

March 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. in the office of the Board at 101 Woodcrest Road, Suite 161, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 08003 with James H. Rhodes, Chair, presiding. The following members were present:

Vice Chair, Andres Camacho; Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; John Kendall; Gwen DeVera

Public Attendance: Stephen Johnson, CWA Local 1084 President, Tamila Carr, CWA Local 1084 Vice President, other various CWA Local 1084 Members in-person and via Zoom

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Ivory Marrero, Deputy Director; Edward Hill, Esquire; Rich Behm, IT Director; Fred Anderson, IT Supervisor, Christine Colbert, Personnel Officer, Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Susan Purvin, Esquire

At 12:00 p.m., a quorum being present, Chairman Rhodes called the meeting to order, and announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Courier Post Newspaper was notified of the Board Meeting; notice of the agenda was posted in a prominent location at 101 Woodcrest Road, Suite 161, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, and the County Clerk was notified.

Chairman Rhodes requested approval of the following items:

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

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

Mr. Kendall 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**

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

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

Stephen Johnson presented to the Board a petition which was signed by over 92% of CWA Local 1084 Members. Mr. Johnson stated that he and his members are petitioning respect on the job through a good union contract. Mr. Johnson continued to say, CWA Local 1084 members hold various positions within in the Agency, and that provides a lifeline of services to the residents of Camden County. Mr. Johnson stated that it is very critical that his members are treated with dignity and respect on the job, as well as to receive better benefits and better pay. Mr. Johnson stated that the members of CWA Local 1084 at Camden County Board of Social Services are organized, determined, and unapologetically CWA strong. Mr. Johnson stated he and his members are eager to secure a transformational contract that makes our workers better, our client’s lives better, and makes New Jersey Strong.

Jennifer Lucas inquired if there was a timeline on the hiring of a Trainer and Trainer Supervisor?

Mrs. Hentisz replied that for the Training Supervisor position the Agency is waiting for the fiscal budget to be finalized. As for the Training Tech position, Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency will have to wait until Civil Service issues a test.

Chairman Rhodes thanked those for their comments and asked if there were any other members that wished to address the Board.

Hearing and seeing that there was no one, Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to close the Public Participation portion of the Open Session. Mr. Kendall 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.

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

Mr. Kendall 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 204-2024—Ratifying a Shared Services Agreement (Five Year Option) By and Between the County of Camden and the Camden County Board of Social Services for the Provision of Wrap Around Services and Case Management.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 204-2024. Resolution No. 86 adopted March 21, 2024, the Camden County Board of Camden County Board of Commissioners authorized a Shared Services Agreement with the Camden County Board of Social Services for the provision of Wrap Around Services and Case Management for a period of one (1) year, effective April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. The total annual

OPEN SESSION

Resolution 204-2024 (cont.)—Ratifying a Shared Services Agreement (Five Year Option) By and Between the County of Camden and the Camden County Board of Social Services for the Provision of Wrap Around Services and Case Management.....Edward Hill, Esquire

cost of Wrap Around Services and Case Management shall be one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) payable from the Homeless Trust Fund.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 204-2024. Vice Chair Camacho 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 205-2024— Authorizing An Award Of Contract (New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance #CK04), By And Between The Camden County Board Of Social Services And SHI, For Payroll Management System..... Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 205-2024. The desire of the Camden County Board of Social Services to enter a contract for a new Payroll Management under the provisions of the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance #CK04. SHI is willing and able to provide said Payroll Management System licenses for a total cost of One Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Five Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$122,975.64). The Camden County Board of Social Services that the proper Board officials be and are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to award a contract to SHI, 300 Davidson Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873 which is an approved vendor pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-12 and N.J.A.C. 5:30-5.5(b)(2), the New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance #CK04, for a total cost of One Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand Three Hundred and Ninety-Four Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$122,394.72).

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 205-2024. Mr. Kendall 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 information and updates to the Board from DFD (Division of Family Development) and DMAHS (Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services).

Ms. Hentisz began her report by DFD is looking to develop a partnership with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in hopes to better streamline how veterans apply for and receive assistance. Next, DFD is in the process of opening a call center which will be used to answer any questions regarding: SNAP, GA, and TANF. The call center will be available 24 hours a day, with a live representative available during business hours and an automated prompt system available during non-business hours. There is no date just yet on when the call center will be opening. Ms. Hentisz stated DFD recently received a letter from FNS (Food Nutrition Services) that the State of New Jersey is being placed on a corrective action plan (CAP) to improve SNAP timeliness processing. Ms. Hentisz went on to say, the Agency has not been informed on whether it will be including in the CAP. The Agency’s SNAP timeliness rate has remained in the lower 90 and higher 80 percentiles, which is commendable considering the number of cases that are coming in. Ms. Hentisz stated she will certainly inform the Board if the Agency will have to also adhere to the CAP. Next, Ms. Hentisz informed the sanctioning process for non-compliant TANF/GA recipients will be resuming in the next few months. The sanctioning process was put on hold due to the pandemic, which means that no clients were sanctioned for not complying with the work requirements that are within WorkFirstNewJersey (WFNJ).

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

Lastly, for DFD, Ms. Hentisz reported that mandatory SNAP application interviews will be resuming. During the pandemic, interviews were not required. Beginning on June 1st, interviews are required to apply for and recertify for SNAP benefits. Telephonic interviews are still an option as well as telephonic signatures. This will be a huge increase to the number of interviews that need to be conducted by the Interviewing Department, so the Agency is beginning to prepare and strategize for the influx in June.

Next, Ms. Hentisz provided updates from DMAHS.

The Agency's Medicaid Department is still focusing on the Medicaid 'unwinding', which is the continuous review of Medicaid redeterminations that were open during the pandemic. The unwinding is set to continue through April 2024. The last set of redetermination Medicaid packets went out this month. The Medicaid staff are vigorously working through the heavy and increased volume of case work. Ms. Hentisz stated there are challenges each month, however our numbers remain to be on average with the rest of the State thanks to the dedicated hard work of our Medicaid staff.

Ms. Hentisz stated that at last month's Board meeting she reported that there was some concern on the accuracy of the data being displayed on the dashboards. DMAHS agreed to review the dashboards and did find that there were some inaccuracies in the data and the reasonings behind the case closures. DMAHS has informed that the dashboards will be corrected and updated soon to reflect more accurate information.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz provided Agency updates and projects to the Board. The Agency is excited to be working along with the County in the Homeless Case Management and Wrap Around Services which will begin next month. Ms. Hentisz will continue to provide updates to the Board on how this new program works out.

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

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to accept the Director's Report.

Vice Chair Camacho 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 accepted.

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

Ms. Konopka stated that each Board member had received copies of the Fiscal Report in their packet for the month February 2024.

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

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to accept the Fiscal Report for February 2024 as presented in the packet.

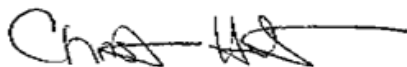
Mr. Kendall moved to accept. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken, and the Report was unanimously accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve the three revised agency policies as were presented in Closed Session. Mr. Kendall moved to approve the request. Vice Chair Camacho seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously adopted.



Clerk