

May 17, 2017

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the office of the Board at 600 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey, with James H. Rhodes, Chair, presiding. The following members were present:

Susan Michielli, Vice Chair; Ginny Betteridge; Gwen DeVera

Also present were: Shawn Sheekey, Director; Christine Hentisz, Deputy Director; Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Sharon Faber, Esquire; Greg Smith, Sr. Management Assistant; Sharon Hall, Sr. Management Assistant; Joan Quinton, Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Nicole Jefferson, Keyboarding Clerk 3

Public Attendance: Gerry Baker, President, CWA-Local 1084; Michelle Acevedo, Legislative Chair, CWA-Local 1084; Lizzie Jones, Vice President, WSO; Darnell Hardee

At 12:00 P.M., a quorum being present, Mr. Rhodes called the meeting to order, and announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Courier Post Newspaper and the Philadelphia Inquirer were notified of the Board Meeting; notice of the agenda was posted in a prominent location at 600 Market Street and the County Clerk was notified.

Mr. Rhodes requested approval of the following items:

- Minutes of the April Board Meeting.
- The listed expenditures from both Clearing and Administration Accounts.
- The payment of salaries and traveling expenses for May.
- Requisition from the County Treasurer for administration expenses for June.
- To move funds, to be requisitioned from the State and County Treasurers less monies on hand for assistance payments for the month of June.

Ms. Betteridge moved to approve. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion, and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously adopted.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to open the meeting for public participation. Ms. Betteridge moved to open the Public Participation portion of the Open Session, seconded by Ms. DeVera and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Baker addressed the Board introducing himself as the new CWA Local 1084 Union President. Mr. Baker assured that the CWA Local 1084 will continue to work along cohesively with the Board as it has done for the past 35 years for the benefit of the CWA Local 1084 union members.

Mr. Rhodes asked if there were any additional members of the public wishing to address the Board. Seeing that there was no one, Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to close the Public Participation portion of the Open Session. Ms. Betteridge moved to close the Public Portion of the Open Session of the meeting. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The Open Session of the meeting continued.

UPDATE STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey stated that all Board members would find a synopsis of informational transmittals, procedural bulletins, general assistance procedural bulletins and Division of Family Development instructions in their packet. If there were any questions on any of the material, Mr. Sheekey stated that he or his staff would be happy to answer.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve the Director’s Update on the State and Federal Policies.

Ms. Betteridge moved to approve. Ms. Michielli seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the motion to approve the Update was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 219-2017 Authorizing Agreements Pursuant to Camden County’s Publicly Advertised Request for Proposals for the Provision of Special Counsel, Conflicts Counsel, and Labor Counsel Services Sharon Faber, Esquire

The County of Camden has identified a need for legal services, special counsel, conflicts counsel and labor counsel in the event that the Office of County Counsel is unable to provide such representation by virtue of a conflict of interest or other appropriate reason. Pursuant to a publicly advertised RFP for such services and according to RFP policy, the County of Camden, by Resolution adopted April 20, 2017, authorized agreements with various law firms for provisions of the services previously described, for the County and its agencies and authorities, including the Board. The Board, contingent upon the need for legal services and the availability of funds for such purposes, authorizes the proper Board officials to execute all necessary documents to affect the agreements with the approved list of law firms for the period of one (1) year commencing on or about May 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 219-2017.

Ms. Betteridge moved to adopt. Ms. Michielli seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

**Resolution 220-2017 (walk on) –
Authorizing Budget for Year 2017Sharon Faber, Esquire**

Mr. Rhodes explained that the Resolution sets forth the total budget for 2017. This Resolution would be contingent on the passing of the County’s budget resolution, which is to be presented at the Freeholders Meeting on May 18, 2017.

After discussion and review, Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to walk on and adopt Resolution 220-2017.

Ms. Betteridge moved to adopt. Ms. Michielli seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey stated that Deputy Director, Christine Hentisz, attended the DFD meeting. Ms. Hentisz stated that The Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) made a presentation regarding the soon to be released, automated online application system for clients wanting to apply for the Aged Blind & Disabled (ABD) and Long Term Care assistance. Ms. Hentisz also stated at the DFD meeting, it was discussed that employee fraud needs to be reported to the State and FNS. There have been a few issues where employees throughout different counties in the state, were fraudulently issuing benefits to those that were not eligible. FNS and the State provided contact information so that if such an issue would occur, administration would know the proper person to contact and also be informed of the proper procedures to handle the issue.

Mr. Sheekey provided information on two initiatives that will soon be under way to the Board. One initiative is the Prisoner Re-Entry Program that is involved with the Department of Corrections. Mr. Sheekey has attended meetings to discuss what resources the Camden County Board of Social Services can provide, and also to come up with a plan or procedure on how to make this re-entry program successful. The second initiative is the Homelessness Initiative for Camden County. The main focus is the panhandling that is a pervasive issue throughout the city. A group from Albuquerque, New Mexico will be coming to meet with County officials next week to discuss the benefits and success they have seen from instituting a day labor program. This program is a not-for-profit program where homeless individuals can work for a day and be paid. Mr. Sheekey has attended meetings and have been discussing with County officials some of the concerns and issues that may arise. The plan is to roll out a small pilot within the city of Camden, and then hopefully to expand county-wide.

Mr. Sheekey asked that Deputy Director, Christine Hentisz, provide an update on the ongoing FNS SNAP Collaborative. Ms. Hentisz, stated the mail process from when the Agency receives client documentation, to when the documentation is assigned to a case worker to process has gone down from an eight-day turnaround to a one to two-day turnaround. Mr. Sheekey stated that streamlining the mail process has shown great improvement towards the Agency’s timeliness rate. He stated that

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

the Agency will continue to look for ways to improve their process and getting client's their benefits in a timely manner.

Mr. Rhodes wanted to share that Freeholder Rodriguez, at the Freeholder Caucus Meeting, praised and commended the Camden County Board of Social Services for the great strides and efforts the Agency has been making with implementing new mail processes and the new phone system.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve the Director's Report.

Ms. Michielli moved to approve. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the motion approving the Report was unanimously adopted.

FISCAL REPORT..... Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Konopka stated that each Board member had received copies of Fiscal Reports in their packet for April 2017.

Ms. Konopka stated that if anyone had any questions she would be happy to address them.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to accept the Fiscal Report for April 2017 as presented in the packet.

Ms. Betteridge moved to accept. Ms. Michielli seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the Report was unanimously accepted.

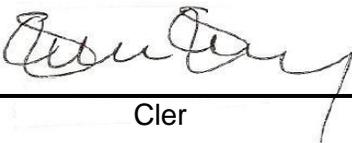
OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to close the Open Session of the meeting and move to the Closed Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters. Ms. Betteridge moved to discuss such matters in closed session. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion, and there being no discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.



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