

September 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held virtually on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 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: Commissioner Virginia Betteridge, Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Ivory Marrero, Deputy Director; Edward Hill, Esquire, Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Jaritza Nunez, KB Clerk III; Rich Behm, IT Director; Fred Anderson, IT Supervisor; Joan Quinton, Commissioner Aide (via teleconference) Christine Colbert, Principal Technician (via teleconference)

Public Attendance via WebEx: Simone Moore, Kelly Mendez, Stephen Johnson, Audrey Watkins-Kizee, Michelle Byrd, Nicole Barringer, Chimere Lake, Tareema Redd

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

Commissioner Betteridge moved to approve. Ms. Morman 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. Commissioner 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.

Simone Moore inquired on the new building if smokers will be at least 20 feet away from entrance?

Mr. Rhodes thanked Ms. Moore for the question and stated he thinks there is a smoking location at the facility which is away from the building

Ms. Moore also inquired on parking as she went during lunch and saw a lot of cars in the parking lot. She would like to know if there is going to be some type of flex time.

Mr. Rhodes stated there is a plenty of parking and there has been no discussion of flex times

Ms. Moore also inquired on the new layout; she would like to know if the workers will be near their supervisors since the staff has not received any information

Ms. Hentisz replied all final layouts are being worked on and administrators are currently working out where staff and supervisors will be sitting, Ms. Hentisz stated we are trying to get staff as close as possible to their supervisors.

Ms. Moore had one last question. She would like to know if clients are aware we are moving.

Mr. Rhodes replied the message is currently being developed. There will be signage and mailers sent out to clients but first we are making sure all the dates will work out.

Nicole Barringer inquired on the size of the cubicles for the staff.

Ms. Hentisz replied there are different varying sizes and are similar to what the processing department is using some are smaller, but all have the L-shape desk so the staff have space to work.

Ms. Barringer also inquired if we are getting lockers or locked drawers.

Ms. Hentisz replied, the lockers have not come in, but the goal is all staff has something with a lock drawer or locker.

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

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**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.

Commissioner 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 225-2022 – Authorizing an Award of Contract (Education Co-OP – ESCNJ/AEPA-22G), For LTW Security Camera.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 225-2022. The Camden County Board of Social Services to authorize an award of contract to CDW-G for LTW Security Camera under Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Co Op Contract ESCNJ/AEPA-22G at a cost not to exceed Thirty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Nineteen Dollars and Fifty-Five Cents (\$33,719.55).

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 225-2022.

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 226-2022 – Authorizing the Camden County Board of Social Services to Enter Into Cooperative Pricing Agreement.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented 226-2022 which authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration. The Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Lead Agency ” has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 226-2022.

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.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Resolution 227-2022 – Ratifying an Award of Contract, Pursuant to Solicitation of Quotations, By and Between Camden County Board of Social Services and ConvergeOne, Inc., For E-Fax.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 227-2022. The Camden County Board of Social Services in in need of E-Fax. ConvergeOne, Inc.is willing and able to provide said services for a total cost not to exceed Three Thousand and Four Hundred Dollars (\$3,400.00).

The Camden County Board of Social Services that the proper Board Officials be and are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary to affect an agreement with ConvergeOne, Inc., 10900 Nesbitt Avenue South, Bloomington, MN, 55437, for E-Fax for a total cost not to exceed Three Thousand and Four Hundred Dollars (\$3,400.00).

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 227-2022.

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 228-2022 – Authorizing an Award of Contract (#AR2472), For Rubrik Backup Server.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 228-2022. The Camden County Board of Social Services authorize an award of contract to Eplus Technology, Inc. for the Camden County Board of Social Services to purchase and have installed a Rubrik Backup Server under State Contract #AR2472, at a cost of One Hundred and Seventeen Thousand and Two Hundred and Forty-Seven Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$117,247.68).

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 228-2022.

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 229-2022 – Resolution of the Camden County Board of Social Services Approving the Corrective Action Plan For the 2020 Annual Audit.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 229-2022. The 2020 Annual Audit of the Camden County Board of Social Services, conducted by Bowman & Company LLP, contained certain recommendations requiring action. The Corrective Action Plan outlining actions to be taken by the Camden County Board of Social Services, to correct the findings of the 2020 Annual Audit has been prepared in accordance with directives from the County Welfare Agency. The Camden County Board of Social Services has accepted and approved the Corrective Action Plan for the 2020.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 229-2022.

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**Resolution 230-2022– Authorizing Reimbursement to Camden County for Moving Services..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 230-2022. The Camden County Board of Social Services had a need for moving services for the intended move of offices to Woodcrest Corporate Center. The Camden County is providing moving services for the new Camden County Board of Social Services offices at the Woodcrest Corporate Center at a cost of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000.00).

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 230-2022.

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

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

Ms. Hentisz provided information to the Board from DFD (Division of Family Development) and DMAHS (Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services).

Ms. Hentisz provided updates to the SNAP Call Center which DFD is currently creating. Ms. Hentisz stated the call center will be statewide to assist people with questions and applying. Ms. Hentisz stated there was legislation passed to have a statewide hotline in hopes of helping the counties answer questions.

Ms. Hentisz stated the NJHelps.org website has been currently updated and it went live three weeks ago. It’s a much more enhanced client experience from the user side of it. Ms. Hentisz also stated DFD will work on phase II of the update which will allow clients to complete recertifications IRF’s (Interim Reporting Forms) and request EBT cards online. Ms. Hentisz stated there is not a timeline on to when it will be ready.

Next, Ms. Hentisz provided updates from DMAHS. There is still a lot of discussion on the unraveling of the public health emergency and the waivers in place for the Medicaid programs. Ms. Hentisz stated the Medicaid redetermination waiver where clients do not have to do their redetermination is linked to the federal public health emergency. Ms. Hentisz stated the State is very concerned about what will happen when it ends as clients have been receiving Medicaid for two years and cases have not closed. Ms. Hentisz also stated the State is worried there will be mass confusion on the effects of having to switch Medicaid to some of the State plans or even through the States new marketplace. Ms. Hentisz stated DMHAS is working on a lot of messaging around it but if the federal public health emergency is extended the cases will remain open.

Ms. Hentisz also provided an update on the MES (Medicaid Eligibility System) uploads. It has been improved to upload cases when processing is completed to decrease data entering. Ms. Hentisz stated we have been given a go live date in November; it has been rolling out one county at a time and it has been working well so far.

Ms. Hentisz stated the last update on DMAHS, they are doing a huge push on Stay Covered NJ. They started messaging for the public health emergency to ensure that people understand that there is a way for them to stay covered under different programs if it is not Medicaid.

Ms. Hentisz provided an update on the agency move. She stated we are still working and trying to get everyone ready to move to the new building. Ms. Hentisz stated we are coming to a point where everything is close to being done. Ms. Hentisz stated she appreciates all the staff willingness to bare with us as we are trying to get out the information as fast as we can. Ms. Hentisz stated we are still working on setting up tours but due to construction it has been postponed.

**OPEN SESSION**

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT (continued)..... Christine Hentisz, Director**

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz informed the Board that the CWDA (County Welfare Directors Association) had their retreat last week in Spring Lake, N.J. Ms. Hentisz stated the one highlight of the retreat is that we are given time to sit and talk to the Commissioner of Human Services about larger programs and initiatives the Governor is putting out. Ms. Hentisz stated there was a lot of talk about the States 988 hotline, which is similar to 911 but geared to mental health and people who are in crisis. Ms. Hentisz stated the Governor, and the first lady are currently working towards Cover All Kids an initiative which is to find a way to get all kids in New Jersey covered under Medicaid. Ms. Hentisz also stated they have created under the Department of Human Services an Office of New Americans. The office is responsible for all refugees insuring they are put on programs that they are eligible. Ms. Hentisz stated this is a good way to bring all the counties to do the refugee programs one way and we continue to have refugee programs that we administer in the agency. Ms. Hentisz stated the Office of New Americans gives it a one location so we have easy access to reach out to the State.

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve the Director’s Report.

Commissioner 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 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 August 2022.

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 August 2022 as presented in the packet.

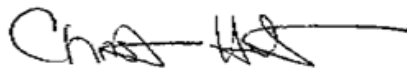
Commissioner Betteridge moved to accept. Ms. Morman seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken, and the Report was unanimously accepted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The consensus of the Board to deny the grievance request as presented in Closed Session.



Clerk