

April 15, 2020

At 12:00 P.M., a quorum being present, Mr. McKernan called the annual reorganization 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.

Reorganization – Board Members of the Camden County Board of Social Services

Mr. McKernan requested a roll call:

Mr. James H. Rhodes	Present
Ms. Virginia Betteridge	Present
Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD.	Present
Ms. Gwen DeVera	Present
Ms. Sharrae Morman	Present
Chris Orlando, County Clerk	Absent
Freeholder Director Louis Cappelli	Absent
Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez	Absent

Mr. McKernan called for election of officers:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary/Treasurer
Vice Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. DeVera nominated: James Rhodes, as Chairman, Virginia Betteridge, as Vice Chairperson, Ms. Sharrae Morman as Secretary/Treasurer and Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD., as Vice Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. DeVera moved to elect the current slate of officers. Ms. Betteridge seconded the motion.

Mr. McKernan asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. McKernan stated there being no other nominations he would direct that the nominations be closed. There were no objections to the motion.

Mr. McKernan stated that the nominations are:

Chairman – James H. Rhodes
Vice Chairman – Virginia Betteridge
Secretary/Treasurer – Sharrae Morman
Vice Secretary/Treasurer – Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD.

OPEN SESSION Public Participation

Mr. McKernan declared that the slate of officers as previously mentioned in the motion is hereby elected for the forthcoming year.

Mr. McKernan turned the meeting over to the Chairman, James H. Rhodes and the Open Session resumed.

Mr. Rhodes requested approval of the following items:

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

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

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OPEN SESSION Public Participation

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. virtually in the office of the Board at 600 Market Street, Camden, New Jersey, with James H. Rhodes, Chair, presiding. The following members were present via teleconference:

Virginia Betteridge, Vice Chair; Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Vice Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera;

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Lauwana Martin, Deputy Director; Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Charles G. Oppermann, Esquire; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician; Donnette (Molly) Brown, Human Resource Manager; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: 22 participants via Webex

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, which motion was seconded by Ms. Morman and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Rhodes asked if there were any members of the public wishing to address the Board.

Seeing 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. Morman seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

OPEN SESSION

The Open Session of the meeting continued.

UPDATE STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES Christine Hentisz, Director

Ms. Hentisz 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, Ms. Hentisz stated that she or her staff would be happy to comment on them.

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

Ms. Betteridge moved to approved. Dr. Krivy 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 216-2020 – Authorizing the Additional Not-To-Exceed Limitations Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esquire..... Edward Hill, Esquire

On April 17, 2019 the Camden County Board of Social Services, a public corporation of the State of New Jersey, appointed Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esquire as Solicitor in an amount not-to-exceed \$14,520.00 to advise the members of the Board.

WHEREAS, the Board is currently engaged in extensive, complex and time consuming labor negotiations, which Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esquire is representing the interest of the Board. The Camden County Board of Social Services hereby approves an additional not-to-exceed amount of \$10,000.00 with an hourly rate of \$230.00 for Martin F. McKernan, Jr., Esquire retroactive to March 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 216-2020.

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

Resolution 217-2020 – Authorizing the Camden County Board of Social Service to Recognize May 3rd – May 9th, 2020 as Public Service Recognition Week in Honor of the Millions of Public Employees at the Federal State, County, and Municipal Levels Edward Hill, Esquire

Resolution 217-2020 recognizes public servants at the federal, state, county and municipal levels for the day-to-day diverse services they provide. The CCBSS proclaims May 3rd – May 9th, 2020 as Public Service Recognition Week and encourages all citizens to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of government workers at all levels.

OPEN SESSION

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 217-2020.

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

Resolution 218-2020 – Resolution Adopting Meeting Schedule and Designating Newspapers to Receive Notices for the Camden County Board of Social Services..... Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill stated that the Open Public Meetings Act states that the Board is required to adopt its annual meeting schedule and designate newspapers to receive notices for the Board of Social Services Board meetings.

Ms. Betteridge moved to adopt Resolution 218-2020 as presented. Ms. Morman 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..... Christine Hentisz, Director

Ms. Hentisz’ report was an update to the Board as to how the Agency is responding to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Agency remains open, however public access has been limited. Ms. Hentisz commended all staff that have assisted in processing the mass increase of applications.

Ms. Hentisz went on to report of the recent program changes. Many Food Stamps recipients received supplemental allotments for the months of March and April. A waiver was issued for all Food Stamps application interviews, with verbal verification being permitted. Also, telephonic signatures are allowable for those clients that cannot apply online or come into the Agency. Food Stamps, TANF/GA re-certifications for March, April, and May have been extended for six months. Work Activity requirements for these programs have also been lifted. The State Medicaid program has reinstated coverage for those who terminated on March 31st. The State Medicaid program will only terminate cases of clients that move out of state or voluntarily close their case. There has been a temporarily hold on Medicaid redeterminations, which will allow county welfare agencies to focus on processing new applications. New Medicaid applications will now include self-attestation. Also, any clinical assessments for ABD/LTC applications will be completed after the pandemic is over.

Next, Ms. Hentisz informed that the Agency has implemented Work-from-Home procedures for staff that are home due to school closures or have underlining medical conditions in relation to COVID-19. Cell phones have been distributed to staff and virtual access to the systems will be provided in the next coming week. For the staff that are working in the Agency, alternating work shifts were instituted to adhere to the social distancing requirements and to limit the amount of staff in the Agency. Ms. Hentisz stated client access to the Agency has been limited. Phone booths were constructed on the first floor for clients with extenuating circumstances that need to come in. The phone booths are equipped with a phone and a glass window. The booths also eliminate the case worker from bringing the client to their work cubicle.

OPEN SESSION

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency's daily cleaning has been increased. Frequent touched points and surfaces are being cleaned every few hours and there is a deep sanitizing being done every Saturday.

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

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

FISCAL REPORT Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Konopka stated that each Board member had received copies of the Fiscal Report in their packet for March 2020.

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 March 2020 as presented in the packet.

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

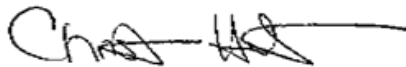
OLD BUSINESS

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. Morman seconded the motion, and there being no discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.



Clerk