

May 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 2:00 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:

Commissioner Virginia Betteridge, Gwen DeVera, John Kendall, Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer

Public Attendance: Jennifer Lucas

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Ivory Marrero, Deputy Director; Edward Hill, Esquire; Charles G. Oppermann, Esquire; Rich Behm, IT Director; Fred Anderson, IT Supervisor, Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician, Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Commissioner Betteridge; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk;

At 2:00 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 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 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.
- Movement of funds to be requisitioned from the State and County Treasurers less monies on hand for assistance payments for the month of June.

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. Commissioner Betteridge moved to open the Public Participation portion of the Open Session, seconded by Mr. Kendall and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Chairman Rhodes asked if there were any members of the public wishing 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. Commissioner Betteridge 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.

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 212-2023—Authorizing an Award of Contract (A40467), for the Lease of One (1) RICOH PROC5300S Copier for the Period of Sixty (60) Months.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 212-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services desires to authorize an award of contract to RICOH USA, Inc. for the Camden County Board of Social Services to lease one (1) RICOH PROC5300S Copier for a period of sixty (60) months commencing on or about June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2028 under State Contract #A40467, at a cost of nine hundred and forty-three dollars (\$943.00) per month).

The proper Board officials are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate an agreement with RICOH USA, Inc., 1265 Drummers Lane, Wayne, PA 19087, 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), under the provisions of State Contract #A40467 to lease one (1) RICOH PROC5300S Copier for a period of sixty (60) months commencing on or about June 1, 2023 through May 31, 2028, at a cost of nine hundred and forty-three dollars (\$943.00) per month.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 212-2023.

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.

OPEN SESSION

Resolution 213-2023—Authorization to Amend an Agreement with the ComPsych for EAP Services.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 213-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services is desirous of amending its contract with ComPsych Corporation for Employee Assistance Plan from the current end date of May 31, 2023, to a new end date of May 31, 2024. The Camden County Board of Social Services hereby authorizes the execution of the amended agreement with the ComPsych Corporation for the period June 1, 2023, to May 31, 2024, involving Employee Assistance Plan, and authorizes the Director of the Camden County Board of Social Services, to sign such a contract.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 213-2023.

Commissioner 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 214-2023—Authorization an Award of Contract (State Contract 17-FLEET-00747) for X-Ray Machine.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 214-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services is desirous of authorizing an award of contract to Autoclear Security Inspection Systems for one (1) X-Ray machine under State Contract 17-FLEET-00747, at a cost not to exceed Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$23,550.00). The Camden County Board of Social Services that the proper Board officials be and are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to effectuate an agreement with Autoclear Security Inspection Systems located at 10A Bloomfield Ave, Pine Brook, NJ 07058, 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), under the provisions of State Contract 17-FLEET-00747 for one (1) X-Ray machine, at a cost not to exceed Twenty-Three Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$23,550.00)

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 214-2023

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 stated with the Federal Public Health Emergency ending early in the week, it caused many changes within the DFD programs. The first change is the eligibility of SNAP for college students. Over the next six months, the COVID waivers that allowed more college students to be eligible to receive SNAP will be reverting to the eligibility requirements prior to the Pandemic. Next, the telephonic signature/interview waiver is set to end in June. DFD has requested to extend the waiver for one additional year, there are no updates at this time if the extension will be granted.

Ms. Hentisz continued, the DFD program, SNAS (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance for Seniors) allotments will be increasing within the next few months. Ms. Hentisz stated she will provide an update to the Board when the increased allotment amounts are available.

OPEN SESSION

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

Next, Ms. Hentisz stated there will be one last issuance of the Summer P-EBT benefits this year. The Summer P-EBT benefits are SNAP benefits issued to families whose children receive free or reduced lunch at school (K-12). This year’s P-EBT issuance differs from previous years because there will only be a one-time allotment of \$125 per eligible child.

The last update from DFD is regarding motel placements through the county welfare agencies. Currently, the allowable payment amount for motel placements for homeless clients is \$50.00/ a night. Ms. Hentisz stated it has become increasingly difficult for county welfare agencies to find motels that will accept the payment rate. Ms. Hentisz continued that although our agency has a decent number of motels that accept the payment rate, the conditions of these motels aren’t always the most suitable for the clients. DFD is currently reviewing the entire motel placement process throughout the state. Ms. Hentisz stated that hopefully county welfare agencies will receive an increase in the allowable payment amounts for motel placement which will then allow more motel options.

-Commissioner Betteridge inquired is DFD exploring other options to assist the homeless population? Commissioner Betteridge continued that although she understands placing a client in a motel is a temporary fix, is there any discussion on a more permanent solution for the homeless population?

-Ms. Hentisz replied that emergency housing assistance through the welfare agencies is a temporary aid with only a 12-month eligibility period, with the hope that the client will within that period, be able to obtain a more permanent housing solution. However, throughout the years, such permanent housing solutions like a Section 8 housing voucher is now taking close to 3-5 years to obtain. Ms. Hentisz agreed that there needs to be a higher-level discussion on how to remedy and improve the homeless and affordable housing issue.

-Chairman Rhodes also commented that the State has approved a community development grant for a housing voucher program for Camden County. This grant will be geared more towards transitional housing and can be issued for up to two years. Also, Camden County is looking to build ‘day centers’ throughout the County, which will provide various avenues of resources.

Next, Ms. Hentisz provided updates from DMAHS. Currently, there is a huge focus on the Medicaid unwinding due to the federal public health emergency ending. Ms. Hentisz stated that she has continued to keep the Board updated and informed on how the Agency’s Medicaid Department is handling and adapting to this massive change. Ms. Hentisz stated there has been a good response rate from our clients in completing their redeterminations. Also, our Medicaid staff continue to follow up with clients that have not submitted their redetermination packets. Ms. Hentisz continued that it is still a bit early to determine if this current process is working; however, some counties have noticed that there are many clients that weren’t aware they were approved for Medicaid. These clients most likely applied early in the pandemic due to losing their job, and subsequently were able to secure another job. Some clients also exceed the income eligibility limits for Medicaid, so they are now being referred over to the marketplace to apply for healthcare coverage. Ms. Hentisz stated that the Agency has been collaborating and meeting with Cooper Health and the Camden Coalition to combine efforts to outreach and assist all Medicaid clients through this change. Ms. Hentisz stated she will continue to keep the Board updated on this transition.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz provided Agency updates and projects to the Board. Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency recently recognized and celebrated Public Service Recognition Week. It was a great and fun week, with different themes and prizes to show the staff our appreciation for all that they do in serving the community. Ms. Hentisz went on to say, she wanted to highlight Thursday’s theme of “Talk it Out Thursday.” Ms. Hentisz truly wanted to restart her all staff meetings that she hosted in the past, and the first ‘Talk it Out Thursdays’ was a great opportunity to hear and discuss concerns, issues, and suggestions from staff. Ms. Hentisz stated that she enjoyed the first meeting and is truly looking forward to meeting with the staff monthly.

Ms. Hentisz stated that the State does an annual Management Evaluation (ME) review. The Agency recently received the audit findings from the State and Deputy Director Ivory Marrero will be taking the lead on the corrective action plan.

OPEN SESSION

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

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.

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 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 of April 2023.

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 April 2023 as presented in the packet.

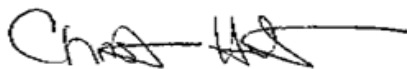
Mr. Kendall moved to accept. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken, and the Report was unanimously accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to grant the discretionary leave request as were presented in Closed Session. Mr. Kendall moved to approve the request. Mr. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken, and the motion was unanimously adopted.



Clerk