

November 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, November 20, 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; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Freeholder Carmen G. Rodriguez; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: Maria Panzarella

CWA Local 1084 Members: Darnell Hardee, Allegra Reed, Kelly Quinton, Jeanette Norcross, 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 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.
- Movement of funds to be requisitioned from the State and County Treasurers less monies on hand for assistance payments for the month of December.

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.

Ms. Maria Panzarella, of Runnemede, New Jersey, presented to the Board two concerns regarding her TANF and Housing Assistance case. Ms. Panzarella stated she has provided necessary documentation at a timely matter for her TANF case, however her benefits were reduced.

Ms. Panzarella went on to say, that she has been housed in a motel for almost two years. She has been in the process of trying to secure a temporary housing placement since last year. Ms. Panzarella stated she has been diligently working with a property management company who is willing to accept TRA payments. Ms. Panzarella’s Social Worker had informed her that property did not meet Fair Market Value requirements for Camden County. Ms. Panzarella stated she is grateful for the assistance that has been provided to her and her family, however she is requesting that the Board reconsiders her eligibility for TRA.

Ms. Hentisz stated she will ensure that a caseworker contacted Ms. Panzarella today in regards her TANF case. Ms. Hentisz went on to say, the Fair Market Value rates are set by the State of New Jersey and the Camden County Board of Social Services is unable to make exceptions to those rates. Ms. Hentisz will contact Ms. Panzarella’s Social Worker to review her Housing Assistance case and will provide a status regarding the TRA application.

Mr. Rhodes thanked Ms. Panzarella for her statements.

Seeing that there was no one additional, 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.

**OPEN SESSION**

**Resolution 220-2019 – Authorizing Award of Contract, Pursuant to Solicitation of Quotations,  
By And Between Camden County  
Board of Social Services ..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

The Camden County Board of Social Services is in need of envelopes. Paper Mart, Inc. is willing and able to provide said services for a total cost not to exceed three thousand one hundred and twenty-four dollars and eighty cents (\$3,124.80). The Camden County Board of Social Services authorized Agency Officials to execute all documents necessary to effect an agreement with Paper Mart, Inc., 151 Ridgedale Avenue, East Hanover, NJ 07936 for envelopes.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt 220-2019. 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 updates to the Board from the Division of Family Development (DFD) and Division of Medical and Health Services (DMAHS) meeting.

Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 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, met with the State to discuss the process in implementing 211. After the meeting and further discussion with the County, the Agency will be the lead contact for homeless inquiries for Camden County. 211 will place the client in a motel should the individual contact after hours. The individual will then be referred to the Agency the next business day. This new process will be better streamlined and a much simpler process for the homeless population.

Ms. Hentisz went on to report that DFD will be releasing an EBT Mobile App within the next month or so. This app will be linked to clients’ EBT card and provide the ability to check their benefit balance, cancelling or requesting new EBT cards. Ms. Hentisz will be sure to update the Board on this exciting new addition.

Ms. Hentisz stated at the County Welfare Director’s Association meeting, there was discussion surrounding drafted re-entry bills that will have some effect on welfare agencies. Ms. Hentisz reported that all counties will be mandated to institute a reentry committee, which fortunately, Camden County has already established, and the Agency is involved with a reentry committee. The next requirement is to provide staff coordinators between welfare agencies and the county jail; reentry specialists have already been established in Camden County. Lastly, the reentry bills proposes to allow inmate welfare funds to be put towards welfare programs.

**OPEN SESSION**

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

Next, Ms. Hentisz reported that the next Strategic Planning Session is scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Hentisz and her management staff are working together to create their two-year, five-year, and ten-year vision plans for the agency. At the last session, the focus was on revising and updating the Agency’s mission and vision statements. Ms. Hentisz hopes to have the final revisions done soon to be presented to the Board for approval. Those plans and goals also include improvement with technology and staff development training.

Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency is continuing in the planning process of implementing DIMS (Document Imaging Management System). Over the next six months, the agency will be working with the State to ensure the scanning of documents continues to be done properly and accurately.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz was happy to report to the Board at the Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Camden County Freeholder’s Meeting, resolutions were passed to start the process of purchasing a new building for Camden County Board of Social Services in Stratford, NJ.

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. 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 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 October 2019 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.

**Camden County Board of Social Services**  
**OPEN SESSION**

**November 2019**

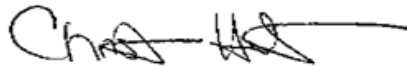
**OLD BUSINESS**

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.



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Clerk