

September 20, 2017

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 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:

Ginny Betteridge; Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer (via teleconference); Gwen DeVera

Also present were: Shawn Sheekey, Director; Christine Hentisz, Deputy Director, Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Joan Quinton, Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Christine Colbert, Sr. Personnel Tech.; Jaritza Nuñez, Keyboarding Clerk 2

Public Attendance: Simone Moore, Shop Steward, CWA-Local 1084; Michelle Acevedo, Legislative Chair, CWA-Local 1084; Audrey Watkins-Kizee, CWA Member; Renita Singleton, CWA Vice President; Allegra Reed, CWA Member

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

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 was unanimously adopted.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

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.

Shawn Brown a resident of Camden City addressed the board with his concern regarding the comfortability of walking into the Agency and speaking through thick glass at the front desk. Mr. Brown stated many people come to him for help regarding many issues including social services.

Mr., Rhodes explain there has been many improvements in the agency for example, the agency is now generic. In becoming generic the clients do not have to go from window to window trying to get assistance, and now a lot is done just at one spot. Mr. Rhodes also stated we have inputted more resources for the clients such as establishing a call center and completing interviews over the phone.

Mr. Sheekey outlined for Mr. Brown the improvements in the past several years. He noted that the clients receive their benefits within the 30 days' timeframe rather than three months like years ago. The goal of the Agency is to make everyone's experience more comfortable.

Mr. Rhodes asked if there were any additional 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 of the meeting. 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 Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey 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, Mr. Sheekey stated that he or his staff would be happy to answer.

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

Ms. DeVera moved to approve. Ms. Betteridge 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 224-2017 Authorizing Award of Contract (BID A-26-2017) to Various vendors for the Purchase of Copy, Computer Paper, and Envelopes Under Cooperative Pricing System, ID# 57-CCCPS, On an As-Needed Basis Edward Hill, Esquire

By Resolution adopted August 17, 2017, the County of Camden authorized and awarded contracts to the lowest responsible bidders for Bid A-26/2017, Copy, Computer Paper and Envelopes for various Camden County Departments, Authorities and Agencies under the Camden County Cooperative Pricing System, ID#57-CCCPS, on an as-needed basis, for a term of six (6) months commencing on or about September 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018, with one six-month option to renew, with the various vendors having extended pricing to both Camden County and to the members of Camden County Cooperative Pricing System.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 224-2017.

Ms. 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 Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey stated this is his last Director’s report and he is very grateful he has had a phenomenal experience and he thanks the unions, employees and the board for backing him in every process throughout the way.

Mr. Sheekey stated Christine Hentisz has been taking the during the month of September since she will be the next Director.

Mrs. Hentisz stated she attended the Welfare Directors Association retreat last week. Mrs. Hentisz stated that there were good meetings with DFD and Medicaid representatives. Mrs. Hentisz stated the ongoing FNS food stamps collaborative will be coming to an end this fall. Mrs. Hentisz stated next week California and North Carolina will be coming to Princeton for the FNS learning session. Mrs. Hentisz stated (Insight) will be here in October to do the last visit with the Agency and go through the last steps to complete the process and see how Agency has improved the food stamp process.

Mrs. Hentisz stated PERM, a Federal agency, will be coming to the Agency in the Spring for a 2-year review on Medicaid, it will work like the FNS collaborative to help better the process. Ms. Hentisz stated the agency will work together with the Medicaid Department and generic department, because they do the family care applications.

Mrs. Hentisz stated the administrator in the Case Management Department has been working closely with the One Stop Center to get better services and get the job training the clients require for the state requirements.

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 Reports in their packet for July and August 2017.

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 July and August 2017 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

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