

January 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 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, Renita Singleton, CWA Local 1084 Vice President, Darnell Hardee, Lizzie Jones, WSO Grievance Officer, Darnell Hardee, Simone Moore

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

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

OPEN SESSION

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 202-2019 - Shared Services Agreement
With Camden County College for Security Services..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

The Board of Social Services (“the Board”) and the Camden County College (“the College”) agree that their mutual public purposes, their best interests and the best interests of the taxpayers and the citizens of Camden County will be promoted by the execution and delivery of a Shared Services Agreement pursuant to the powers conferred by the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act.

It is the desire of the Board to authorize and award to the College this Shared Service Agreement, the term commencing January 1, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019.

The Board shall reimburse the College for the provision of security services more fully described in an agreement between the Board and the College, with funding contingent upon the availability and appropriation of funding for this purpose in the Board’s 2019 budget.

The proper Board officials be and hereby are authorized to execute a shared services agreement with the College for the provision of security services for a one year term, retroactive to January 1, 2019 and terminating December 31, 2019.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 202-2019.

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

Resolution 203-2019 - Authorizing the Execution of a Grant Agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs Involving the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program..... Edward Hill, Esquire

This annual Resolution provides for the execution of a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs involving the receipt of approximately \$29,525.00 to be used to carry out a project to administer the intake and eligibility determination of prospective beneficiaries of the LIHEAP program, including the accurate input of verified client information in FAMIS for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, and further authorizes the appropriate officials names, titles, and signatures as authorized persons to sign said agreement on behalf of the Board.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 203-2019.

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

Resolution 204-2019 – Universal Service Fund Edward Hill, Esquire

This annual Resolution provides for the execution of a grant agreement with the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs involving the receipt of approximately \$18,877.00 to be used to carry out a project to code and verify FAMIS documents for the period of July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019 and further authorizes the appropriate officials names, titles and signatures as authorized persons to sign said agreement on behalf of the Camden County Board of Social Services.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 204-2019.

Dr. Krivy moved to adopt. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was take and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 205-2019 – Authorizing the Appointment Of Special Legal Counsel to Represent the Camden County Board of Social Services in Child Support Matters..... Edward Hill, Esquire

In response to a publicly advertised Request for Proposals the Board has received and reviewed the proposals submitted. The evaluation committee for this Request for Proposals has recommended that and the law firm of Mattleman, Weinroth & Miller, P.C., 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 on February 1, 2019.

The annual limitation of the law firm Mattleman, Weinroth & Miller, P.C. shall be \$30,000.00.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 205-2019.

Ms. Betteridge moved to adopt. 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

Ms. Hentisz provided updates to the Board from the Division of Family Development (DFD) and Division of Medical and Health Services (DMAHS). The State of New Jersey has received an ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents) Waiver for 2019.

Ms. Hentisz stated there is a new bill for Emergency Assistance (EA) that took effect on December 20, 2018 and will end on February 20, 2024. This extension program for EA will hopefully result in a more permanent solution for the homeless population. The EA program rules and regulations have not changed.

The Agency was asked to take part in a grocer's initiative along with the Department Labor. The initiative is to work up a plan or process to streamline a process for clients to be utilized for employment at various grocery stores.

Ms. Hentisz provided an update from the County Welfare Director's Association. The DIMS (Document Imaging Management System) has been operating drastically slow, which is affecting the work productivity rate at the welfare agencies.

Ms. Hentisz reported that the Homelessness and Prisoner Re-entry initiatives are continuing to be beneficial as she meets monthly with the County. The annual homeless Point-in-Time count begins on January 23rd. The homeless count is mandated by the federal government. Many volunteers from the county and the Agency will psychically count the homeless population in Camden County.

The County's prisoner re-entry specialist, who is located in the jail, is continuing to assist in getting applications started or appointments scheduled for the soon to be released individuals. A streamlined process has begun for released individuals to apply for welfare benefits the same day.

Ms. Hentisz went on to provide updates to the Board regarding the federal government shutdown. She reported that Federal employees who have been furloughed are eligible to apply for welfare assistance based on their current pay. If a federal employee is working and not receiving pay, they are eligible to apply for welfare assistance.

General Assistance (GA) recipients are not currently affected by the shutdown because it is a State funded program. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients have funding available through February and March, along with EA and child care assistance. There is currently no word on funding after March. SNAP February benefits will be available on Thursday, January 17th due to funding through the USDA. There is no guarantee that clients will have access to benefits if their case is processed thereafter. Currently, there is no word on whether SNAP benefits will be available March 1st. Ms. Hentisz stated that she and her staff are preparing for the numerous questions and concerns from clients on February 1st. The Agency staff members have been working overtime to ensure all cases are completed. Ms. Hentisz was greatly impressed with all the work that was completed and sincerely thanked all staff for their efforts.

OPEN SESSION

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 December 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 December 2018 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

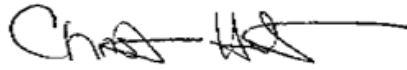
OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

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.



Clerk