



AGENDA AND REPORTS
SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
FRANKLIN LAKES BOROUGH HALL
12:00 PM

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT - In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was given by:

- I.** posting the annual meeting notice on the Fund's official website where all legal notices are maintained
- II.** filing advance written notice of this meeting with the Clerk/ Administrator of each member municipality and,
- III.** publication of notice in the Fund's designated newspaper directing the public to the website where legal notices are available

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
AGENDA MEETING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
FRANKLIN LAKES BOROUGH HALL
12:00 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER - OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE READ

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Gregory Hart, Chair
Richard Kunze, Secretary
Gregory Franz, Executive Committee
Donna Gambutti, Executive Committee
Bob Kakoleski, Executive Committee
Anthony Ciannamea, Executive Committee
James Gasparini, Executive Committee
Tomas Padilla, Executive Committee Alternate
Joe Voytus, Executive Committee Alternate
Durene Ayer, Executive Committee Alternate
Erin Delaney, Executive Committee Alternate

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *August 25, 2026, Open Appendix I*

CORRESPONDENCE - None

MONTHLY COMMITTEE REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE - Rich Kunze, Chair
September 22, 2026, Meeting Minutes..... Appendix II (Page 44)

FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Robert Kakoleski, Chair

WELLNESS COMMITTEE - Joe Voytus, Chair

SMALL CLAIMS COMMITTEE - Donna Gambutti, Chair

NOMINATION COMMITTEE - Anthony Ciannamea, Chair

NEW MEMBERS COMMITTEE - Gregory Franz, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - PERMA - James Rhodes and Emily Koval
Executive Director's Report **Page 4**

BENEFITS CONSULTANT - CONNER STRONG & BUCKELEW - John Lajewski
Benefits Consultant ReportPage 13

ATTORNEY – William Bailey, Esq.

Voucher List September 2026Page 16

Treasurers Report July 2026.....Page 19

Confirmation of Claims Paid/Certification of Transfers

BOARD ADVISOR - Clark LaMendola

WELLNESS COORDINATOR - Dina Robinson

THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR - Aetna - Jason Silverstein

Monthly ReportPage 22**PRESCRIPTION PROVIDER** - Express Scripts - Packy Costello

Monthly Report.....Page 27

DENTAL ADMINISTRATOR - Delta Dental - Kim White

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CONSENT AGENDAPage 33

Resolution 28-26: 2027 Budget Adoption.....Page 34

Resolution 29-26: September 2026 Bills ListPage 35

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENT - *Motion to Open*
Motion to Close

MEETING ADJOURNED

Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
Executive Director's Report
SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

PRO FORMA REPORTS

- **Fast Track Financial Reports** as of July 31, 2026 (page 6)
 - **Historical Income Statement**
 - **Ratios and Indices Report**

2027 BMED BUDGET - ADOPTION

The BMED 2027 budget is included in the agenda as introduced with no changes. Assessments were released shortly after the introduction and are included.

Pending no objections, the Executive Committee may hold a public hearing to adopt.

Motion: *Motion to open the Public Hearing on the 2027 Budget*

Discussion of Budget and Assessments

Motion: *Motion to close the Public Hearing*

Motion: *Motion to adopt resolution 28-26 approving the 2027 Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund Budget in the amount of \$108,472,203*

MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND UPDATES

The MRHIF met on September 9th where the following agenda items were discussed:

- 1) Introduced the 2027 budget with an overall increase of ~22%
- 2) Bylaw amendment is in process of being filed with the State of New Jersey
- 3) Medical TPA RFP is still with the Office of State Comptroller for pre-advertisement approval
- 4) Reviewing possible new County membership for MRHIF

INDEMNITY AND TRUST (I&T) AGREEMENTS

Indemnity and Trust Agreements and Resolutions for adoption by the governing bodies to renew membership with the fund are required to be executed every three years. Below is a list of members with renewing agreements that have expired or will be expiring at the end of this year. Please reach

out to HIFadmin@permainc.com for a blank agreement and resolution to be executed. This list was last updated on September 22, 2026.

Member	I&T End Date
Wallington	12/31/2022
Wood-Ridge	12/31/2025
Fanwood Township	12/31/2026
Woodcliff Lake	12/31/2026
Carlstadt Board of Education	12/31/2026
Carlstadt	12/31/2026
Edgewater	12/31/2026
Emerson	12/31/2026
Franklin Lakes	12/31/2026
Midland Park	12/31/2026
Oakland	12/31/2026
Saddle River	12/31/2026
South Hackensack	12/31/2026

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND					
FINANCIAL FAST TRACK REPORT					
		AS OF	July 31, 2026		
		THIS MONTH	YTD CHANGE	PRIOR YEAR END	FUND BALANCE
1.	UNDERWRITING INCOME	8,523,661	57,359,619	877,791,462	935,151,081
2.	CLAIM EXPENSES				
	Paid Claims	7,278,874	41,894,363	730,009,036	771,903,400
	IBNR	46,553	2,655,501	8,506,095	11,161,596
	Less Specific Excess	-	(970,430)	(20,128,622)	(21,099,052)
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	(602,911)	(602,911)
	TOTAL CLAIMS	7,325,428	43,579,434	717,783,598	761,363,032
3.	EXPENSES				
	MA & HMO Premiums	468,479	2,929,892	34,946,669	37,876,561
	Excess Premiums	336,282	2,239,926	38,406,148	40,646,074
	Administrative	354,492	2,094,603	64,334,309	66,428,912
	TOTAL EXPENSES	1,159,252	7,264,422	137,687,126	144,951,547
4.	UNDERWRITING PROFIT/(LOSS) (1-2-3)	38,981	6,515,764	22,320,739	28,836,502
5.	INVESTMENT INCOME	44,072	204,503	4,233,316	4,437,819
6.	DIVIDEND INCOME	-	-	8,186,857	8,186,857
7.	STATUTORY PROFIT/(LOSS) (4+5+6)	83,053	6,720,267	34,740,911	41,461,178
8.	DIVIDEND	-	-	32,700,408	32,700,408
9.	Transferred Surplus IN	-	-	-	-
10.	Transferred Surplus OUT	-	-	-	-
	STATUTORY SURPLUS (7-8+9)	83,053	6,720,267	2,040,503	8,760,770
SURPLUS (DEFICITS) BY FUND YEAR					
Closed	Surplus	3,841	(253,091)	5,523,990	5,270,899
	Cash	5,050	(263,410)	5,605,105	5,341,695
2024	Surplus	17,019	(894,486)	(4,110,403)	(5,004,889)
	Cash	38,397	104,659	(6,456,215)	(6,351,557)
2025	Surplus	(922,241)	402,240	626,916	1,029,156
	Cash	(1,090,473)	(5,790,787)	5,874,000	83,213
2026	Surplus	984,434	7,465,604		7,465,604
	Cash	(1,239,727)	14,861,386		14,861,386
	TOTAL SURPLUS (DEFICITS)	83,053	6,720,267	2,040,503	8,760,770
	TOTAL CASH	(2,286,753)	8,911,848	5,022,890	13,934,738
CLAIM ANALYSIS BY FUND YEAR					
	TOTAL CLOSED YEAR CLAIMS	4,783	306,216	600,326,246	600,632,462
	FUND YEAR 2024				
	Paid Claims	(14,795)	920,376	61,727,662	62,648,038
	IBNR	-	-	-	-
	Less Specific Excess	-	(13,166)	(2,080,267)	(2,093,433)
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL FY 2024 CLAIMS	(14,795)	907,210	59,647,395	60,554,605
	FUND YEAR 2025				
	Paid Claims	1,094,961	8,683,357	50,967,564	59,650,921
	IBNR	(168,342)	(8,000,627)	8,506,095	505,468
	Less Specific Excess	-	(957,264)	(1,663,703)	(2,620,967)
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL FY 2025 CLAIMS	926,619	(274,534)	57,809,956	57,535,422
	FUND YEAR 2026				
	Paid Claims	6,193,925	31,984,415		31,984,415
	IBNR	214,895	10,656,128		10,656,128
	Less Specific Excess	-	-		-
	Less Aggregate Excess	-	-		-
	TOTAL FY 2026 CLAIMS	6,408,820	42,640,543		42,640,543
	COMBINED TOTAL CLAIMS	7,325,428	43,579,434	717,783,598	761,363,032

This report is based upon information which has not been audited nor certified by an actuary and as such may not truly represent the condition of the fund.

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND									
RATIOS									
		FY2026							
INDICES	2025	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	
Cash Position	5,022,890	\$ 2,057,897	\$ 7,262,036	\$ 8,982,617	\$ 11,977,385	\$ 14,676,206	\$ 16,221,491	\$ 13,934,738	
IBNR	8,506,095	\$ 9,452,611	\$ 10,634,986	\$ 10,385,636	\$ 9,884,784	\$ 10,701,173	\$ 11,115,043	\$ 11,161,596	
Assets	10,806,865	\$ 12,046,607	\$ 14,083,506	\$ 16,139,201	\$ 17,707,586	\$ 19,799,555	\$ 20,190,477	\$ 20,300,868	
Liabilities	8,766,360	\$ 9,790,176	\$ 11,054,181	\$ 10,779,840	\$ 10,291,273	\$ 11,120,753	\$ 11,512,760	\$ 11,540,097	
Surplus	2,040,504	\$ 2,256,431	\$ 3,029,325	\$ 5,359,361	\$ 7,416,313	\$ 8,678,802	\$ 8,677,718	\$ 8,760,771	
Claims Paid -- Month	4,529,217	\$ 5,592,007	\$ 4,877,517	\$ 5,698,543	\$ 5,724,755	\$ 5,845,766	\$ 6,876,901	\$ 7,278,874	
Claims Budget -- Month	4,887,102	\$ 6,571,878	\$ 6,551,174	\$ 6,749,585	\$ 6,714,302	\$ 7,227,474	\$ 7,211,020	\$ 7,205,856	
Claims Paid -- YTD	61,100,865	\$ 5,592,007	\$ 10,469,523	\$ 16,168,066	\$ 21,892,822	\$ 27,738,588	\$ 34,615,489	\$ 41,894,363	
Claims Budget -- YTD	57,681,370	\$ 6,571,878	\$ 13,123,052	\$ 19,872,637	\$ 26,586,939	\$ 33,814,414	\$ 41,025,434	\$ 48,231,290	
RATIOS									
Cash Position to Claims Paid	1.11	0.37	1.49	1.58	2.09	2.51	2.36	1.91	
Claims Paid to Claims Budget -- Month	0.93	0.85	0.74	0.84	0.85	0.81	0.95	1.01	
Claims Paid to Claims Budget -- YTD	1.06	0.85	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.87	
Cash Position to IBNR	0.59	0.22	0.68	0.86	1.21	1.37	1.46	1.25	
Assets to Liabilities	1.23	1.23	1.27	1.5	1.72	1.78	1.75	1.76	
Surplus as Months of Claims	0.42	0.34	0.46	0.79	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.22	
IBNR to Claims Budget -- Month	1.74	1.44	1.62	1.54	1.47	1.48	1.54	1.55	

Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
2026 Budget Report
as of July 31, 2026

	Cumulative	Annualized	Latest filed	Cumulative	\$ Variance	% Variance
Expected Losses				Expensed		
Medical Claims Aetna	42,641,615	74,558,327	61,701,780	36,143,151	6,498,464	15%
Prescription Claims	6,029,634	10,625,415	8,156,748	5,215,742	(994,998)	-24%
Prescription Formulary Rebates	(1,808,891)	(3,187,626)	(2,447,024)	Included Above in Prescription Claims		
Dental Claims	1,368,931	2,352,021	2,287,214	1,281,649	87,282	6%
Subtotal	48,231,290	84,348,138	69,698,718	42,640,543	5,590,747	12%
DMO Premiums	10,025	16,703	28,816	8,410	1,615	16%
Medicare Advantage / EGWP	2,914,798	5,268,116	3,564,224	2,921,482	(6,684)	0%
Reinsurance						
Specific	2,232,873	3,901,676	3,149,432	2,239,926	(7,053)	0%
Total Loss Fund	53,388,987	93,534,632	76,441,190	47,810,361	5,578,626	10%
Loss Fund Contingency	1,190,216	2,040,370	2,040,370	0	1,190,216	0%
Expenses						
Legal	15,779	27,050	27,050	16,007	(227)	-1%
Treasurer	13,041	22,356	22,356	13,041	0	0%
Administrator	327,304	572,078	478,620	327,781	(477)	0%
Risk Management Consultants	893,953	1,625,105	1,225,905	893,953	-	0%
Retiree First	70,440	126,684	90,144	81,864	(11,424)	-100%
QPA	1,750	3,000	3,000	1,750	-	-100%
TPA - Aetna	510,384	891,834	719,888	337,700	172,684	34%
TPA - Dental	58,453	100,557	96,713	58,791	(337)	-1%
Actuary	11,470	19,664	19,664	14,730	(3,260)	-28%
Auditor	11,652	19,976	19,976	11,655	(3)	0%
Benefits Consultant	332,460	585,738	456,632	333,405	(945)	0%
Board Advisor	11,366	19,484	19,484	9,000	2,366	21%
Subtotal Expenses	2,258,053	4,013,527	3,179,431	2,099,677	158,377	7%
Miscellaneous and Special Services						
Misc/Cont	20,417	35,000	35,000	13,761	6,656	33%
Wellness, Disease, Case Management	58,333	100,000	100,000	3,647	54,686	94%
Affordable Care Act Taxes	8,002	13,982	11,286	15,756	(7,754)	-97%
A4 Surcharge	66,119	115,897	119,153	47,305	18,814	28%
Plan Documents	3,792	6,500	6,500	3,792	-	0%
Claims Audit	23,333	40,000	40,000	0	23,333	100%
Subtotal Misc/Sp Svcs	179,996	311,379	311,939	84,261	95,735	53%
Total Expenses	2,438,050	4,324,907	3,491,370	2,183,937	254,112	10%
Total Budget	57,017,252	99,899,909	81,972,930	49,994,298	7,022,954	12%

Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
AS OF JULY 31, 2026
BY FUND YEAR

	BMED 2026	BMED 2025	BMED 2024	CLOSED YEAR	FUND BALANCE
ASSETS					
Cash & Cash Equivalents	14,861,386	83,213	(6,351,557)	5,341,695	13,934,738
Assesmtnts Receivable (Prepaid)	2,280,723	408,237	1,444,147	70,658	4,203,765
Interest Receivable	136	271	(230)	4,781	4,958
Specific Excess Receivable	-	1,104,337	-	-	1,104,337
Aggregate Excess Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Dividend Receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Prepaid Admin Fees	-	-	-	-	-
Other Assets	1,025,082	(0)	-	27,988	1,053,070
Total Assets	18,167,327	1,596,058	(4,907,639)	5,445,122	20,300,868
LIABILITIES					
Accounts Payable	-	-	-	-	-
IBNR Reserve	10,656,128	505,468	-	-	11,161,596
A4 Retiree Surcharge	33,941	56,849	-	-	90,790
Dividends Payable	-	-	-	131,984	131,984
Retained Dividends	-	-	97,250	42,238	139,488
Accrued/Other Liabilities	11,655	4,584	-	-	16,239
Total Liabilities	10,701,724	566,901	97,250	174,222	11,540,097
EQUITY					
Surplus / (Deficit)	7,465,604	1,029,156	(5,004,889)	5,270,900	8,760,771
Total Equity	7,465,604	1,029,156	(5,004,889)	5,270,900	8,760,771
Total Liabilities & Equity	18,167,327	1,596,058	(4,907,639)	5,445,122	20,300,868
BALANCE	-	-	-	-	-

This report is based upon information which has not been audited nor certified
by an actuary and as such may not truly represent the condition of the fund.
Fund Year allocation of claims have been estimated.

**Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund
2027 Proposed Budget**

Print Date:

Draft

8/18/2026 12:51

Census:

Monthly

Annual

Medical Aetna	2,224	26,688
Rx	1,236	14,832
Dental	2,520	30,240
Medicare Advantage - Medical	936	11,232
Rx No Medical (Incl in Rx above)	15	180
Dental Only (Incl in Dental above)	1,411	16,932
Medicare Advantage - Only (Incl above)	664	7,968
DMO Only	-	-

	LINE ITEMS	Annualized Budget FY2026	Proposed Budget FY2027	\$ Change	% Change
1	Medical Claims Aetna	\$ 76,632,546	\$ 75,408,556	\$ (1,223,990)	-1.60%
2	Prescription Claims	\$ 11,042,568	\$ 11,762,612	\$ 720,044	6.52%
3	Prescription Formulary Rebates	\$ (3,312,770)	\$ (1,999,644)	\$ 1,313,126	-39.64%
4	Dental Claims	\$ 2,360,068	\$ 2,298,368	\$ (61,700)	-2.61%
5					
6	Subtotal Claims	86,722,412	87,469,892	\$ 747,480	0.86%
7					
8	HMO/DMO Premiums	\$ 16,250	\$ 16,250	\$ -	0.00%
9					
10	Medicare Advantage / EGWP	\$ 5,641,863	\$ 5,895,107	\$ 253,244	4.49%
11					
12	Reinsurance				
13	Specific	\$ 4,004,766	\$ 5,515,504	\$ 1,510,738	37.72%
14					
15	Total Loss Fund	\$ 96,385,291	\$ 98,896,754	\$ 2,511,462	2.61%
16					
17	Loss Fund Contingency	\$ 2,040,370	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 559,630	27.43%
18	Trust Account For Contingencies	\$ -	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,600,000	0.00%
19	Expenses				
20	Legal	\$ 27,050	\$ 27,500	\$ 450	1.7%
21	Treasurer	\$ 22,356	\$ 22,803	\$ 447	2.0%
22	Administrator	\$ 588,084	\$ 599,991	\$ 11,907	2.0%
23	Risk Management Consultants	\$ 1,553,631	\$ 1,503,984	\$ (49,647)	-3.2%
24	TPA - Claims Agent Aetna	\$ 915,398	\$ 961,302	\$ 45,903	5.0%
25	Dental TPA	\$ 101,002	\$ 101,002	\$ -	0.0%
26	Retiree First	\$ 134,784	\$ 134,784	\$ -	0.0%
27	Actuary	\$ 19,664	\$ 20,050	\$ 386	2.0%
28	Auditor	\$ 19,976	\$ 20,376	\$ 400	2.0%
29	Benefits Consultant	\$ 607,560	\$ 619,613	\$ 12,052	2.0%
30	Board Advisor	\$ 19,484	\$ 19,484	\$ 0	0.0%
31	QPA	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	0.0%
32					
33	Subtotal Expenses	\$ 4,011,989	\$ 4,033,888	\$ 21,899	0.55%
34					
35	Miscellaneous and Special Services				
36	Misc/Cont	\$ 35,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 15,000	42.86%
37	Wellness, Disease, Case Management	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ -	0.00%
38	Affordable Care Act Taxes	\$ 14,351	\$ 14,351	\$ -	0.00%
39	A4 Surcharge	\$ 118,691	\$ 127,210	\$ 8,519	7.18%
40	Plan Documents	\$ 6,500	\$ 10,000	\$ 3,500	53.85%
41	Claims Audit	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ -	0.00%
42	Subtotal Misc/Sp Svcs	\$ 314,543	\$ 341,562	\$ 27,019	8.59%
43					
44	Total Expenses	\$ 4,326,532	\$ 9,575,450	\$ 5,248,918	121.32%
45					
46	Total Budget	\$ 102,752,194	\$ 108,472,203	\$ 5,720,010	5.57%

REGULATORY

**BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
REGULATORY
YEAR: 2026**

FILING STATUS UPDATES

Items

Filing Status

Budget	Filed upon adoption
Assessments	Filed upon adoption
Actuarial Certification	Filed
Reinsurance Policies	Filed
Fund Commissioners	Filed
Fund Officers	Filed
Renewal Resolutions	Filed
Indemnity and Trust	Filed
New Members	Filed as New Members are approved
Withdrawals	Filed as Members Withdrawal
Risk Management Plan and By Laws	Filed
Cash Management Plan	Filed
Unaudited Financials	Filed through Q3 2024
Annual Audit	12/31/2025 filed
Budget Changes	N/A
Transfers	N/A
Additional Assessments	N/A
Professional Changes	N/A
Officer Changes	N/A
RMP Changes	N/A
Bylaw Amendments	N/A
Contracts	Filed
Benefit Changes	N/A

Contract	Professional	Contract	Insurance	Term
Board Advisor	Clark LaMendola	Y	Y	1/1/2024-12/31/2026
Wellness Coordinator	Dina Robinson	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2026
Administration	PERMA	Y	Y	1/1/2025-12/31/2027
Benefits Consultant	Conner Strong & Buckelew	Y	Y	1/1/2025-12/31/2027
QPA	The Canning Group	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2029
Attorney	Huntington Bailey	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2029
Treasurer	Joseph Iannaconi	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2029
Auditor	Lerch Vinci Higgins	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2029
Actuary	Actuarial Solutions	Y	Y	1/1/2026-12/31/2029

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
CONTACTS
YEAR: 2026

Executive Director Team: This team handles all the administrative and financial aspects of the Fund such as rates, state regulatory compliance, and Executive Committee and subcommittee meetings.

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Executive Director	Jim Rhodes	jrhodes@permainc.com	856-552-4920
Associate Executive Director	Emily Koval	emilyk@permainc.com	201-518-7028
Account Manager	Caitlin Perkins	cperkins@permainc.com	856-479-2192
Assistant Account Manager	Jordyn Robinson	jrobinson@permainc.com	856-446-9287

Benefits Consultant Team: This team handles all the benefits aspects of the Fund such as plan design, claim issues, cost containment strategies, and Third-Party communications.

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Public Entity & HIF Business Leader	Tammy Brown	tbrown@connerstrong.com	856-552-4694
HIF Business Leader	John Lajewski	jlajewski@connerstrong.com	856-552-4922
Associate Consultant	Jacque Maddren	jmaddren@connerstrong.com	856-552-4688
Senior Business Development Executive	Sean Critchley, Esq.	Scritchley@connerstrong.com	973-736-6511

Client Services Team: This team handles all the enrollment and billing aspects of the Fund such as sending monthly invoices, open enrollment, and adjustments throughout the year.

Role	Name	Email	Phone
Senior Director, HIF Operations	Lenka Bystrianska	lbystrianska@permainc.com	856-479-2214
Director of Client Services	Crystal Bailey	cbailey@permainc.com	856-552-4914
Director of Benefits Operations	Karen Kidd	kkidd@connerstrong.com	856-552-4644
Client Service Specialist	Zoe Rogers	zrogers@permainc.com	856-479-2238

**Pursuant to N.J.A.C Title 11, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, PERMA, LLC ("PERMA"), as administrator of the Bergen Municipal Employees Benefit Fund ("the Fund"), and its employees, officers and directors hereby provide notice that they have direct and indirect financial interests in Conner Strong & Buckelew Companies, LLC, which is a servicing organization for the Fund.*

Gateway-BMED Health Insurance Fund

Benefits Consultant Report

CONNER
STRONG &
BUCKELEW

INSURANCE | RISK MANAGEMENT | EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

GATEWAY - BMED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND

Benefit Consultant Report – September 29, 2026

Agenda

- Executive Overview
- Fund Strategic Initiatives
- New Fund Member Activity
- Legislative Updates
- Client Services/Eligibility/Enrollment
- Previously Reported Information

Executive Overview

The Gateway - BMED Health Insurance Fund continues to show improvements from a financial perspective through 2026. Nonetheless, areas of increasing utilization for both medical & pharmacy claims have been identified, and strategic recommendations presented for consideration. The Office of the Benefits Consultant looks forward to continuing discussions and implementing those solutions that will yield meaningful savings to ensure the long-term stability of the Fund.

Fund Strategic Initiatives

Through an extensive review of the historical medical & pharmacy utilization of the Funds, opportunities to impact key cost drivers were identified, vetted, and presented for discussion and consideration.

A detailed utilization review with corresponding cost containment options was presented to the Fund Strategic Planning Subcommittee and discussed. A copy of the presentation is included with this report.

Key recommendation addresses:

- Utilization of GLP-1 medications for weight loss and includes an option to amend the BMI requirement for the medication from ≥ 32 to ≥ 35
 - Recommendation to move forward for 1/1/2027 effective date
- Extend the exclusion for the oral version of GLP-1 for weight loss
 - Recommendation to continue pill form exclusion and will revisit mid 2027 Fund year to review data
- Comprehensive cancer testing
 - Recommendation to move forward with RFP

- Cutting-edge treatment option for musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions.
 - Recommendation to move forward with program offered through Aetna

New Fund Member Activity

All requests for new Fund member participation are coordinated by Sean Critchley.

There are no new requests for Fund participation to report.

Legislative Updates

There are no new legislative updates to report.

Client Services/Eligibility/Enrollment Team

Client Service Contacts & Systems Training

Lenka Bystrianska has joined the client service team as Senior Director of HIF Operations. Please direct all service requests to Shondell Holmes-Dutton and Lenka Bystrianska.

System training (new and refresher) is provided to all contacts with WEX access every 3rd Wednesday at 10AM. Please contact HIFtraining@permainc.com for additional information or to request an invite.

2027 Fund Year Open Enrollment

- Open Enrollment for the 2027 Fund year will be held October 26th through November 6th
- All enrollment transactions should be completed by November 20th in WEX to ensure ID cards are delivered prior to the beginning of the new Fund year
- Open Enrollment guides & related materials are being updated and will be circulated once finalized

Carrier Appeals

Submission Date	Appeal Type	Appeal Number	Reason	Determination	Determination Date
2/11/2026	Aetna/Medical	BMED 2026 05 01	Oncology	IRO	8/12/2026
9/14/2026	Aetna/Medical	BMED 2026 09 01	Anesthesia	Upheld	9/16/2026

IRO Submissions

Submission Date	Appeal Type	Appeal Number	Reason	Determination	Determination Date
8/12/2026	Aetna/Medical	BMED 2026-05-01	Oncology	Upheld	8/18/2026

Previously Reported Information

New Jersey has enacted an updated newborn coverage mandate which extends the period of automatic newborn coverage from 60 days to 90 days under certain health plans. This NJ State mandate expanded the previous mandate enacted in 2018 which extends the period of automatic newborn coverage from 30 days to 61 days.

It is recommended the North Jersey Municipal Employee Benefits Fund comply with the Mandate effective July 1, 2026, and January 1, 2027, based on the respective Fund member's plan(s) renewal date.

Annual Notice of Credible Coverage (NOCC)

Express Scripts (ESI) has been provided with all information required for them to send the 2027 NOCC letters. CMS Annual Enrollment Period is October 15, 2026, through December 7, 2026.

A sample letter is included with this report that ESI will be sending to all members, ages 65 and older who enrolled in CJHIF pharmacy benefits. The highlighted sections will be completed by ESI and mailed beginning the week of September 21, 2026.

No Surprise Billing and Transparency Act

- Transition to State Arbitration - Effective January 1, 2026:
- As a result of the transition, enrolled members will be receiving new ID cards from Aetna prior to January 1st subscriber ID numbers and Fund member group numbers will not be changing.

TO ALL FUND COMMISSIONERS:

January 2026

Pursuant to N.J.A.C Title 11, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, Conner Strong & Buckelew Companies, LLC, as a servicing organization of the **Gateway - BMED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND** ("**the Fund**"), and its employees, officers and directors hereby provide notice that they have direct and indirect financial interests in PERMA, LLC, which is the Administrator for the Fund.

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

BILLS LIST

Resolution No. _____

SEPTEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefit Fund's Executive Board, hereby authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2026

<u>VendorName</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>InvoiceAmount</u>
HQSI, INC	INV 260831-MRHIF-1 CASE REVIEW 09/26	500.00
HQSI, INC	INV 260430-MRHIF-1 CASE REVIEW 09/26	900.00
		1,400.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BOR. WESTWOOD 08/10/26	129.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BOROUGH RUTHERFORD 08/10/26	12.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BORO MONTVALE 08/10/26	114.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- FRANKLIN LIBRARY 08/10/26	6.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BORO MIDLAND PARK 08/10/26	27.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BORO MOONACHIE 08/10/26	9.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- WOODCLIFF LAKE 08/10/26	57.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- BORO OAKLAND 08/10/26	57.00
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- WALLINGTON 08/10/26	71.07
INSPIRA FINANCIAL HEALTH, INC	HSA- S. HACKENSACK 08/10/26	54.00
		536.07
PERMA	POSTAGE 08/26	86.48
PERMA	RETIREE FIRST INV 10012026	11,244.00
PERMA	ADMIN FEES 09/26	48,575.36
		59,905.84
THE CANNING GROUP LLC	QPA INV 2026-09 09/26	250.00
		250.00
HUNTINGTON BAILEY, LLP	ATTORNEY FEES 09/26	2,254.16
		2,254.16
JOSEPH IANNAONI JR.	TREASURER FEE 09/26	1,863.00
		1,863.00
USA TODAY MEDIA CORP.	ORDER# 12023114 A# 1184295 08/2026	49.36
		49.36
LAMENDOLA ASSOCIATES, INC.	FUND ADVISOR FOR 08/26	1,500.00
		1,500.00
NJ ADVANCE MEDIA	AD# 11066670 A# 52759 08/31/2026	200.00
		200.00
ACCESS	INV 12358646 DEPT 418 08/31/26 09/26	344.71
		344.71
CROSS INSURANCE	BROKER FEES 09/26	9,903.52
		9,903.52
ACRISURE EAST INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC	BROKER FEES 09/26	15,802.72
		15,802.72
ACRISURE EAST INSURANCE SERVICES, LLC	BROKER FEES 09/26	13,868.25
		13,868.25
SADDLE RIVER DELI	LUNCH FOR 08/25/26 MEETING	424.16
		424.16

GJEM INSURANCE AGENCY INC	BROKER FEES 09/26	25,283.84 25,283.84
COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE BENEFITS LLC	BROKER FEES 09/26	4,260.28 4,260.28
WORLD INSURANCE ASSOCIATES, LLC	BROKER FEES 09/26	5,782.01 5,782.01
MUNICIPAL REINSURANCE H.I.F.	SPECIFIC REINSURANCE 09/26	332,380.05 332,380.05
	TOTAL CHECKS 2026	476,007.97
AETNA HEALTH MANAGMENT, LLC	MEDICARE ADVANTAGE 09/26	463,468.47 463,468.47
DELTA DENTAL INSURANCE CO (DELTACARE USA)	RUTHERFORDS A#F1-7871600000 BE007196611	1,477.76 1,477.76
AETNA	TPA FEES 09/26	75,974.50 75,974.50
DELTA DENTAL OF NEW JERSEY INC.	DENTAL TPA FEES 09/26	8,299.90 8,299.90
CONNER STRONG & BUCKELEW CONNER STRONG & BUCKELEW	PLAN DOCS 09/26 BENEFIT CONSULTANT FEES 09/26	541.67 50,309.58 50,851.25
ALLEN ASSOCIATES	BROKER FEES 09/26	10,518.50 10,518.50
FAIRVIEW INSURANCE AGENCY ASSOCIATES	BROKER FEES 09/26	32,283.63 32,283.63
KAI STRATEGIC INSURANCE PARTNERS LLC	BROKER FEES 09/26	7,960.92 7,960.92
JOSEPH L VOZZA AGENCY INC	BROKER FEES 09/26	7,520.82 7,520.82
LUCILLE DINA COLOMBO-ROBINSON	WELLNESS COORDINATOR 09/26	1,000.00 1,000.00
	TOTAL ACH/WIRES 2026	659,355.75
	Total Payments FY 2026	1,135,363.72
	TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	1,135,363.72

Chairperson

Attest:

Dated: _____

I hereby certify the availability of sufficient unencumbered funds in the proper accounts to fully pay the above claims.

Treasurer

**BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
SUPPLEMENTAL BILLS LIST**

Resolution No. _____

SEPTEMBER 2026

WHEREAS, the Treasurer has certified that funding is available to pay the following bills:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefit Fund's Executive Board, hereby
authorizes the Fund treasurer to issue warrants in payment of the following claims; and

FURTHER, that this authorization shall be made a permanent part of the records of the Fund.

FUND YEAR 2026

<u>VendorName</u>	<u>Comment</u>	<u>InvoiceAmount</u>
BIAGIO'S RESTAURANT	FINAL-09/15/26 WELLNESS BREAKFAST	3,214.69
		3,214.69
	Total Payments FY 2026	3,214.69
	TOTAL PAYMENTS ALL FUND YEARS	

Chairperson

Attest:

Dated: _____

I hereby certify the availability of sufficient unencumbered funds in the proper accounts to fully pay the above claims.

Treasurer

Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund											
SUMMARY OF CASH TRANSACTIONS - ALL FUND YEARS COMBINED											
Current Fund Year: 2026 Month Ending: July											
	Medical	Dental	Rx	Vision	Run-In	Reinsurance	RSR	Admin	Dividend Retained	Metro Interfund	TOTAL
OPEN BALANCE	18,073,362.93	302,554.04	(5,005,136.11)	0.00	0.00	(47,973.29)	1,421,825.58	1,434,700.72	42,155.55	0.00	16,221,489.42
RECEIPTS											
Assessments	4,508,799.28	121,203.41	423,480.31	0.00	0.00	231,243.50	112,925.21	266,629.34	0.00	0.00	5,664,281.05
Refunds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Invest Pymnts	38,079.64	490.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,305.69	3,012.95	68.36	0.00	43,957.27
Invest Adj	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Subtotal Invest	38,079.64	490.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,305.69	3,012.95	68.36	0.00	43,957.27
Other *	88,049.12	0.00	630,539.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	718,589.02
TOTAL	4,634,928.04	121,694.04	1,054,020.21	0.00	0.00	231,243.50	115,230.90	269,642.29	68.36	0.00	6,426,827.34
EXPENSES											
Claims Transfers	6,302,610.10	144,486.56	1,087,947.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,535,043.78
Expenses	468,478.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	336,281.54	0.00	373,554.91	0.00	0.00	1,178,315.23
Other *	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	221.39	0.00	0.00	221.39
TOTAL	6,771,088.88	144,486.56	1,087,947.12	0.00	0.00	336,281.54	0.00	373,776.30	0.00	0.00	8,713,580.40
END BALANCE	15,937,202.09	279,761.52	(5,039,063.02)	0.00	0.00	(153,011.33)	1,537,056.48	1,330,566.71	42,223.91	0.00	13,934,736.36

SUMMARY OF CASH AND INVESTMENT INSTRUMENTS				
Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund				
ALL FUND YEARS COMBINED				
CURRENT MONTH	July			
CURRENT FUND YEAR	2026			
Description:		CHECKING	TD Invest	
ID Number:				
Maturity (Yrs)				
Purchase Yield:				
TOTAL for All				
Accts & instruments				
Opening Cash & Investment Balance	\$16,221,489.44	14,459,924.30	1761565.14	
Opening Interest Accrual Balance	\$4,777.66	-	4777.66	
1	Interest Accrued and/or Interest Cost	\$183.83	\$0.00	\$183.83
2	Interest Accrued - discounted Instr.s	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	(Amortization and/or Interest Cost)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	Accretion	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	Interest Paid - Cash Instr.s	\$43,957.26	\$39,179.60	\$4,777.66
6	Interest Paid - Term Instr.s	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	Realized Gain (Loss)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
8	Net Investment Income	\$44,141.09	\$39,179.60	\$4,961.49
9	Deposits - Purchases	\$6,382,870.07	\$6,382,870.07	\$0.00
10	(Withdrawals - Sales)	-\$8,713,580.40	-\$8,713,359.01	-\$221.39
Ending Cash & Investment Balance		\$13,934,736.37	\$12,168,614.96	\$1,766,121.41
Ending Interest Accrual Balance		\$4,961.49	\$0.00	\$4,961.49
Plus Outstanding Checks		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
(Less Deposits in Transit)		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Balance per Bank		\$13,934,736.37	\$12,168,614.96	\$1,766,121.41

CERTIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION OF CLAIMS PAYMENTS AND RECOVERIES									
Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund									
Month		July							
Current Fund Year		2026							
Policy Year	Coverage	1. Calc. Net Paid Thru Last Month	2. Monthly Net Paid July	3. Monthly Recoveries July	4. Calc. Net Paid Thru July	5. TPA Net Paid Thru July	6. Variance To Be Reconciled	7. Delinquent Unreconciled Variance From	8. Change This Month
2026	Medical	20,806,982.82	5,218,949.31	0.00	26,025,932.13	0.00	26,025,932.13	20,806,982.82	5,218,949.31
	Dental	997,911.87	144,374.56	0.00	1,142,286.43	0.00	1,142,286.43	997,911.87	144,374.56
	Rx	5,205,997.36	1,087,947.12	0.00	6,293,944.48	0.00	6,293,944.48	5,205,997.36	1,087,947.12
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	27,010,892.05	6,451,270.99	0.00	33,462,163.04	0.00	33,462,163.04	27,010,892.05	6,451,270.99
2025	Medical	7,132,271.16	1,094,848.59	0.00	8,227,119.75	0.00	8,227,119.75	7,132,271.16	1,094,848.59
	Dental	85,421.88	112.00	0.00	85,533.88	0.00	85,533.88	85,421.88	112.00
	Rx	281,369.27	0.00	0.00	281,369.27	0.00	281,369.27	281,369.27	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	7,499,062.31	1,094,960.59	0.00	8,594,022.90	0.00	8,594,022.90	7,499,062.31	1,094,960.59
2024	Medical	934,248.99	(14,794.59)	0.00	919,454.40	0.00	919,454.40	934,248.99	(14,794.59)
	Dental	977.80	0.00	0.00	977.80	0.00	977.80	977.80	0.00
	Rx	(56.33)	0.00	0.00	(56.33)	0.00	(56.33)	(56.33)	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	935,170.46	(14,794.59)	0.00	920,375.87	0.00	920,375.87	935,170.46	(14,794.59)
Closed Year	Medical	289,658.37	3,606.79	0.00	293,265.16	0.00	293,265.16	289,658.37	3,606.79
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	1,830.66	0.00	0.00	1,830.66	0.00	1,830.66	1,830.66	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	291,489.03	3,606.79	0.00	295,095.82	0.00	295,095.82	291,489.03	3,606.79
Metro 2025	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Metro 2024	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Metro Closed	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	Medical	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Dental	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rx	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Vision	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TO TAL		35,736,613.85	7,535,043.78	0.00	43,271,657.63	0.00	43,271,657.63	35,736,613.85	7,535,043.78



BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

Monthly Claim Activity Report

SEPTEMBER 29, 2026



BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND

	MEDICAL CLAIMS			MEDICAL CLAIMS		
	<u>PAID 2025</u>	<u># OF EES</u>	<u>PER EE</u>	<u>PAID 2026</u>	<u># OF EES</u>	<u>PER EE</u>
JANUARY	\$3,860,962	1,750	\$2,206	\$4,442,259	2,024	\$2,195
FEBRUARY	\$4,121,048	1,747	\$2,359	\$4,098,160	2,019	\$2,030
MARCH	\$5,057,377	1,750	\$2,890	\$5,457,201	2,092	\$2,609
APRIL	\$5,001,542	1,748	\$2,861	\$4,293,759	2,093	\$2,051
MAY	\$4,717,063	1,752	\$2,692	\$4,802,147	2,261	\$2,124
JUNE	\$4,492,451	1,754	\$2,561	\$6,348,296	2,260	\$2,809
JULY	\$4,308,401	1,749	\$2,463	\$6,081,454	2,268	\$2,681
AUGUST	\$4,554,758	1,746	\$2,609			
SEPTEMBER	\$4,660,057	1,760	\$2,648			
OCTOBER	\$3,994,316	1,759	\$2,271			
NOVEMBER	\$3,870,964	1,758	\$2,202			
DECEMBER	\$4,541,624	1,756	\$2,586			
TOTALS	\$53,180,562			\$35,523,275		
				2026 Average	2,145	\$2,357
				2025 Average	1,752	\$2,529

Large Claimant Report (Drilldown) - Claims Over \$100000

Plan Sponsor Unique ID : All
Customer: BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND
Group / Control: 00866353,00880725

Paid Dates: 07/01/2026 - 07/31/2026
Service Dates: 01/01/2011 - 07/31/2026
Line of Business: All

	Paid Amt	Diagnosis/Treatment
	\$517,276.80	NONRHEUMATIC AORTIC (VALVE) STENOSIS
	\$435,903.64	SPINAL STENOSIS, LUMBAR REGION WITH NEUROGENIC
	\$187,205.22	HYPERTENSIVE HEART AND CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE
	\$148,077.34	SPONDYLOSIS WITHOUT MYELOPATHY OR
	\$139,428.16	MALIGNANT NEOPLASM OF OVERLAPPING SITES OF
	\$128,658.74	KIDNEY TRANSPLANT STATUS
	\$101,798.27	VARICOSE VEINS OF LEFT LOWER EXTREMITY WITH
Total:	\$1,658,348.17	



Medical Claims Paid
Average Per Employee Per Month
(PEPM)

January 2026 – August 2026

Total Medical Paid per Employee: \$2,357

Network Discounts

Inpatient: **61.3%**
Ambulatory: **66.0%**
Physician/Other: **67.3%**
TOTAL: 65.7%

Provider Network

% Admissions In-Network: **97.5%**
% Physician Office: **88.7%**

Aetna Book of Business:

Admissions 97.9%; Physician 91.5%

Top Facilities Utilized

(by total Medical Spend)

- Hackensack University Medical Center
- Valley Hospital
- Memorial Sloan Kettering
- Englewood Hospital
- Morristown Medical Center

Catastrophic Claim Impact
(January 2026 - August 2026)

Number of Claims Over \$50,000: **122**
Claimants per 1000 members: **24.3**
Avg. Paid per Claimant: **\$132,014**
Percent of Total Paid: **42.7%**

- Aetna BOB- HCC account for an average of 47.9% of total Medical Cost

Aetna One Flex Care Mgmt
Member Outreach:

Total Members Identified: **1,220**
Members Targeted for 1:1 Nurse Support : **293**
Members identified for Digital Activity: **927**
Members receiving Aetna Advice: **2,511**
Average Aetna Advice outreaches per member: **2.2**



CVS Virtual Care

Completed Visits this month : **16**
Unique Patients this month : **13**
Completed Visits in 2026 : **95**
Unique Patients in 2026: **62**

BoB Average First Available 24/7 Care: **32 Minutes**
BoB Average First Available MH : **5 Days**

Service Center Performance Goal Metrics
YTD 2026

Customer Service Performance

1st Call Resolution: **93.47%**
Abandonment Rate: **0.19%**
Avg. Speed of Answer: **4.7 sec**

Claims Performance

Financial Accuracy: **98.67%**

90% processed w/in: **7.4 days**
95% processed w/in: **16.3 days**

Claims Performance (Monthly)
(August 2026)

90% processed w/in: **6.0 days**
95% processed w/in: **12.7 days**
(Note: This is not a PG metric)

Performance Goals

1st Call Resolution: **90%**
Abandonment Rate less than: **3.0%**
Average Speed of Answer: **30 sec**

Financial Accuracy: **99%**

Turnaround Time

90% processed w/in: **14 days**
95% processed w/in: **30 days**



EXPRESS SCRIPTS®

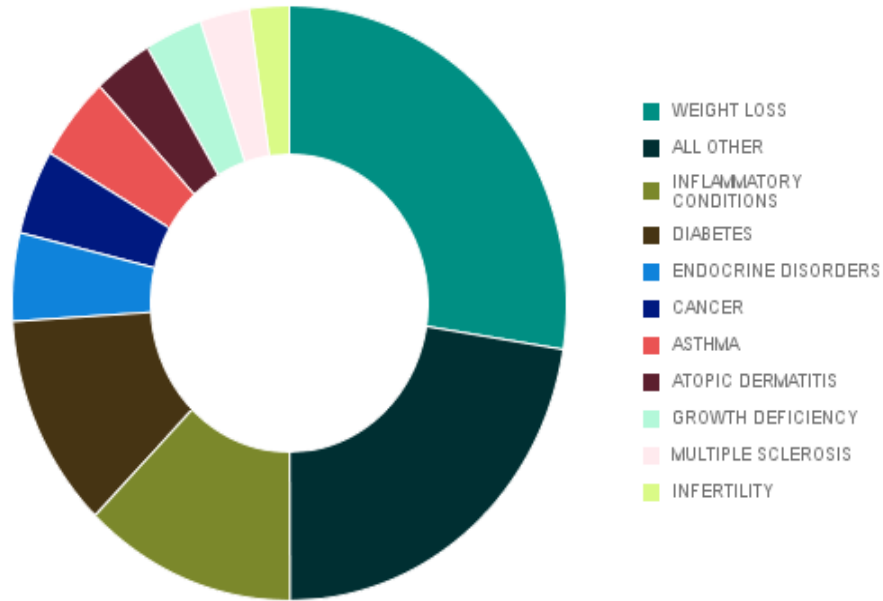
Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund - Monthly Utilization Tracking Report																	
Total Component/Date of Service (Month)	2025 01	2025 02	2025 03	2025 Q1	2025 04	2025 05	2025 06	2025 Q2	2025 07	2025 08	2025 09	2025 Q3	2025 10	2025 11	2025 12	2025 Q4	2025 YTD
Membership	2,772	2,780	2,756	2,769	2,757	2,758	2,755	2,757	2,756	2,738	2,765	2,753	2,773	2,785	2,784	2,781	2,765
Total Days	113,300	101,292	114,769	329,361	110,394	110,779	109,835	331,008	110,642	103,564	110,735	324,941	112,997	103,653	120,474	337,369	1,323,700
Total Patients	1,187	1,089	1,126	1,747	1,097	1,093	1,040	1,631	1,060	1,045	1,075	1,632	1,101	1,087	1,231	1,752	2,370
Total Plan Cost	\$728,711	\$520,663	\$712,375	\$1,961,749	\$710,966	\$723,279	\$721,647	\$2,155,893	\$721,480	\$638,075	\$756,172	\$2,115,726	\$725,826	\$635,673	\$827,326	\$2,188,363	\$8,422,445
Generic Fill Rate (GFR) - Total	86.7%	85.8%	84.6%	85.7%	85.1%	83.8%	84.5%	84.5%	84.7%	82.6%	81.0%	82.8%	79.1%	82.2%	83.6%	81.7%	83.7%
Plan Cost PMPM	\$262.88	\$187.29	\$258.48	\$236.13	\$257.88	\$262.25	\$261.94	\$260.69	\$261.79	\$233.04	\$273.48	\$256.17	\$261.75	\$228.25	\$297.17	\$262.33	\$253.85
Total Specialty Plan Cost	\$387,411	\$179,596	\$302,552	\$869,558	\$337,083	\$299,700	\$335,841	\$972,624	\$322,230	\$221,699	\$315,824	\$859,752	\$266,314	\$215,034	\$350,453	\$831,802	\$3,533,735
Specialty % of Total Specialty Plan Cost	53.2%	34.5%	42.5%	44.3%	47.4%	41.4%	46.5%	45.1%	44.7%	34.7%	41.8%	40.6%	36.7%	33.8%	42.4%	38.0%	42.0%

Total Component/Date of Service (Month)	202601	202602	202603	2026Q1	202604	202605	202606	2026Q2	202607	2026 08	2026 09	2026 Q3	2026 10	2026 11	2026 12	2026 Q4	2026 YTD
Membership	3,360	3,387	3,515	3,421	3,521	3,908	3,886	3,772	3,875	3,875							
Total Days	134,347	125,253	149,737	409,337	138,740	160,398	160,292	459,516	159,707	159,022							
Total Patients	1,389	1,354	1,504	2,161	1,449	1,565	1,626	2,348	1,594	1,575							
Total Plan Cost	\$641,639	\$732,551	\$833,928	\$2,208,118	\$1,096,432	\$1,011,483	\$1,106,601	\$3,214,324	\$1,166,623	\$1,043,370							
Generic Fill Rate (GFR) - Total	84.6%	84.4%	84.9%	84.6%	82.2%	83.5%	84.1%	83.3%	83.5%	82.7%							
Plan Cost PMPM	\$190.96	\$216.28	\$237.25	\$215.17	\$311.40	\$258.82	\$284.77	\$284.08	\$301.06	\$269.26							
% Change Plan Cost PMPM	-27.4%	15.5%	-8.2%	-8.9%	20.7%	-1.3%	8.7%	9.0%	15.0%	15.5%							
Total Specialty Plan Cost	\$160,130	\$270,645	\$274,329	\$705,104	\$486,571	\$373,611	\$452,347	\$1,312,530	\$511,942	\$364,130							
Specialty % of Total Specialty Plan Cost	25.0%	36.9%	32.9%	31.9%	44.4%	36.9%	40.9%	40.8%	43.9%	34.9%							

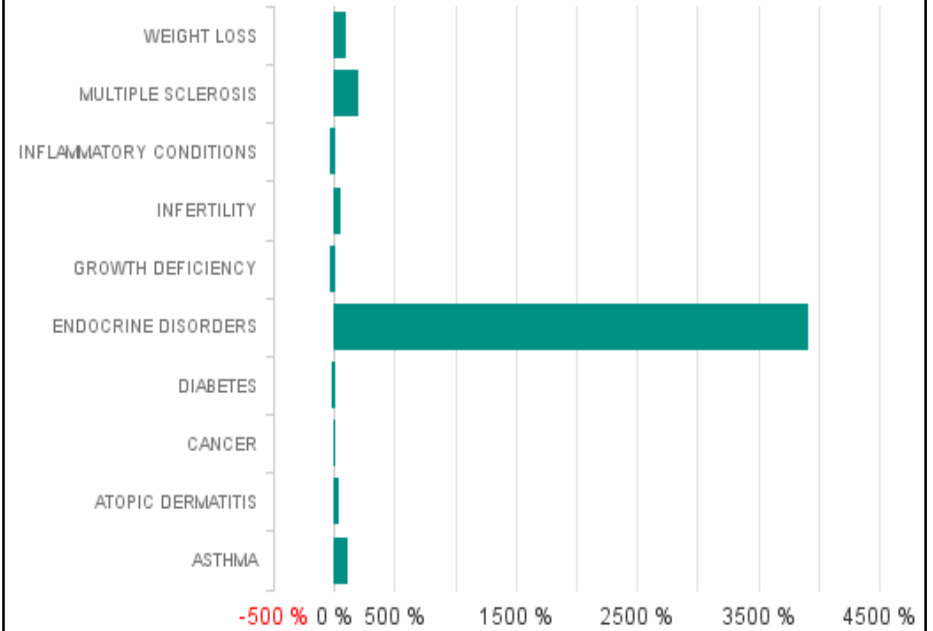
Top Indications

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMP BENEFITS (Current Period 01/2026 - 08/2026 vs. Previous Period 01/2025 - 08/2025) Peer = Government - National Preferred Formulary

Top Indications by Plan Cost



Plan Cost PMPM Trend



			Current Period						Previous Period						Trend
Rank	Peer Rank	Indication	Market Share	Adjusted Rxs	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	GFR	Peer GFR	Market Share	Adjusted Rxs	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	GFR	Peer GFR	Plan Cost PMPM
1	3	WEIGHT LOSS	35.3 %	2,013	\$2,119,031	\$72.26	2.9 %	3.2 %	22.9 %	838	\$898,398	\$40.70	3.2 %	5.0 %	77.5 %
2	2	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	16.2 %	285	\$971,530	\$33.13	41.8 %	29.9 %	28.0 %	220	\$1,098,135	\$49.75	28.2 %	32.6 %	-33.4 %
3	1	DIABETES	15.0 %	2,738	\$899,206	\$30.66	34.0 %	27.7 %	21.7 %	2,423	\$848,820	\$38.46	30.3 %	26.3 %	-20.3 %
4	8	ENDOCRINE DISORDERS	6.1 %	68	\$368,781	\$12.57	54.4 %	56.0 %	0.2 %	37	\$6,945	\$0.31	67.6 %	62.4 %	3896.5 %
5	4	CANCER	5.9 %	194	\$354,989	\$12.10	89.2 %	78.0 %	7.4 %	169	\$291,902	\$13.22	89.3 %	77.3 %	-8.5 %
6	6	ASTHMA	5.9 %	1,250	\$353,567	\$12.06	81.3 %	89.6 %	3.4 %	951	\$132,218	\$5.99	82.1 %	89.3 %	101.3 %
7	9	GROWTH DEFICIENCY	4.4 %	38	\$265,478	\$9.05	0.0 %	0.0 %	8.2 %	44	\$322,321	\$14.60	0.0 %	0.0 %	-38.0 %
8	5	ATOPIC DERMATITIS	4.4 %	497	\$265,286	\$9.05	84.5 %	79.7 %	4.1 %	404	\$161,603	\$7.32	85.9 %	83.4 %	23.5 %
9	7	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS	3.7 %	26	\$222,324	\$7.58	0.0 %	40.1 %	1.5 %	18	\$59,497	\$2.70	50.0 %	44.4 %	181.2 %
10	10	INFERTILITY	3.0 %	76	\$179,052	\$6.11	50.0 %	64.6 %	2.6 %	74	\$100,250	\$4.54	63.5 %	60.6 %	34.4 %
Total Top 10				7,185	\$5,999,244	\$204.56	38.8 %	42.5 %		5,178	\$3,920,087	\$177.60	42.1 %	43.9 %	15.2 %

Top Drugs

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMP BENEFITS (Current Period 01/2026 - 08/2026 vs. Previous Period 01/2025 - 08/2025) Peer = Government - National Preferred Formulary

					Current Period				Previous Period				Trend
Rank	Peer Rank	Brand Name	Indication	Specialty Drug	Adjusted Rxs	Patients	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	Adjusted Rxs	Patients	Plan Cost	Plan Cost PMPM	Plan Cost PMPM
1	3	ZEPBOUND	WEIGHT LOSS	N	1,504	240	\$1,541,408	\$52.56	491	96	\$499,832	\$22.65	132.1 %
2	9	WEGOVY	WEIGHT LOSS	N	427	75	\$547,458	\$18.67	314	56	\$397,165	\$17.99	3.7 %
3	1	MOUNJARO	DIABETES	N	403	59	\$424,584	\$14.48	260	46	\$259,266	\$11.75	23.3 %
4	188	CRENESSITY	ENDOCRINE DISORDERS	Y	9	1	\$356,558	\$12.16	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	38	XOLAIR	ASTHMA	Y	39	7	\$180,149	\$6.14	13	2	\$38,033	\$1.72	256.5 %
6	31	BIMZELX AUTOINJECTOR	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	17	2	\$167,781	\$5.72	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7	7	SKYRIZI PEN	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	23	4	\$160,274	\$5.47	32	5	\$228,910	\$10.37	-47.3 %
8	5	OZEMPIC	DIABETES	N	158	27	\$152,686	\$5.21	242	36	\$220,382	\$9.98	-47.9 %
9	33	KESIMPTA PEN	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS	Y	17	2	\$145,314	\$4.95	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
10	197	GONAL-F RFF REDUJECT	INFERTILITY	Y	12	7	\$122,214	\$4.17	7	4	\$43,770	\$1.98	110.1 %
11	16	ENBREL SURECLICK	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	17	2	\$120,054	\$4.09	19	3	\$120,602	\$5.46	-25.1 %
12	8	DUPIXENT PEN	ATOPIC DERMATITIS	Y	26	5	\$114,221	\$3.89	32	4	\$115,106	\$5.22	-25.3 %
13	75	NGENLA	GROWTH DEFICIENCY	Y	12	2	\$113,643	\$3.88	9	1	\$76,033	\$3.44	12.5 %
14	18	TREMFYA ONE-PRESS	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	10	2	\$98,255	\$3.35	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15	132	OMNITROPE	GROWTH DEFICIENCY	Y	13	2	\$90,772	\$3.10	14	2	\$91,172	\$4.13	-25.1 %
16	46	STELARA	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	3	1	\$80,529	\$2.75	16	3	\$269,849	\$12.23	-77.5 %
17	8	DUPIXENT PEN	ATOPIC DERMATITIS	N	14	3	\$78,141	\$2.66	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
18	144	VENCLEXTA	CANCER	Y	5	1	\$77,658	\$2.65	5	2	\$27,479	\$1.24	112.7 %
19	149	VUMERITY	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS	Y	9	1	\$77,011	\$2.63	9	1	\$56,964	\$2.58	1.7 %
20	88	LYNPARZA	CANCER	Y	4	1	\$75,232	\$2.57	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
21	169	CALQUENCE	CANCER	Y	4	1	\$67,697	\$2.31	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
22	23	JARDIANCE	DIABETES	N	205	32	\$64,875	\$2.21	160	23	\$92,640	\$4.20	-47.3 %
23	67	SKYRIZI	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	9	1	\$62,716	\$2.14	9	1	\$58,888	\$2.67	-19.8 %
24	114	DASATINIB	CANCER	Y	7	1	\$60,549	\$2.06	10	1	\$93,423	\$4.23	-51.2 %
25	54	TREMFYA PEN INDUCTION (2	INFLAMMATORY CONDITIONS	Y	2	1	\$59,613	\$2.03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Total Top 25					2,949		\$5,039,392	\$171.83	1,642		\$2,689,514	\$121.85	41.0 %



Healthy



Peers 41%

These members had preventive care only

Moderate



Peers 16%

These members primarily had preventive care and treatment

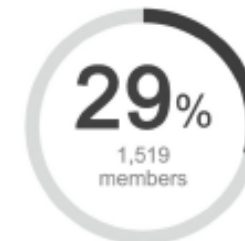
Serious



Peers 12%

These members had emergency care only or extensive care

No Visit

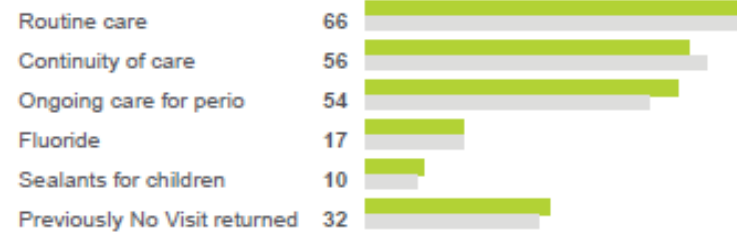


Peers 28%

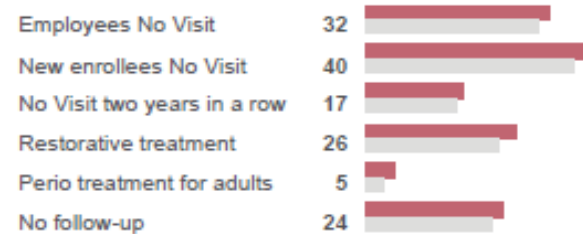
These members had no dental claims

Members with care

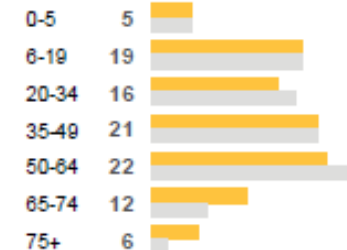
% of Members



Oral health opportunities



Age % of Members



Your Group

Peers

Your Peer Comparison

17 groups in Insurance Carriers and Related Activities, statewide

100+ members

High % of visits in NJ (your group has 94%)

Dental Action Report

Crista C. O'Donnell
Account Manager
codonnell@deltadentalnj.com



**BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
CONSENT AGENDA
SEPTEMBER 29, 2026**

The following Resolutions listed on the Consent Agenda will be enacted in one motion. Copies of all Resolutions are available to any person upon request. Any Commissioner wishing to remove any Resolution(s) to be voted upon, may do so at this time, and said Resolution(s) will be moved and voted separately.

Motion_____ **Second**_____

Resolutions	Subject Matter
--------------------	-----------------------

Resolution 28-26: 2027 Budget Adoption.....	Page 34
Resolution 29-26: July and August 2026 Bills List	Page 35

RESOLUTION NO. 28-26

**BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
ADOPTION OF THE 2027 INTRODUCED BUDGET**

WHEREAS, The Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund is required under State regulation to adopt an annual budget in accordance with the Fiscal Affairs Law; and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Executive Committee met on August 25, 2026, in Public Session to introduce the proposed budget for the 2027 Fund Year; and

WHEREAS, the Executive Committee met on September 29, 2026, in Public Session to adopt the proposed budget and for the 2027 Fund Year; and

WHEREAS, that a public hearing to adopt the 2027 budget was held on September 29, 2026, at 12:00 pm

WHEREAS, this budget was introduced on the basis of savings on the prescription claims line increasing the Body Mass Index number through the Omada GLP1 program;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Committee of the Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund hereby adopt the 2027 budget in the amount of \$108,472,203

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to each Commissioner, Risk Manager, and Governing Body, the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance, and the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs.

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

RESOLUTION NO. 29-26

**BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2026 BILLS LISTS**

WHEREAS, the **Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund** held a Public Meeting on **SEPTEMBER 29, 2026** for the purposes of conducting the official business of the Fund; and

WHEREAS, The Treasurer for the Fund presented bills lists to satisfy outstanding costs incurred for operating the Fund during the month of September 2026 for consideration and approval of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, a quorum of the Executive Committee was present thereby conforming with the By-laws of the Fund to conduct official business of the Fund,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners of the Executive Committee of the **Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund** hereby approve the Bills List for September 2026 prepared by the Treasurer of the Fund and duly authorize and concur said bills to be paid expeditiously, in accordance with the laws and regulations promulgated by the State of New Jersey for Municipal Health Insurance Funds.

ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

BY: _____
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:

SECRETARY

APPENDIX I

BERGEN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND
OPEN MEETING: AUGUST 25, 2026
FRANKLIN LAKES BOROUGH
12:00 P.M.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hart. The Open Public Meeting Notice was read into the record.

ROLL CALL OF 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Gregory Hart, Chair	Present
Richard Kunze, Secretary	Present
Gregory Franz, Executive Committee	Present
Donna Gambutti, Executive Committee	Present
Bob Kakoleski, Executive Committee	Present
Anthony Ciannamea, Executive Committee	Present
James Gasparini, Executive Committee	Absent
Tomas Padilla, Executive Committee Alternate	Present
Joe Voytus, Executive Committee Alternate	Present
Durene Ayer, Executive Committee Alternate	Present
Erin Delaney, Executive Committee Alternate	Absent

APPOINTED OFFICIALS PRESENT:

Executive Director/ Administrator	PERMA Risk Management Services	Emily Koval James Rhodes
Attorney	Huntington Bailey, LLP	Bill Bailey
Treasurer	Joseph Iannaconi	Absent
Third Party Administrator	Aetna	Jason Silverstein
Dental Claims Administrator	Delta Dental of NJ, Inc.	Kim White
Auditor	Lerch, Vinci & Higgins	Absent
Actuary	John Vataha	Absent
Independent Consultant	LaMendola Associates	Absent
Benefits Consultant	Conner Strong	John Lajewski
RX Administrator	Express Scripts	Packy Costello
Wellness Coordinator	Dina Robinson	Present

OTHERS PRESENT:

See Sign in Sheet at the end of Minutes packet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *June 23, 2026*

MOTION: Commissioner Kakoleski

SECOND: Commissioner Franz
ROLL CALL VOTE: 9 ayes, 0 nays

CORRESPONDENCE – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Strategic Planning – Commissioner Kunze reported the committee met to conduct a comprehensive review of Fund performance year-to-date using advanced metrics through the MRHIF data warehouse. The committee reviewed various cost containment strategies, including three initiatives to consider: Grail Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Program, Hinge Health Musculoskeletal Program, and Revision of GLP-1 Medication threshold from less than 32 to less than 35.

Administration and Finance Committee – Commissioner Kakoleski reported that the committee met to review the proposed 2027 budget and thanked the Executive Direct team and professionals for preparing a budget that presents a very reasonable increase given the challenging environment in the marketplace. He noted the committee is recommending proceeding with the 2027 budget and approval of the proposed rates, with an average increase of 5.8%.

Wellness Committee – Commissioner Voytus reported the committee has been preparing for the upcoming BMED Brunch scheduled for September 15th. He encourages all Fund Commissioners and wellness coordinators to attend. The brunch will feature presentations from Chair, the wellness coordinator regarding the wellness programs and participation opportunities. He commented the invitation is on page 34 of the meeting agenda.

Small Claims Committee – No Report

Nominations Committee – It was announced that Chair Hart is retiring at the end of the year and the nominations committee is actively reviewing candidates for the open position and will make recommendations at a future meeting.

New Members' Committee – Commissioner Franz deferred to Mr. Lajewski to provide the updated information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FAST TRACK FINANCIAL REPORT – Ms. Koval reviewed the Fast Track for the month of June, noting there was a slight deficit but demonstrated a year-to-date surplus of \$6.4 million through June 2026. The current one-month claims reserve is 1.2 months, but the target is 2 to 2.5 months.

2027 BUDGET – Ms. Koval reviewed the proposed 2027 budget representing a 5.57% overall increase over the prior year's annualized budget. Key highlights include:

- Medical claims projections show a reduction of -1.60%
- Prescription claims projections increase 6.52%, improving from the previous year due to GLP-1 cost stabilization
- Dental claims remain flat

- The budget includes flexibility through contingency provisions to strengthen the Fund's financial position and address prior-year deficits

Ms. Koval commented that despite the claims appearing lower, the projection is supported by the Fund Actuary based on the Fund's positive performance trend and successful mid-year strategic initiatives implemented in 2025.

MRHIF UPDATES - Ms. Koval provided an update on the Medical TPA RFP, which is currently under review by the Office by State Comptroller, the 2027 budget is in development for introduction on September 9th, and the bylaw amendment is pending, with legal memo to be provided.

CMS UPDATE - Ms. Koval noted that Aetna has been very corporative but there is no current update at this time.

Ms. Koval noted the remainder of the report is informational. There were no additional questions for the Executive Director report.

BENEFIT CONSULTANT'S REPORT

Mr. Lajewski reviewed the report on the agenda, covering Fund performance, State health plan developments, and strategic initiatives.

An extended discussion regarding GLP-1 medications took place, and whether to expand coverage to include oral formulations. Currently, the Fund covers injectable GLP-1 medications for weight loss but excludes oral formulations. Express Scripts estimates that adding oral coverage would increase utilization by approximately 20%, adding approximately \$400,000 in annual costs.

The Strategic Planning Committee recommended continuing the current exclusion of oral formulations pending further data; however, the Committee noted this decision warrants reconsideration and deferred final determination pending strategic planning follow-up.

Mr. Lajewski reviewed recommended immediate strategic initiatives:

- GLP-1 BMI Threshold Adjustment: Increase from ≥ 32 to ≥ 35 effective January 1, 2027, with no grandfathering for current users (existing users evaluated on original baseline BMI). Estimated annual savings: \$113,725 (\$3.10 PMPM). The Strategic Planning Committee agreed to recommend this adjustment.
- Grail Multi-Cancer Early Detection: A blood test addressing nearly 50 different cancers for early-stage identification. Cost: \$749 per member; estimated net first-year cost: \$15,000. Requires RFP.
- Hinge Health Musculoskeletal Program: Targets the Fund's top three chronic conditions including lower back pain. Includes 3.1% ROI guarantee with 100% cost at risk.

Some future considerations include reference-based pricing, which require a separate RFP and GLP-1 direct-to-consumer management strategies that continue to be studied.

Mr. Lajewski reviewed the three new member proposals:

- (1) Hackensack Housing Authority - underwriting determined a competitive quote is possible
- (2) Cliffside Park Housing Authority - determined uncompetitive at this time
- (3) Old Tappan – updated claims experience pending.

A discussion occurred regarding the fact that Hackensack Housing Authority only has seventeen active employees, concerning the small group size and potential volatility risk.

Mr. Lajewski noted that the open enrollment window is October 26 – November 6, 2026, with WEX system deadline of November 20, 2026.

The remainder of the Benefits Consultant report was informational and there were no further questions.

FUND ATTORNEY – Fund Attorney reported on the MRHIF bylaw amendment, which a detailed discussion will occur during closed session. He also confirmed that the CMS audit results are pending.

TREASURER – The Fund Treasurer reviewed the current bills list included in the agenda, which is in consent agenda for approval.

BOARD ADVISOR- No report but it was noted that his contract is expiring at the end of the year and further discussions will occur in closed session.

WELLNESS COORDINATOR – Ms. Robinson reiterated Commissioner Voytus’ wellness committee report, noting that September 15th will be the BMED Brunch and encouraged all to RSVP. She announced the 2027 grant application program details regarding eligibility, funding amounts and current participating municipalities.

AETNA – Mr. Silverstein reviewed his report as presented on the agenda, with particular attention to per-employee claims activity for the months of May and June. He reported two high-cost claimants for May and six for June.

For network updates, he stated successful inclusion of Hackensack Meridian without disruptions effective retroactively to July 1, 2026, and there are ongoing negotiations with Virtua Health negotiations for January 1, 2027, effective date.

EXPRESS SCRIPTS – Mr. Costello reviewed the report in the agenda, noting the generic fill rate is 83.5%, and specialty drugs comprise 43.1% of total plan cost. GLP-1 medications for weight loss and anti-inflammatory drug remain the top prescribed medications. The Fund is monitoring emerging GLP-1 indications beyond weight loss and discussing potential future clinical protocols with Express Scripts.

DELTA DENTAL – Ms. White reviewed the report in the agenda, as dental plans continue to run favorably with no issues.

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution 24-26: 2027 Budget Introduction

Resolution 25-26: July and August 2026 Bills List

MOTION:	Commissioner Kakoleski
SECOND:	Commissioner Kunze
VOTE:	All in Favor

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Voytus raised a question regarding the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation to continue the exclusion of oral GLP-1 medications. He noted that if the Fund considers GLP-1 medications beneficial to members' health, the decision to exclude the oral formulation solely for financial reasons may be inconsistent with the overall mission to provide comprehensive coverage.

It was questions whether the financial rationale for exclusion appropriately balanced member benefit with fiscal responsibility. Mr. Lajewski and Mr. Bailey provided context regarding pharmaceutical formulary management practices and noted that clinical protocols and coverage restrictions are industry-standard cost containment methods. Commissioner Kunze noted that the Strategic Planning Committee and Finance Committee reviewed the data and made their recommendations based on a comprehensive evaluation, but he acknowledged the merits of reconsidering the decisions and proposed deferring final determination. It was determined the Strategic Planning Committee will conduct further analysis and bring a revised recommendation at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no business brought before the Executive Committee at this meeting.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 26-26 TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION

MOTION:	Commissioner Franz
SECOND:	Commissioner Kunze
ROLL CALL VOTE:	All in favor

Upon reconvening in open session, the Committee addressed the following items:

Board Advisor Contract: The committee agreed to proceed with a non-fair contract renewal for one additional year, with a resolution to be prepared for the September 29th meeting.

MRHIF Bylaw Amendment: The committee considered Resolution 27-26 regarding a bylaw amendment for MRHIF. Mr. Bailey provided a memorandum for Mr. Harris and noted a 75% membership vote is required to approve the amendment, where BMED approval is not required.

RESOLUTION 27-26 APPROVAL OF A BYLAW AMENDMENT FOR THE MUNICIPAL REINUSRANCE HEALTH INSURANCE FUND; Motion did not pass.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment made at the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJORN:

MOTION:

SECOND:

VOTE:

Commissioner Kakoleski

Commissioner Kunze

Unanimous

MEETING ADJOURNED: 2:05pm

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 29, 2026

Caitlin Perkins, Account Manager

SIGN IN SHEET

BMED – August 25, 2026

NAME	AGENCY
Nicholas Prochilo	Garfield
Lisa Sabato	World Ins. Assoc.
Renee Gear	World Ins Assoc.
Rich Kunze	Oakland
Kaymond Burke	CONNER STONE & BUCK
MATHEW M. McARROW SR.	RMC, GJEM Insurance
Matt McArroe Jr.	RMC, GJEM Insurance
Julie Sernelaw	LMAC
Kenn White	DDSS
Clare Larnendalen	Advoquest
Donna Hansen	Wellness coordinator
Laurie O'Hanlon	Midland Park
Jesse Moehlman	Fanwood
Brittany Votter	Votter
Lisa Crannan	Maunahi
FRANK COVONE	PIA/NORLIS
Stacie Chant	Fairview
Kate McEwan	Fairview

APPENDIX II

BMED Strategic Planning Committee
September 22, 2026, at 10:00am via TEAMS

Rich Kunze, Committee Chair

Greg Hart, Executive Committee Chair

John Arthur, Subcommittee Member

John Lajewski, Benefits Consultant

Jim Rhodes, Executive Director

Emily Koval, Associate Executive Director

Caitlin Perkins, Account Manager

GLP-1 Discussions

Mr. Lajewski reviewed the prior recommendation to raise the BMI eligibility threshold for GLP-1 weight-loss coverage from >32 to >35. He confirmed there is no additional cost to the Fund to make this change. He described the process as existing patients will require new Prior Authorizations under the revised BMI threshold, based on their BMI at initial prescription. New prescriptions will be evaluated under the new threshold going forward and outreach will be made to affected members and to Fund brokers.

In response to Commissioner Kunze, Mr. Lajewski noted that Express Scripts has not been able to provide this on a Fund-specific basis. Mr. Lajewski will revisit with Express Scripts again.

The Committee affirmed support for the BMI threshold change. Ms. Koval will discuss with the Fund Attorney the appropriate mechanism to document the change.

Regarding the GLP-1 oral formulary change that was requested for discussion at the last meeting, Mr. Lajewski reviewed updated cost information from Express Scripts on covering the oral versions of GLP-1 medication. The estimate includes a utilization increase of 20% and would add roughly \$400,000 in cost once trend and the utilization patterns are factored in. He noted the oral medication would be cost-neutral relative to the injectable for members who simply switch formulations, the cost increase is driven by new utilization from members who would not otherwise have taken an injection.

Discussion covered whether sufficient utilization guardrails exist, the lack of outcomes and cost-offset data at this early stage, the lack of peer Funds agreeing to cover the oral option, and the budget impact.

The Committee recommended taking no action at this time and continuing monitoring pricing, utilization, and outcomes data with the intent to revisit the question in approximately six months rather than deferring indefinitely.

Other Cost Containment Strategies

Mr. Lajewski recapped the Grail multi-cancer screening test, which is administered through Grail rather than through Aetna and would therefore require a separate RFP. Grail modeled the Fund's demographics and estimated total annual program costs of approximately of \$93,000, which an estimated net cost of about \$15,000 after anticipated claims savings. The program does not carry a savings guarantee.

The Committee discussed the clinical and financial rationale, noting rising cancer diagnoses in the Fund's claims history and the potential to avoid catastrophic late-stage treatment costs. The Committee supported moving forward with the Grail program.

For Hinge Health, it is a rebranded, Aetna-administered web-based musculoskeletal treatment program intended to redirect members from unnecessary surgical intervention. Aetna estimates annual program costs of approximately \$100,000 with fees guaranteed at 125%, meaning the Fund will be refunded fully.

The Committee supported adding Hinge Health as a voluntary member benefit through Aetna.

MRHIF Updates

Ms. Koval reported the approval to release the Medical TPA RFP remains pending. Given the compressed timeline, a normal RFP and evaluation process could be complex for a 1/1 change. She noted for comparison, another Fund went to RFP independently and the increase was just under 4%, whereas the budget assumes a 5% increase, providing cushion if needed.

Ms. Koval reviewed the Fund's SIR history, noting the current plan calls for a \$50,000 increase. At the request of Commissioner Voytus, actuarial analysis was obtained on raising the SIR further to \$400,000. The analysis would save approximately \$75,00 in premium but increase exposure.

The Committee agreed not to increase the SIR beyond the already planned \$375,000 for this renewal cycle, favoring a cautious approach given the Fund's current financial position, noting a single large claim can erase any premium savings.