

August 15, 2018

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, August 15, 2018 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:

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

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Nicolasa Medina, Deputy Director;
Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Sharon Faber, Esquire;
Donnette (Molly) Brown, Human Resource Manager; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to
Freeholder Carmen G. Rodriguez, Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: None

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 July Board Meeting.
- The listed expenditures from both Clearing and Administration Accounts.
- The payment of salaries and traveling expenses for August.
- Requisition from the County Treasurer for administration expenses for September.
- Movement of funds to be requisitioned from the State and County Treasurers less monies on hand for assistance payments for the month of September.

Dr. Krivy 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. Rhodes asked if there were any 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. 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 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 answer.

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

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 to approve the Update was unanimously adopted.

**Resolution 227-2018 – Renew Membership in the Southern New Jersey
Regional Employee Benefits Fund..... Ed Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 227-2018 authorizing the renewal of Camden County Board of Social Services' membership in the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund for a term of three years commencing February 1, 2018 and end of December 31, 2021.

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.

OPEN SESSION

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Christine Hentisz, Director

Ms. Hentisz provided updates to the Board from the Division of Family Development (DFD) and Division of Medical and Health Services (DMAHS). Due to the recent passing of the State’s 2019 Budget, there will be an increase the cash allotments for clients that receive TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). On August 1, 2018 General Assistance recipients received a ten dollar increase and a retro payment from July 1, 2018. TANF recipients will receive a ten dollar increase on September 1, 2018 with a retro payment from July 1st as well. Also, Ms. Hentisz informed that the Family Cap has been repealed. Previously, if client was receiving cash benefits and then wanted to add another child; no additional benefits were issued. However, now that the Family Cap has been repealed, additional benefits will be issued for any additional children. There are 13,000 children state-wide, that weren’t receiving cash assistance and in Camden County, there are 198 children of those 13,000. Ms. Hentisz went on to say, that the State has asked for a recalculation of cases where a client is paying an overpayment from their grant and also paying for their housing assistance, because effective October 1, 2018, those deductions will change. Ms. Hentisz also informed that there is a bill currently passing through the Senate, to change the ten dollar increase to a ten percent increase. Ms. Hentisz will have more updates to the Board when she receives them.

Ms. Hentisz informed the Board that DFD is very pleased with the progress the Agency has been making while under their Corrective Action Plan. Ms. Hentisz provided to the Board, reports showcasing the Agency’s vast improvement with processing cases on a monthly basis. Ms. Hentisz went on to say, the Agency works on the oldest case first, and also pulls any information or documentation that goes along with that case to be processed. There are currently two Human Service Specialists in the lobby’s receptionist desk handling client inquires or concerns. Ms. Hentisz is ensuring that the backlog issue is being addressed on all avenues and thinks the Agency is heading in the right direction to fix it.

Ms. Hentisz and Deputy Director, Ms. Medina, are continuing to meet with the Medical Department Supervisors and Administrators in preparation of the upcoming Payment Error Rate Management (PERM) Review. Ms. Hentisz and Ms. Medina are diligently looking at the processes and procedures of the Medical Department to get the department caught up.

Ms. Hentisz provided an update from the County Welfare Director’s Association. The annual Director’s Retreat will be held on September 13-14, 2018. The new commissioner from Department of Human Services will be in attendance at the retreat.

Ms. Hentisz provided the Board new samples of reports with various statistics and graphs to showcase monthly data and information from different departments at Camden County Board of Social Services. Ms. Hentisz also provided an update to the Board regarding the Agency’s newly released intranet site, Board of Social Services Today (BoSS Today). The portal has received great feedback from the staff members. Ms. Hentisz stated she will have a presentation of the new portal for the Board in the next coming months.

OPEN SESSION

Ms. Hentisz wanted to lastly report that the Homelessness and Prisoner Re-entry initiatives are continuing to be beneficial as she meets monthly with the County.

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

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 approving the Report was unanimously adopted.

FISCAL REPORT..... Paulette Konopka, Director

Ms. Konopka stated that each Board member had received copies of Fiscal Report in their packet for July 2018.

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 July 2018 as presented in the packet.

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

OPEN SESSION

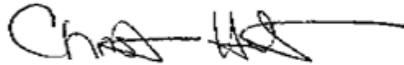
OLD BUSINESS

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. Dr. Krivy moved to discuss such matters in closed session. Ms. Betteridge seconded the motion, and there being no discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.



Clerk