter out to the funding sources and request approval, which includes the county and the state. Mr. Carbone discussed since the agency is going to have a much larger pool of money he wants to go back and ask him can we initially use the money we have or commitment to that back scanning process and eventually refund the monies to other funding sources in the federal government when we get the other money. Rather than taking the pool we have now and dividing it one third/two thirds, utilize the full pool we have and reimburse the federal government from the other monies that we will get later on. Mr. Morales will speak with Mr. Carbone and forward on this written request to the Auditor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**(a) Next Board Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 7, 2014 @ 4:30 p.m.**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7, 2014** at 4:30 p.m. at the "218" building.

A motion to add and schedule a second meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. at the current building was offered by Freeholder Voss, 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			

**Action Items:**

**Resolutions:**

- (a) 2014.09.02 (1) – Resolution Approving Lease Agreement with Bergenfield Woodbine Center LLC
- (b) 2014.09.02 (2) – Resolution Approving Amended Affiliation Agreement with Hackensack University Medical Center
- (c) 2014.09.02 (3) – 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

In regard to Resolution (a) Approving Lease Agreement with Bergenfield Woodbine Center LLC, no action was taken at this point because the members must discuss this item in Closed Session.

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (b) Approving Amended Affiliation Agreement with Hackensack University Medical Center was offered by Freeholder Voss, seconded by Mr. Toronto, 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 the amended lease at 218 Route 17 North in Rochelle Park, as well as, the lease that is listed on the agenda with Bergenfield Woodbine Center LLC. The Closed Session minutes of those discussions will be released on or before 12/31/14 or earlier when the issues pertaining to the lease with Bergenfield, as well as, with the First Amendment to have been approved and finalized by the Board. The Board will also go into Closed Session to discuss matters of litigation, specifically, Rizzo v. BCBSS, Phillips, and Galletta. The

minutes from those discussions will be released on or before December of CY 2015 or when the cases are settled or resolved pursuant to a decision from the court or 45 days after the last day of appeal. Under personnel, the Board will be discussing the agency's Acting Director. The Board will be in Closed Session for approximately 30 minutes. The meeting will then reopen and the Board make take further action will be taken by the Board on at least those matters if not other matters, as well. The Board will notify the public once the meeting has been reopened. The minutes from the Closed Session will be available to the public once the items have been resolved or no longer require the minutes to be held and not distributed to the public.

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (c) 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 Mr. Toronto, 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			

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

### **OPEN SESSION:**

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 5:32 p.m.

### **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	



A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (a) Approving Lease Agreement with Bergenfield Woodbine Center LLC, subject to the revision involving the tenant's right to terminate, was offered by Mayor Barra, seconded by Mr. Toronto, 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 adopt the Closed Session Minutes of August 12, 2014 was offered by Mr. Carbone, 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			

With no further business to conclude, a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:35 p.m. was offered by Mr. Carbone, 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			

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Calocino  
Acting Director