

October 16, 2019

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, October 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; Gwen DeVera; Sharrae Morman, Vice Secretary/Treasurer

Not present: Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Lauwana Martin, Deputy Director; Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician; Greg Smith, Senior Management Assistant; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Freeholder Carmen G. Rodriguez; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: Darnell Hardee, Allegra Reed, Kelly Quinton, Jessica Colon, Jeanette Norcross, Simone Moore, Rebecca Harbora

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

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.

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 POLICIESChristine 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.

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) meeting.

Effective January 1st, 2020, the Homelessness Hotline (211) will be overseen by the State. It is mandatory that all counties throughout the state of New Jersey provide a 24-hour homeless hotline. Ms. Hentisz, along with the Camden County Homeless Coordinator and Housing Department Administrator, will be meeting with the State soon to discuss the referral process and the implementation for Camden County.

Ms. Hentisz stated the ABAWD (Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents) waiver was submitted again for 2020. If the waiver is granted, Camden County will not have to comply with the ABAWD work participation time limits under the SNAP program.

Rutgers University teamed up with the State for a TANF project. This project will do a complete overview of the TANF program and carefully examine the benefits within the TANF program. The project is set to last for about six to nine months.

Ms. Hentisz went on to say, the Public Charge Rule took effect on October 15th. This federal rule may affect a person’s ability to change their immigration status if the person receives or received public assistance. The State is advising to direct client inquiries or concerns to Legal Services or/an immigration attorney’s.

OPEN SESSION

DIRECTOR’S REPORT Christine Hentisz, Director

Next, the SNAP program was reauthorized at the federal level. The reauthorization came with a few changes to the Employment and Training requirements, including changes to a few work activity sites. DFD will be releasing instructions soon.

Ms. Hentisz stated that she has been working along with the administrators on having Strategic Planning Sessions. The second session is scheduled for October 25th. Ms. Hentisz and her management staff are working together to plan their two-year, five-year, and ten-year vision plans for the agency. Those plans and goals also include improvement with technology and staff development training.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz stated the agency is in its beginning stages in preparing to implement DIMS (Document Imaging Management System). Over the next six months, the agency will be working with the State to ensure the scanning of documents is being done properly and accurately.

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

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

Ms. Betteridge moved to approve. Ms. Morman 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 September 2019.

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 September 2019 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.

OLD BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Ginny Betteridge requested a further discussion or presentation be provided to the Board to explain the possible effects of the Public Charge Rule of the Camden County welfare customers.

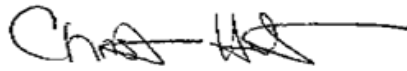
Mr. Rhodes spoke about the upcoming 2020 nationwide census. Mr. Rhodes, Ms. Hentisz, and various other partners throughout the county are a part of the Complete Count Committee. This committee is urging all who reside in Camden County to complete the census. Completion of the census is vital as federal funding is dependent on population counts. Mr. Rhodes went on to say, Camden County will be

OPEN SESSION

hosting a Virtual Job Fair October 21st through October 26th at <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> There will be over 3000 temporary job positions available through the Census Bureau.

Ms. Hentisz also wanted to add, New Jersey did receive a waiver for census income to not affect individuals who receive TANF, SNAP, or GA.

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