

Commissioners' Board Meeting Minutes April 22, 2019

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Monday, April 22, 2019, at 2:00 P.M. in the Chapel at the Berks Heim Nursing and Rehabilitation, 1011 Berks Road, Leesport, Pennsylvania, 19533, pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

Commissioner Chair Christian Y. Leinbach called the meeting to order with Commissioner Mark C. Scott in attendance. Commissioner Kevin S. Barnhardt was absent. Also present were County Solicitor Christine M. Sadler, Chief Administrative Officer Ronald R. Seaman and Chief Clerk Maryjo Gibson. The following County staff attended. Executive Assistants to the Commissioners Mary Buerer, Jessica Blausner and Michelle Kircher. Executive Assistant to the Chief Operating Officer Kay Leisey. First Assistant County Solicitor J. Chadwick Schnee, Human Resources Director Jessica Weaknecht and Marguerite Kline, Human Resources Manager at the Berks Heim. Terrence Brenan, Berks Heim Administrator, and Lisa Schaeffer, Director of Government Relations, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania ("CCAP") also attended.

The following State Officials or their representatives attended:

- Senator David Argall and Christine Verdier
- Senator Judy Schwank and Tom Gombar
- Sarah Rasmussen for Senator Mensch
- Jaime Bouldin for Senator Muth
- Chris Winters and Jessica Martinez for Representative Thomas Caltagirone
- Ginger Van Steenvoort for Representative Jim Cox
- Representative Mark Gillen
- Representative Barry Jozwiak
- Representative Jerry Knowles
- Bill Royer for Representative Ryan Mackenzie
- Chad Schlanger for Representative Mark Rozzi

The following Union representatives attended:

- Wendell Young, UFCW
- Chris Naylor, UFCW
- Barb Johnson, UFCW
- Matt Yarnell, SEIU
- Silas Russel, SEIU
- Carlos Rivera, SEIU
- MaryEllen Nussbeutel, Berks Heim Nursing Staff

The following Complete Healthcare Resources ("CHR") representatives attended the meeting:

- Edward Balliet
- Todd Wagner
- Diane Gattorno
- Johanna Marx

Karen Shuey, Reading Eagle Reporter, and Mike Morrill, West Reading resident and candidate for Berks County Commissioner, also attended the meeting.

Following a welcome by Commissioner Chair Leinbach and introductions, the attendees were divided into four groups and were taken on a guided tour of the Berks Heim by CHR representatives. After the tour, all attendees gathered for a roundtable discussion regarding Medicaid reimbursement rates and progress on proposed legislation dealing with the Medicaid rate issue.

Commissioner Chair Leinbach began by providing a brief background of the primary methods of funding for the Berks Heim, Medicaid reimbursement and IGT funding.

Lisa Schaeffer, CCAP, Wendell Young and Chris Naylor, UFCW, Matt Yarnell and Silas Russel, SEIU, provided updates on the progress they are making with respect to their organizations outreach to State and local representatives.

Senators Schwank and Argall reported on the status of legislation needed to obtain additional funding to assist counties who still operate county nursing homes.

Commissioner Leinbach closed the discussion by stating we are all committed to this issue, and asked that as soon as CCAP, Senator Argall and Representative Caltagirone have finalized the legislation to contact his office and he will make sure to inform our group and tell us what we need to do to get it passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maryjo Gibson, Chief Clerk