

**Work Session
MINUTES
October 6, 2022**

Present: Commissioners C. Gamio, J. Bang, M. Capilli, E. Randall, J. Some
BCIA Staff: M. Raguseo, J. Montag, B. Losito, G. Velazquez
General Counsel: J. Garcia, Esq.

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:10 p.m. by Chairperson Gamio.

Proof of Public Meeting Notice Publication

B. Losito read the Notice of Regular Meeting.

Open Meeting for Public Comment for Matters Not on Today's Agenda

Chairperson Gamio asked for a Motion to open the meeting for Public Comment for matters not on today's agenda. Commissioner Capilli made a Motion and the Motion was seconded by Commissioner Randall. Chairperson Gamio then asked if there were any members of the public wishing to be heard on matters not on today's agenda.

Close to Public

As there were no members of the public wishing to be heard, Commissioner Capilli made a Motion to close this portion of the Work Session. Commissioner Randall seconded the Motion which was carried unanimously.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Gamio had no report.

General Counsel's Comments

General Counsel Garcia had no report

Executive Staff

Executive Director's Report

Mauro Raguseo proceeded with an overview of the following resolutions on the today's agenda. Resolution #22-59 Payment of Bills; and Resolution #22-60 Review of Findings and Recommendations of the LFB (BNBMC Project), Series 2022.

Mr. Raguseo advised that at this time the conditions of the bond market are not conducive to bond deals as we would normally be working for. However, we are speaking with municipalities to see how we can assist with their capital needs. The good news is the Bergen PAC Project has been completed with a soft opening scheduled for next week. In addition, the Ridgefield and Saddle Brook Municipal Centers and the Mahwah DPW Project are progressing through their construction phase. The BCIA has done good work with these projects and will continue this mission as the market improves.

Bergen New Bridge Medical Center Reports
Special Assistant to the Executive Director's Report (June Montag)

Behavioral Health Update, Kristine Pandy Chief Clinical Officer

The number of Patient Satisfaction Surveys has almost doubled in the past two years. There has been a focus on sitting with patients at discharge to fill out these forms. The response has been very positive. The nurses contracts have been negotiated and the result are very positive and a competitive environment for our nurses. The hospital's current staff level for nurses is very good.

Chief Clinical Officer of Behavioral Health Kristine Pandy did a wonderful job discussing suicide prevention week in both an interview and a 970 radio broadcast.

Bergen New Bridge hosted a suicide prevention and awareness Symposium providing awareness training and networking opportunities.

Acute & Ambulatory, Tom Amitrano, Chief Nursing Officer

As reported in my last report, the performance data for the Acute Division is still positive in all areas. Visitation at Bergen New Bridge has been restored to Pre-Covid levels.

The Detox Unit has been renamed the "Withdrawal Management Unit" to remove negative stigma.

Bergen New Bridge continues to bring in new physicians including a Chair for Orthopedic Surgery and a Gastro Intestinal Physician. This is helping to bring more patients into the Hospital.

The nursing department established a Residency Program to bring nurses in right out of school. This has really helped with recruitment. They are also working very hard to recruit Certified Nursing Assistants and Mental Health Assistants.

Long Term Care Update-Katie Richardson, Vice President

Several units in Long Term Care have been upgraded with new paint, shower curtains and new window treatments.

New interns have been hired to work in a Feeding Assistance Program to help Long Term Care residents with meals.

Addiction Services, Michael Paoello, Chief Clinical Officer

The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service line was recently awarded a \$150,000 grant to address the increase in stimulant use across New Jersey.

The support group, Families Anonymous will be hosting weekly meetings for families of loved ones suffering from addiction on the Bergen New Bridge Recovery Center.

Update On Next Subcommittee Meetings
Long Term Care- October 11, @ 8:00 am-Zoom
Community Oversight Board-October 25, @ 8:30 am-Zoom

Hospital Report

Deb Visconi, President/CEO of Bergen New Bridge Medical Center, gave an overview of her PowerPoint handout, (contained in meeting file), highlights are as follows: the Operator's transformative five (5) year report, which contains CHNA Assessment, Patient Experience and Scores, New Clinical Leadership, Program Innovations, Hope and Resiliency Center for Youth, Vaccines, Ambulatory Surgery Center, Digital Health, Lab Partnership, Mammography, Center for Eating Disorders and Body Positivity, Peer Recovery Center, Community Health and Outreach, Campus Enhancements, Recognitions and Honors, Leadership Awards, Wellness Waves, Education Outreach with Facebook Live, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Various Statistics of Service Line Growth, Payor Metrics, Proposed Improvements and Operations Statement.

Compliance Report

Jon Rheinhardt, CFO, was not in attendance. William Berenbroick of the Treasury advised the Board of the status of the BCIA 2021 Audit as we still awaiting information from the State of New Jersey concerning health benefits and pensions. He then continued with an overview of the cash receipts report for the month of September (report contained in meeting file) and the favorable status of this past month's cash receipts.

Hospital Compliance Report

Barbara Piascik reported for the month of August 2022 that there were 38 general security incidents, 19 of which were patient to patient incidents. There was 4 patient-to-employee incident which were all Tier 1 and two (2) employee incidents which did not involve patients. Staffing is still a challenge with LTC deficiencies. Behavioral Health and Medical are meeting the staffing requirements but struggle with employee call outs. Ms. Piascik advised recruiting deficiencies exist within all supporting nursing and support staffing designations, not just the usual CNAs support staff .The hospital is doing everything it can to fill these vacancies.

There being no further business, at 4:34 p.m., Chairperson Gamio asked for a Motion to adjourn the Work Session. Commissioner Some made the Motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Capilli.