

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, November 15, 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: Christine Hentisz, Acting Director, Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Freeholder Rodriguez; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Gregory Smith, Sr., Management Assistant; Jaritza Nuñez, Keyboarding Clerk 2

Public Attendance: Michelle Acevedo, Legislative Chair, CWA-Local 1084; Renita Singleton, CWA Vice-President; Allegra Reed, Darnell Hardee, Lakeisha Fluellen, Cerina Muse

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

Dr. Krivy 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.

Michelle Acevedo stated that there are two CWA members who would like to make requests to the Board for an educational leave. Ms. Acevedo stated one of the members was present and the other one was not able to attend the meeting due to an illness. Ms. Acevedo stated they are trying to present it to the Board in advance, because the semester starts in January. Lakeisha Fluellen introduced herself to the Board as a HSS II in the Processing Department and she is requesting educational leave for an internship 24 hours a week for 32 weeks during the Spring 2018 and Summer 2018 semester from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. 3 days per week from January 15th, 2018 to August 17th, 2018. Ms. Fluellen stated she will become a better asset to the agency by completing her MSW program.

Ms. Renita Singleton addressed the Board introducing herself as the CWA Local-1084 Vice President. Ms. Singleton stated the agency has failed to fill vacancies when a Supervisor retires. Ms. Singleton stated because of these vacancies members have encountered difficulties, because there is a lack of supervision for questions and direction. She stated that members have received "major discipline" on something that should have been "progressive discipline." Ms. Singleton stated this has happened on several occasions, and that CWA is asking the Board to please fill in the empty positions.

Ms. Singleton stated members are having problems with their Colonial payments stating the agency is not making the payments on time and when the member tries to collect from their policy the Colonial member states they did not receive the payment. Christine Hentisz, Acting Director stated the agency is looking into the issue with Colonial, because the agency is making the payments on time. Ms. Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer stated Colonial is always a month behind on all billing Ms. Konopka also reiterated the agency is up to date on all the payments to Colonial and the employee will be subsequently reimbursed if warranted.

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 Christine Hentisz, Acting Director

Mrs. 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, Mrs. 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.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Christine Hentisz, Acting Director

Mrs. Hentisz stated there is nothing to report on the DFD meeting because it was cancelled last week and the CWDA meeting was changed to this Friday due to the holiday last week. She stated the food stamp collaborative is still going on and the federal team will be here next month to meet with us to follow up on our testing and improvements. The last learning session for the food stamp collaborative learning session will be in January in D.C. four employees will be in attendance.

Mrs. Hentisz stated that another initiative is looking and evaluating every department and meeting individually with each administrator to see how things are going and to make sure the departments are up to date. She stated that the meetings will also include department challenges and she added, in regard to the CWA request, that we have already been posting for empty spots.

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 the Fiscal Report in their packet for October 2017.

Ms. Konopka stated over the last month we have seen an increase of \$7,000 in interest compared to September and this is from BB&T offering a better account service.

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 October 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

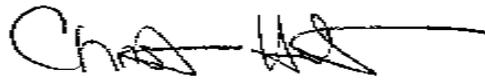
There was none.

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. Dr. Krivy 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