

July 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held virtually on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 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:

Via Teleconference: Virginia Betteridge, Vice Chairperson; Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera

Not present: Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer

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

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

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. Rhodes asked if there were any members of the public wishing to address the Board. Hearing 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 POLICIESChristine 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. Morman 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.

OPEN SESSION

Resolution 223-2020 – In Memory of Claudia WilliamsEdward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 223-2020 In Memory of Claudia Williams which was read into the record by Ms. Hentisz.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 223-2020.

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

Resolution 224-2020 – Authorizing the Appointment of Solicitor to the Camden County Board of Social ServicesEdward Hill, Esquire

In response to publicly advertised Request for Proposals, the Board has received and reviewed a proposal from Martin F. McKernan, Jr. Esquire, a duly licensed attorney eligible to practice law in the State of New Jersey. The Camden County Board of Social Services appointed Martin. F McKernan, Jr. as Solicitor to the Camden County Board of Social Services at an hourly rate of \$230.00 with an annual limitation of \$17,000 for a term commencing on July 15, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 224-2020.

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

Resolution 225-2020 – Authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services Regarding the Administration of DMAHS Programs Including the New Jersey Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program.....Edward Hill, Esquire

The Camden County Board of Social Services authorizes the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of New Jersey Department of Human Services for the period January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 regarding the administration of DMAHS programs including the New Jersey Medicaid and children’s health insurance programs, and authorizes Christine Hentisz, Director of the Camden County Board of Social Services, to sign such Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 225-2020.

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.

OPEN SESSION

Resolution 226-2020 – Authorizing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Camden County One-Stop Career Center Partners.....Edward Hill, Esquire

The Camden County Board of Social Services is desirous of entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Camden County One-Stop Career Center Partners regarding the operation and management of the Camden County One-Stop Career Center, in the Workforce Development Board Area.

The Camden County Board of Social Services authorizes the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Camden County One-Stop Career Center Partners for the period April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 regarding the operation and management of the Camden County One-Stop Career Center, in the Workforce Development Board Area and authorizes Christine Hentisz, Director of the Camden County Board of Social Services, to sign such Memorandum of Understanding.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 226-2020.

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.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT..... Christine Hentisz, Director

Ms. Hentisz provided an update to the Board of the Agency’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Hentisz reported on the recent program changes from DFD (Division of Family Development) and DMAHS (Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services). The State approved Pandemic SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and which will be issued to New Jersey residents sometime in July. Pandemic SNAP provides SNAP benefits of \$416.10 per child to all households in which the child/children were receiving reduced or free lunch as of March 15th. The State is working along with the NJ school districts to gather all necessary information on children that were receiving reduced or free lunch. If the household was already receiving SNAP benefits, the additional benefits will be issued to their EBT card. If the household was not previously receiving SNAP benefits, an EBT card will be mailed by the State. At this time, this is a one-time issuance.

Next, Ms. Hentisz stated a supplemental increase allotment for the month of July was issued. Telephonic signatures for SNAP applications are allowable through the month of July. Ms. Hentisz continued, any SNAP cases that were set to be closed on 7/31, the certification has been extended for an additional six months. Also, the approval for telephonic signatures for those clients that cannot apply for Food Stamps/TANF/GA online, or come into the Agency, has been extended through July 2020. Telephone interviews for TANF/GA applications are permitted.

Ms. Hentisz stated that DMAHS began a pilot with a few county welfare agencies in implementing the entering of paper medical applications into the worker portal. Currently, only online applications are entered into the worker portal. Ms. Hentisz reported that our agency is included in the State’s Training Workgroup. This workgroup will focus on adjusting or improving the training of Medicaid programs.

Ms. Hentisz reported to the Board that July 6th all staff returned to a 35-hour per week work schedule. Previously, some staff were home due to child care/school closures or an underlying medical condition in relation to COVID-19. A rotation schedule and/or work-from-home shifts are still be implemented to adhere to the social distancing requirements.

Ms. Hentisz stated she is beginning to have discussions about the upcoming September school year and coming up with a plan for employees who have school-aged children.

OPEN SESSION

DIRECTOR’S REPORT (cont.)..... Christine Hentisz, Director

Office modifications such as: plexiglass and dividers have been installed throughout the building. Ms. Hentisz stated has the Agency has recently acquired the Surrogates’ Office, and she is planning to utilize that office space for client access only. Also, separate interview booths will be configured so that no employee will have to interview a client at their desk cubicle.

Ms. Hentisz also wanted to update the Board regarding the Medicaid MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) The MOU ensures that the Agency is processing Medicaid applications correctly, improving the timeliness of completing applications, and receiving enhanced funding. Ms. Hentisz reported that prior to the Pandemic, the Agency was close to year behind in completing ABD/LTC Medicaid cases, and currently the Agency’s oldest application is from October 2019. Ms. Hentisz stated there is still much work to do, but she is pleased with the improvement of the backlogged Medicaid cases.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz stated there will be a complete revamping of the Agency’s current confidentiality policies. Ms. Hentisz stated it is important to emphasize the seriousness of client confidentiality to all staff. Also to train staff on state and federal regulations in relation to client confidentiality.

Mr. Rhodes thanked Ms. Hentisz for her Director’s Report and asked if there were any questions or comments.

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, Fiscal Officer

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

OPEN SESSION

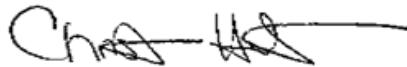
OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Betteridge expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the great efforts of all the staff at Camden County Board of Social Services in serving the residents during the pandemic. Mr. Rhodes thanked Ms. Betteridge and whole heartedly agreed with her statement.

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.



Clerk