

December 19, 2018

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, December 19, 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; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Donnette (Molly) Brown, Human Resource Manager; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: Jon Worley, CWA Local 1084 President, Audrey Watkins-Kizee, Ta-reema Redd, Darnell Hardee, Allegra Reed, Anita Tucker, Simone Moore, Sameemah Shakir, CWA Shop Steward

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

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

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 231-2018 – Authorizing the Appointment Of Special Legal Counsel to Represent the Camden County Board of Social Services in Child Support Matter..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

In response to publicly advertised Request for Proposals the Camden County Board of Social Services has received and reviewed proposals for Special Legal Counsel to handle Child Support Matters.

The evaluation committee for the Request for Proposals recommended that and hereby appoints the law firms of Zane & Lozuke, and Angelini, Viniar & Freedman, L.L.P. be appointed as Special Legal Counsel to handle child support matters on behalf of the Camden County Board of Social Services at an hourly rate of \$97.00 per hour for a one year term commencing January 1, 2019 and ending December 31, 2019.

The annual limitation on each of the law firms of Zane & Lozuke, and Angelini, Viniar & Freedman, L.L.P. shall be \$30,000.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 231-2018.

Ms. Betteridge moved to approve. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was take 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). The PERM (Payment Error Rate Management) Review is still on going. The review includes any claims that were paid on Medicaid cases for the third quarter of 2018. The auditors will review the cases selected in 2019, and the final report will be released in 2020.

There is currently a TOP (Treasury Offset Program) Review happening within all 21 counties of New Jersey. The Agency will not be notified as to when their TOP review will take place, however it will happen sometime prior to April 2019. In the interim, the Overpayment Department is currently reviewing as many cases as possible to prepare for the review. Failing this review, will result in losing access to the TOP system, and no longer being able to collect overpayments.

The State requested an ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) Waiver for 2019, still no word back if the waiver is approved.

The Agency received computer allocations from the State to purchase new computers for all staff, except for the Child Support Department. The allocations were given for the year of 2019. The IT Department is currently reviewing which computers are going to be purchased.

Governor Murphy approved a WFNJ TANF/GA increase effective January 1, 2019. The increase will be a 10% increase based on allotments from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, rather than the previous \$10 increase.

Ms. Hentisz has been appointed as Vice President to the Executive Board for the County Welfare Director’s Association. Linda Murtagh of Ocean County was appointed President.

Ms. Hentisz reported that the Homelessness and Prisoner Re-entry initiatives are continuing to be beneficial as she meets monthly with the County. Miracle Messages is a national agency, where a representative will videotape homeless clients wanting to reconnect with their families in which they have lost contact with. The representative will then search through social media in hopes of locating the client’s family. The Miracle Messages project was able to reunite four individuals from Camden County with their families. The County’s prisoner re-entry specialist, that is located in the jail, is continuing to assist in getting applications started or appointments scheduled for the soon to be released individuals. The main concern is to ensure that these individuals that received medication within the jail, are able to continue to do so without delay.

Ms. Hentisz stated the county of Camden has implemented its Recycling Program. Representatives have already come to the Agency to ensure proper waste and recycling bins were provided for all staff.

**OPEN SESSION**

Ms. Hentisz went on to report that she has recently been in contact with representatives from Cooper Hospital. Cooper Hospital will be increasing its minimum wage to \$15, and the representatives were inquiring how the increase may affect their employees who receive welfare benefits. Ms. Hentisz stated that a few eligibility workers will be going to Cooper Hospital at the end of January to meet with these individuals and address their concerns.

Ms. Hentisz also highlighted the Camden County Board of Social Services Employee Committee and the Holiday Assistance Program. The Employee Committee for 2018, held various fundraisers for the Bruce A. Leusner Fund. Also, an anonymous donor and the Cherry Hill Fire Department donated towards the holiday assistance program. Collectively, a total of 70 families, 163 children, and 10 senior citizens were assisted for the holiday season. Ms. Hentisz and other staff members were able to hand deliver gifts to the families and senior citizens throughout Camden 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, Fiscal Officer**

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

Ms. Konopka stated that if anyone had any questions she or the Fiscal Officer would be happy to address them.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to accept the Fiscal Report for November 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**

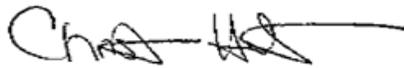
**OLD BUSINESS**

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. 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Hill", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Clerk