

October 20, 2021

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held virtually on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 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: Vice Chairperson, Virginia G. Betteridge, Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Lauwana Martin, Deputy Director; Edward Hill, Esquire; Charles Oppermann, Esquire; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician (via teleconference) Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk; Rich Behm, IT Director; Fred Anderson, System Analyst Supervisor; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer (via teleconference)

Public Attendance via WebEx: Audrey Watkins-Kizee, 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 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. Hearing and 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 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.

**Resolution 232-2021 –Authorization to Accept Adult  
Protective Services Covid-19 Grant.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 232-2021. The Camden County Board of Social Services is desirous of accepting Adult Protective Services (APS) Covid-19 funds in the amount of one hundred and nineteen thousand, three hundred and eighty-two dollars and no cents (\$119,382.00) for the Adult Protective Services Department of the Camden County Board of Social Services, for this Agency to carry out vital service functions.

The Camden County Board of Social Services hereby authorizes the acceptance APS Covid-19 funds for the period of April 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 involving the receipt of grant funds, and authorizes Christine Hentisz, Director of the Camden County Board of Social Services to sign the agreement.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 232-2021.

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.

OPEN SESSION

**RESOLUTION 233-2021– Authorizing an Award of Contract, Pursuant to the Solicitation of Quotations, By and Between the Camden County Board of Social Services and Market Street Printing, Inc.**

**for Printing of Envelopes.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 233-2021. The Camden County Board of Social Services solicited quotations for the provision of printing of envelopes on an “as-needed” basis for the term October 20, 2021 through December 21, 2021.

The proposal submitted by Market Street Printing, Inc. meets the requirements and needs of the County and is willing and able to provide said services for a total cost not to exceed Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00).

The Purchasing Agents of the County of Camden and the Camden County Board of Social Services have determined and certified in writing that the value of the acquisitions authorized to Market Street Printing, Inc., will not exceed Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$17,500.00).

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to adopt Resolution 233-2021.

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..... Christine Hentisz, Director**

Ms. Hentisz provided an update to the Board of the Agency’s continued response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Hentisz reported on the current program changes from DFD (Division of Family Development) and DMAHS (Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services).

Ms. Hentisz stated there has been no updates or changes with the SNAP Options/Waivers. The waivers are still set to expire in January 2022. Although staff are completing redeterminations with clients, SNAP cases are still unable to be closed due to not completing a recertification. The monthly approved SNAP maximum allotment issuance was approved for November.

Next, Ms. Hentisz provided an update regarding the Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) program. Over the past couple of weeks, the program has issued several benefits to many families. The latest issuance included school aged children for the time periods of spring and summer of 2021. The allotment can vary due to whether the child was full remote or a hybrid school schedule. Also, the State is working along with FNS with the possibility of getting the P-EBT program approved for the current school year that had started in September 2021. Ms. Hentisz will continue to update the Board as she receives more information.

Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency’s Medicaid Department is continuing to make great improvement with clearing up the Medicaid backlogged applications. As of October 19<sup>th</sup>, the weekly snapshot from the State displayed Camden County had no overdue ABD/LTC applications. Also, the Medicaid redeterminations are currently at 88% timely, whereas in the beginning of the year the redeterminations were 30% timely. Ms. Hentisz was very pleased to report this information to the Board and commended the Medicaid department for these huge accomplishments.

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

Ms. Hentisz reported on the Agency's involvement and response to Afghan refugees. Refugees are eligible for certain programs through the Agency based on their refugee status. New legislation was passed through the federal government which allows even more refugees to be eligible for these programs, including those from Afghanistan. The State is coordinating directly with military personnel at Fort Dix in assisting the refugees that are going to be placed in New Jersey. The Agency is also assisting in getting the refugees' applications opened and refugee benefits issued for those that are eligible.

Ms. Hentisz stated there has been no recent changes on the Agency's COVID-19 policies. Staff are still required to wear face masks and complete a daily health screening. The Agency continues to work along with the County Health Department to ensure the Agency is up to date with policies and procedures to keep staff and clients safe.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz reported that she has been involved in discussions and meetings with other directors within the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) regarding common issues with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) being delayed in promotions due to COVID-19. Many employees have been in a provisional promotion longer than usual, which affects their eligibility to take a promotional exam and get certified. The CWDA has requested that CSC allows for exceptions to certify civil service lists due to the major delay of promotional exams being scheduled due to the pandemic. Ms. Hentisz stated she will provide more updates to the Board in the months to come.

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

Ms. Betteridge inquired where is the funding coming from in assisting the Afghan refugees?  
Ms. Hentisz answered that this funding is included in the normal annual State TANF budget. The refugee resettlement program is not a new program, the Agency has assisted refugees for years. Ms. Hentisz felt it was necessary to update the Board on the current Afghan refugees due to the influx of refugees that are coming to New Jersey.

Mr. Rhodes inquired how is the Agency addressing language barriers in relation to the refugees applying for benefits?  
Ms. Hentisz replied the Agency has a translation service called, 'Language Line' that will be utilized. The State did also provide the agencies the two common dialects that the refugees speak. Also, Ms. Hentisz stated there are translators at the military base that assist with the telephone interviews, or family members are sometimes available to translate.

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 accepted.

**OPEN SESSION**

**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 September 2021.

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 2021 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.

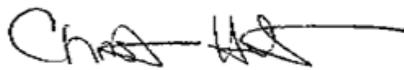
**OLD BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

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