

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
ACTION REFERRAL

BZ

TO	DATE
Single copy/FOIA	7-1-11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY		ACTION REQUESTED	
1. LOC NUMBER	000001	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for the Director's signature	DATE DUE _____
2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR	cc: Giese, Stansland	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare reply for appropriate signature	DATE DUE _____
Dirdra, Bz will be doing the response, so you can correspond w/ her.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FOIA	DATE DUE 7-18-11
		<input type="checkbox"/> Necessary Action	

APPROVALS (Only when prepared for director's signature)		APPROVE	* DISAPPROVE (Note reason for disapproval and return to preparer.)	COMMENT
1.	Cleared 7/14/11			
2.	Letter attached.			
3.				
4.				

**NEXSEN | PRUET**

**Matthew B. Roberts**  
Member  
Admitted in SC, NC

July 1, 2011

**RECEIVED**

JUL 01 2011

**HAND DELIVERY**

Anthony E. Keck  
Director  
South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
P.O. Box 8206  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Re: Freedom of Information Request  
  
Dear Tony:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act, SC Code Ann. § 30-4-10 et seq., I hereby request a copy of all letters, emails, faxes, reports, questions and responses, studies or other communication between Welvista, Inc. and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") regarding any matter that was communicated on June 30, 2011.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Columbia  
Greensboro  
Greenville  
Hilton Head  
Myrtle Beach  
Raleigh

Very truly yours,



Matthew B. Roberts

MBR/jcb

**RECEIVED**

JUL 01 2011

Department of Health & Human Services  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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Nexsen Pruet, LLC  
Attorneys and Counselors at Law

# Welvista

*Hope and wellness for the uninsured.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** June 29, 2011

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Will Rothschild

(864) 208-6998

[will@rothschildnaultsby.com](mailto:will@rothschildnaultsby.com)

## General Assembly Restores Funding For Welvista

COLUMBIA, SC – June 29, 2011 – Welvista announced today it will receive state funding following the General Assembly's passage of the state's 2011-2012 fiscal year budget. The funding is critical as Welvista continues to tackle rising demand for its services statewide.

"I am very grateful to the General Assembly for including Welvista in what was a very difficult budget year," Welvista CEO Ken Trogon said. "I want to especially note the leadership of Rep. Brian White from Anderson, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Sen. Thomas Alexander of Oconee."

"This is a victory for the thousands of South Carolinians who depend on Welvista for their essential prescription medications. I also believe this is a good day for the state's entire health care system and all South Carolina taxpayers," Trogon said. "By supporting this public-private partnership, the General Assembly has ensured vast savings for hospital systems and health care providers statewide. When the uninsured have access to essential medications, the result is fewer trips to the emergency room, fewer long-term hospital admissions, and lower indigent care costs that hospitals have to absorb and seek to recoup from insured patients. That cycle not only is one of the single biggest drivers of the cost of care for everyone, it also directly impacts the cost of Medicaid and other taxpayer-funded government programs."

The funding will allow Welvista to expand its services to potentially thousands of more uninsured South Carolinians. Last year alone, through its partnerships with nearly 20 of the leading pharmaceutical companies in the world, Welvista provided more than \$50 million in prescription medications to uninsured and underserved South Carolinians.

The organization had received as much as \$700,000 in state funding in previous years, but has seen that amount dramatically cut since 2009. Meanwhile, demand for Welvista's services has risen sharply during the same time period as thousands of South Carolinians have lost employer-based health insurance.

### About Welvista

Welvista is an innovative model of non-governmental healthcare intervention serving thousands of patients in South Carolina. This healthcare network provides medications at no cost to the uninsured who do not qualify for Medicaid, Medicare or VA insurance, and those who cannot afford to pay for insurance coverage on their own. To learn more about the organization, visit [www.welvista.org](http://www.welvista.org).

# # #

# Fax

To:	<i>Mr. Frank</i>	From:	
Fax:	<i>955-8385</i>	Pages:	<i>2</i>
Phone:		Date:	June 30, 2011
Re:		CC:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent <input type="checkbox"/> For Review <input type="checkbox"/> Please Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Please Reply <input type="checkbox"/> Please Recycle			

*Look into Melvista before you  
sign contract. Mr. Hodgson  
under investigation*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Will Rothschild

(864) 208-6998

[will@rothschildnaulsky.com](mailto:will@rothschildnaulsky.com)

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# # #

Log #000001

July 14, 2011

Mr. Matthew B. Roberts  
NEXSEN | PRUET  
P. O. Drawer 2426  
Columbia, SC 29202

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Your letter of July 1, 2011 (enclosed), has been referred to this Office for a response. We have investigated and believe that (other than legal advice) the only documents responsive to your request are excluded from disclosure under S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-40(15). Accordingly, we must respectfully decline your request.

Please contact me if we have misunderstood your request, or if you have questions. My direct is (803) 898-2791.

Sincerely,

  
Richard G. Hepfer  
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosure