

**Minutes of the Meeting
of the
Bergen County Board of Social Services
May 3, 2022**

PRESENT: William E. Connelly, Jr., Chairperson
Randi Duffie, Vice-Chairperson (Arrived Late)
Elaine K. Meyerson, Assistant Secretary Treasurer
Tracy S. Zur, Bergen County Commissioner, Board Member
Thomas J. Sullivan, B.C. Commissioner, Board Member (Arrived Late)
John E. Ten Hoeve, Jr., Esq., County Adjuster
Alexandra Harwin, Esq., Board Member
Susan Silverstein, Board Member
John L. Schettino, Esq., General Counsel
Scott Modery, Acting Director
Michele M. Darmochwal, Administrative Secretary

ABSENT: Erin N. Delaney, Secretary Treasurer
Yris Encarnacion, Board Member

A regular meeting of the Bergen County Board of Social Services was held on May 3, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. by way of Webex.

PUBLIC SESSION:

John L. Schettino, Esq. called the meeting to order and 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 May 3, 2022 has been provided in the following manner:

1. By a prominent posting of the schedule of meetings for 2022, 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 April 22, 2022 and to the Herald News, which was published on April 22, 2022.
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 April 19, 2022.

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

PUBLIC SESSION:

Chairman William E. Connelly chaired the meeting.

Flag Salute

Chairman William E. 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 E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X	
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON		X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER		X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X	
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X	
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER		X
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X	
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER		X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X	
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X	

Open Public Comment Period

Chairman William E. 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 Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, seconded by Susan Silverstein, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON				X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER				X
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

There being no public comment, Chairman William E. 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 Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, seconded by Elaine K. Meyerson, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON				X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER				X
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

Adoption of Minutes:

(a) Open Session Minutes of April 5, 2022

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to adopt the Open Session minutes. A motion to adopt the Open Session minutes of April 5, 2022 was offered by Elaine K. Meyerson, seconded by Susan Silverstein, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON				X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER				X
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

For the record, Commissioner Thomas J. Sullivan arrived at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

(a) Bills List:

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to approve the Bills List. A motion to approve the Bills List was offered by John E. Ten Hoeve, Jr., Esq., seconded by Elaine K. Meyerson, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON				X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X

ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

(b) Schedule of Vouchers:

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers. A motion to approve the Schedule of Vouchers was offered by Susan Silverstein, seconded by Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON				X
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

Administration Report:

(a) Monthly Reports – Statistical & Financial:

A snapshot of caseload and expenditures was included in each of the Board Member's packets.

Scott Modery reported that the TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) caseload increased from 245 to 261 and is up by 16 cases and compared to one year ago it went up 21 cases, SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) caseload decreased from 22,533 to 22,188 and decreased by 345 cases from last month and compared to one year ago it went up by 97 cases, GA (General Assistance) caseload increased from 424 to 456 cases up by 32, and compared to one year ago it went up by 12 cases, and Medicaid individuals decreased from 45,722 to 45,158 down by 564 individuals.

Burial stats are as follows: 17 inquires, 19 approved, and 2 denials. The agency paid out \$77,152.00 and recovered \$1,337.63.

In March 2022, the agency received 1,688 applications for cash and SNAP applications and 1,199 Medicaid applications for a total of 2,887. In April 2022, the agency received 1,453 applications for cash and SNAP applications and 1,134 Medicaid applications for a total of 2,587.

In the month of April, our Emergency Assistance Unit assisted homeless individuals and families. Currently, we have 10 individuals/families in motels. We have 15 families in the HEARTS Program, 4 in the Emergency Shelter, and 11 in TANF/Bridge side. We have 15 families placed at the Center for Hope and Safety (DV shelter). We had 93 Emergency Assistance applications and

115 clients on Temporary Rental Assistance. We had 17 placements as referrals from 211. We have 262 active DDD cases. The Adult Protective Service (APS) Unit received 106 referrals and currently have 21 open cases.

(b) Memoranda to the Board

Scott Modery reported that he attended a meeting on April 6, 2022 which involved multiple NJ Social Service agency Directors along with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The foundation's initiative is to assess the landscape of hunger in New Jersey. They are working with the Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and are seeking ideas from New Jersey Social Services agencies to design a plan with the goal of reducing food insecurity in New Jersey. This interaction was further discussed at the Directors' meeting on April 9, 2022 where several ideas were proposed to bring back to the foundation. On May 5, 2022 we will be sending representation to the town of Glen Rock, which will be hosting a Senior Fest. On April 9, 2022 we sent representatives to the Veterans Resource Fair at Bergen Community College. The fair was attended by Bergen, Sussex, Warren, and Passaic officials. We will be sending representation from our Adult Protective Services (APS) staff to the Bergen County Caregiver Conference on April 30, 2022 at One Bergen County Plaza. This conference is attended by the County Executive and will touch on many topics including legal considerations for caregivers, Alzheimer's Disease, and self-care for the caregiver. On May 12, 2022, Mr. Modery will be attending the Division of Senior Services' annual Public Hearing on the Needs of Older Adults along with our APS Administrator. The hearing is a major forum to gather information on the needs and concerns of Bergen's seniors. The Federal public health emergency is scheduled to end on July 15, 2022. Accompanying this end will be the "unwinding" process. This represents the single largest redetermination exercise in the history of New Jersey's Medicaid program where every case will need to be redetermined within a twelve-month timeframe. Since, the total membership of NJ FamilyCare has increased by about 25% since the beginning of the PHE and no cases were closed during the PHE this volume will place an extreme burden on staffing levels across the State which are not designed with this quantity of cases in mind. Maintaining timeliness and the challenges that this unwinding is presenting has been an ongoing discussion across the State. The agency has now returned to pre-pandemic operations as it pertains to clients. While some waivers still exist which do not necessitate client visits to the agency, we have reopened our visitor floor and are allowing entry for any client who wishes to do business personally. On April 28, 2022 CWA 1089 held a demonstration outside the building during lunch hours. Northjersey.com published an article and pictures on 4/29/2022 describing the demonstration.

For the record, Randi Duffie arrived at this time.

Chairman's Report

Chairman William E. Connelly announced that the Board will meet by way of Webex at next month's Board Meeting.

Committee Reports:

(a) Welfare, Fraud, and Abuse Committee

Alexandra Harwin, Esq. reported from April 1 to April 30, 2022 the agency received Medicaid recoveries in the amount of \$20,897.20 and the year-to-date 2022 is \$50,968.14. No new cases were referred to the Prosecutor's office during the month of April.

(b) Audit & Budget Committee

No report.

(c) Building & Grounds Committee

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

(a) Next Board Meeting Date

The next Board Meeting is scheduled to be held on **Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**

Action Items:

Resolutions:

- (a) 2022.5.03 (1) – Resolution Approving Additions, Elimination, and/or Changes to Positions within the Bergen County Board of Social Services
- (b) 2022.5.03 (2) – Resolution Authorizing the Advertisement of Employment for Multiple Openings
- (c) 2022.5.03 (3) – Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of One External Part-Time Clerk 1
- (d) 2022.5.03 (4) – Resolution Authorizing the Hiring of a Provisional Full-Time Senior Personnel Technician
- (e) 2022.5.03 (5) – Authorizing a Promotion for One Internal Full-Time Keyboarding Clerk 1 to Provisional Full-Time Senior Payroll Clerk
- (f) 2022.5.03 (6) - Authorizing an Offer of Employment for Two Internal Full-Time Human Services Specialist 3
- (g) 2022-5.03 (7) - Authorizing an Offer of Employment for Two Internal Full-Time Human Services Specialist 3 Bilingual Spanish/English
- (h) 2022-5.03 (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. 10:4-12

A motion to approve Resolutions (a) – (g) was offered by John E. Ten Hove, Jr., Esq., seconded by Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

A motion to discuss and approve Resolution (h) 2022.5.03 (8) 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 Commissioner Thomas J. Sullivan, seconded by John E. Ten Hoeve, Jr., Esq., and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

The Board went into Closed Session at approximately 4:45 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board went into Closed Session to discuss personnel, grievance hearing, and closed session minutes. 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 10 minutes at which time the Board will reopen the meeting and may take further public action in matters dealing with the Bergen County Board of Social Services. The public will be able to access the meeting remotely once the meeting reopens in Open Session.

OPEN SESSION:

The Board reconvened in Open Session at approximately 4:58 p.m.

Closed Session Minutes of April 5, 2022

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to adopt the Closed Session minutes. A motion to adopt the Closed Session minutes of April 5, 2022 was offered by John E. Ten Hoeve, Jr., Esq., seconded by Commissioner Tracy S. Zur, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

Closed Session Grievance Minutes of April 5, 2022

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to adopt the Closed Session Grievance minutes. A motion to adopt the Closed Session Grievance minutes of April 5, 2022 was offered by Elaine K. Meyerson, seconded by Randi Duffie, and approved as follows:

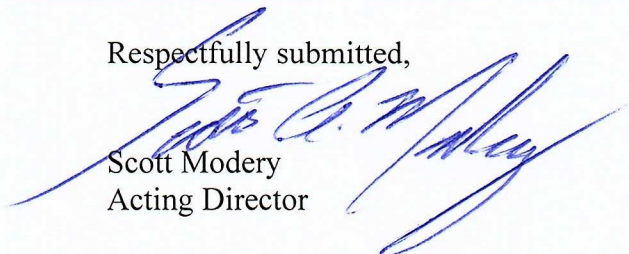
MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER				X
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

Chairman William E. Connelly requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. With no further business to conclude, a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 5:00 p.m. was offered by Commissioner Thomas J. Sullivan, seconded by Elaine K. Meyerson, and approved as follows:

MEMBERS	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
WILLIAM E. CONNELLY	CHAIRPERSON	X			
RANDI DUFFIE	VICE CHAIRPERSON	X			
ERIN N. DELANEY	SECRETARY TREASURER				X
ELAINE K. MEYERSON	ASST. SECRETARY TREASURER	X			
TRACY S. ZUR	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER	X			
THOMAS J. SULLIVAN	BERGEN COUNTY COMMISSIONER				X
JOHN E. TEN HOEVE, JR., ESQ.	COUNTY ADJUSTER	X			
YRIS ENCARNACION	BOARD MEMBER	X			
ALEXANDRA HARWIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			

SUSAN SILVERSTEIN	BOARD MEMBER	X			
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Respectfully submitted,



Scott Modery
Acting Director