

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
 ACTION REFERRAL

BZ

TO Dingleton/FOIA DATE 7-1-11

DIRECTOR'S USE ONLY

1. LOG NUMBER 000001

2. DATE SIGNED BY DIRECTOR cc: Giese, Stumland

ACTION REQUESTED

Prepare reply for the Director's signature
 DATE DUE _____

Prepare reply for appropriate signature
 DATE DUE _____

FOIA
 DATE DUE 7-18-11

Necessary Action

Dirdra, Bz will be doing the response, so you can correspond w/ her.

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

Department of Health & Human Services
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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

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.

Charleston
Charlotte
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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Columbia, SC 29202
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Attorneys and Counselors at Law



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Will Rothschild
(864) 208-6998
will@rothschildmautsky.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 Trogdon 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,” Trogdon 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 cur 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.

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Fax

To: *Mr. Stark* **From:**
Fax: 955-8335 **Pages:** 2
Phone: **Date:** June 30, 2011
Re: **CC:**

Urgent For Review Please Comment Please Reply Please Recycle

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Will Rothschild

(864) 208-6998

will@rothschildmauldsby.com

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Log # 000001 ✓

July 14, 2011

Mr. Matthew B. Roberts
NEXSEN | PRJET
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