

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Bergen County Board of Social Services
September 6, 2016**

PRESENT: William E. Connelly, Jr., Chairperson
Randi Duffie, Vice Chairperson
Tom Toronto, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Freeholder Tracy Zur, Board Member (Arrived Late)
Freeholder Joan Voss, Board Member
John E. Ten Hoeve, Jr., Esq., County Adjuster
Mayor Vincent Barra, Board Member
Joseph A. Barreto, 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
Ritzy Morales-Diaz, Board Member

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Social Services was held on September 6, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the 4th Floor Board Room of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, 218 Route 17 North, 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 6, 2016 has been provided in the following manner:

1. By a prominent posting of the schedule of meetings for 2016, 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 December 6, 2015 and to the Herald News, which was published on December 6, 2015.

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 December 3, 2015.

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:

Chairman Connelly chaired 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	
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X	
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER		X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X	
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X	
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X	
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER		X

Open Public Comment Period

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to open the meeting for public comment. 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 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Maria Aberasturi – Teaneck, NJ

Ms. Aberasturi, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, discussed the County has scheduled its 5th Elder Abuse Awareness Conference on October 14, 2016 at the Law and Public Safety Institute located at 281 Campgaw Road in Mahwah, N.J. They are going to present a Case Study and will be offering C.E.U.’s for Social Workers and C.L.E’s for attorneys. The application can be found on Bergen County’s website. Prosecutor Paul Greenwood, Esq., from San Diego DA’s Office who has been very successful in prosecuting crimes against the elderly will be a speaker at this conference. Ms. Aberasturi encouraged Board Members to attend. In regard to Adult Protective Services, Ms. Aberasturi asked the Board to consider obtaining another agency vehicle for staff and interns to use for agency business.

For the record, Freeholder Zur arrived at approximately 4:40 p.m.

The Board expressed the need to look into the policy in regard to interns using agency vehicles. At the Board’s request, the Acting Director will contact the agency’s insurance carrier and look into this matter and report back to the Board.

Sabrina Torres – Clerk

Ms. Torres, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, read a statement. She discussed that she spoke at the July Board Meeting to make everyone aware of some ongoing

issues such as the agency undermining the Civil Service Commission and the retaliatory culture that has been trending at the agency. She expressed that not only have her concerns gone unanswered, but she is further being retaliated against by the agency. As a result of the statements that she made at the July Board Meeting, the agency has now begun to watch and stalk her.

Chairman Connelly responded to Ms. Torres. He advised that the Board has done something about her concerns. He told her that an individual is present at this afternoon's Board Meeting to present his report regarding an investigation to the Board Members, which will take place in Closed Session.

Janet Chiong-Morillo & Marco Morillo – Hackensack, NJ

Ms. Chiong-Morillo, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, read a statement. She discussed taking a later lunch to pick up her children from school. Ms. Chiong-Morillo advised the Board that she took the proper channels to resolve this issue and is only asking for an accommodation, which has been denied. She asked the Board to help her family.

Bill Oserin – Englewood, NJ

Mr. Oserin, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, discussed that he needed a car two weeks ago to address a domestic violence issue. He explained that one of the two agency cars was not available, and was told that he could not use the second available car to transport this individual to a complex. It was suggested that he use his own car. Mr. Oserin expressed the need for additional agency vehicles for staff.

In regard to agency vehicles, the Board expressed they need to have a dialogue as far as direction and services that the Board is going to be providing and have a report come to the Board as far as the service that is necessary and if this is something that they should be doing as part of the agency and then make a Board decision. The Board discussed that a policy should be developed. After the Board has a cost analysis in front of them, they could determine how they want to proceed. General Counsel clarified that this agency needs to review and find out what the needs are, the frequency, and how this agency could address that need. It was suggested that the Bergen County Board of Social Services find out from other agency's how they handle this situation. If there is a policy, it will be revisited by management. This item will be revisited once management provides a report to the Board.

Ed Austeri – Human Service Specialist 2

Mr. Austeri, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, discussed the low morale in the agency. He expressed his displeasure with Administration not providing explanations to individuals that do not get hired.

Chairman Connelly responded to Mr. Austeri. He advised that in the real world companies do not provide explanations to individuals that do not get a job.

Dolores Phillips – Montvale, NJ

Ms. Phillips, an employee of the Bergen County Board of Social Services, discussed she is scheduled to represent the agency at a Senior Picnic at Van Saun Park on September 14, 2016. She reported that our agency is the only group that has no giveaways. She wanted to know why the Bergen County Board of Social Services can't also provide giveaways to the seniors. Ms. Phillips discussed that she recently attended and represented the agency at a Health Fair in Hackensack. She reported that she was embarrassed to be there and represent the agency because she was given a couple of outdated pieces of paper to distribute to people and a sign that was falling down that the Church tried to assist her with. She expressed the process should be better in addition to a piece of candy. There should be some form of information that the agency could give out to the public explaining the wonderful things that the Bergen County Board of Social Services does. Mayor Barra volunteered to coordinate and meet with Administration and whoever else to do some kind of brochure or handout.

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to close the Open Public Comment Period of the Open Session. A motion to close the Open Public Comment Period was offered by Mr. Barreto, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALEZ-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Adoption of Minutes:

(a) *Open Session Minutes of August 2, 2016*

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to adopt the Open Session minutes. A motion to adopt the Open Session Minutes of August 2, 2016 was offered by Freeholder Zur, seconded by Mr. Barreto, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALEZ-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Treasurer's Report:

(a) Bills List:

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to approve the Bills List. A motion to approve the Bills List was offered by Freeholder Zur, seconded by Mr. Ten Hoeve, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

(b) Schedule of Vouchers:

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers. A motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers was offered by Mr. Barreto, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Administration Report:

(a) Monthly Reports – Statistical & Financial:

No report was provided; however, a snapshot of caseload and expenditures were included in each of the Board Member's packet for the month of July.

(b) Memoranda to the Board

No report was provided; however, a monthly memorandum from Mr. Morales was included in each of the Board Member's packet.

Chairman's Report

No report.

Committee Reports:

(a) Welfare, Fraud, and Abuse Committee

No report was provided; however, a monthly Fraud Report was included in each of the Welfare, Fraud, and Abuse Committee's packet.

(b) Audit & Budget Committee

No report.

(c) Building & Grounds Committee

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Next Board Meeting Date

Chairman Connelly announced the next Board Meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 4, 2016**, at 4:30 p.m. at the "218" building.

Action Items:

Resolutions:

- (a)2016.9.06 (1) - Resolution Approving *Revised* Shared Services Agreement with Bergen County for File Storage
- (b)2016.9.06 (2) - Resolution Approving Additions, Elimination, and/or Changes to Positions within the Bergen County Board of Social Services
- (c)2016.9.06 (3) - Resolution Authorizing the Advertisement of Employment for Multiple Openings
- (d)2016.9.06 (4) - Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One Social Service Technician
- (e)2016.9.06 (5) - Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One Social Service Technician
- (f)2016.9.06 (6) - Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One Full Time Human Service Aide
- (g)2016.9.06 (7) - Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One Full Time Human Service Aide
- (h)2016.9.06 (8) - Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One Temporary Records Support Technician
- (i)2016.9.06 (9) - Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee
- (j)2016.9.06 (10) - Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee
- (k)2016.9.06 (11) - Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee
- (l)2016.9.06 (12) - Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee
- (m)2016.9.06 (13) -Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee
- (n)2016.9.06 (14) - Resolution Approving Payout with Confidential Employee
- (o)2016.9.06 (15) - Resolution Approving Labor Management Relations Agreement with CWA Local #1031
- (p)2016.9.06 (16) - Resolution Approving Salary Increase for Confidential Employees

- (q)2016.9.06 (17) - 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
 (r) 2016.9.06 (18) - Resolution Approving Agreement and Release with Confidential Employee

A motion to approve Resolutions (a) through (n), and (r) tabling (o) and (p) was offered by Freeholder Voss, seconded by Mr. Barreto, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (q) 2016.9.06 (17) 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. Ten Hoeve, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER	X			
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 5:23 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

General Counsel stated the Board will go into Closed Session to discuss the Closed Session minutes of August 2, 2016, personnel matters, negotiations, bids, and an investigative report prepared by Mitchell I. Steinhart, Esq. 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. The Board will be in Closed Session for approximately 45 minutes at which time the meeting will then resume and reopen the meeting to the public. The Board may take further action with respect to matters dealing with the Bergen County Board of Social Services and will finish the rest of the business on the agenda.

OPEN SESSION:

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Closed Session Minutes of August 2, 2016

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to adopt the Closed Session Minutes. A motion to adopt the Closed Session Minutes of August 2, 2016 was offered by Mr. Barreto, seconded by Mr. Ten Hoeve, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to reject the Security Guard Services bids, modify the specifications, and readvertise 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to extend the Interim Management Consultant’s position through December 31, 2016 was offered by Vice Chairwoman Duffie, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

A motion to extend the Acting Director's position through December 31, 2016 was offered by Mr. Barreto, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Chairman Connelly requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. With no further business to conclude, a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:50 p.m. was offered by Vice Chairwoman Duffie, 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			
COUNTY ADJUSTER TEN HOEVE	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
FREEHOLDER TRACY ZUR	BOARD MEMBER				X
FREEHOLDER JOAN VOSS	BOARD MEMBER	X			
MAYOR VINCENT BARRA	BOARD MEMBER	X			
JOSEPH A. BARRETO	BOARD MEMBER	X			
RITZY MORALES-DIAZ	BOARD MEMBER				X

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Calocino
Acting Director