

April 19, 2023

At 12:00 P.M., a quorum being present, Mr. Hill called the annual reorganization meeting to order, and announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Courier Post Newspaper was notified of the Board Meeting; notice of the agenda was posted in a prominent location at 101 Woodcrest Road, Suite 161, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003, and the County Clerk was notified.

Reorganization – Board Members of the Camden County Board of Social Services

Mr. Hill requested a roll call:

Mr. James H. Rhodes	Present
Ms. Gundelina DeVera	Present
Mr. Andres Camacho	Present
Ms. Sharrae Morman	Present
Mr. John Kendall	Present
Mr. Joseph Ripa, County Clerk	Absent
Commissioner Director Louis Cappelli	Absent
Commissioner Virginia Betteridge	Present

Mr. Hill called for election of officers:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary/Treasurer

Ms. DeVera nominated: James Rhodes, as Chairman, Andres Camacho, as Vice Chairman, Ms. Sharrae Morman as Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. DeVera moved to elect the current slate of officers. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion.

Mr. Hill asked if there were any other nominations.

Mr. Hill stated there being no other nominations he would direct that the nominations be closed. There were no objections to the motion.

Mr. Hill stated that the nominations are:

Chairman – James H. Rhodes
Vice Chairman – Andres Camacho
Secretary/Treasurer – Sharrae Morman

Reorganization Meeting

Mr. Hill declared that the slate of officers as previously mentioned in the motion is hereby elected for the forthcoming year.

Mr. Hill turned the meeting over to the Chairman, James H. Rhodes and the Open Session resumed.

Chairman Rhodes requested approval of the following items:

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

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

Mr. Camacho 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.

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**OPEN SESSION
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. in the office of the Board at 101 Woodcrest Road, Suite 161, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, with James H. Rhodes, Chair, presiding. The following members were present:

Commissioner Virginia Betteridge; Andres Camacho, Vice Chairman; Sharrae Morman, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera, John Kendall

Also present were: Christine Hentisz, Director; Ivory Marrero, Deputy Director; Edward Hill, Esquire; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Christine Colbert, Principal Personnel Technician; Nicole Jefferson, Administrative Clerk; Rich Behm, IT Director; Fred Anderson, System Analyst Supervisor; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Commissioner Betteridge

Public Attendance via WebEx: Holly

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to open the meeting for public participation. Mr. Camacho moved to open the Public Participation portion of the Open Session, seconded by Ms. DeVera and 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, Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to close the Public Participation portion of the Open Session. Commissioner 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 comment on them.

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

Mr. Camacho moved to approved. 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 205-2023 — Resolution Adopting Meeting Schedule
and Designating a Newspaper to
Receive Notices for the Camden County Board of Social
Services..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 205-2023. Mr. Hill stated that the Open Public Meetings Act states that the Board is required to adopt its annual meeting schedule and designate newspapers to receive notices for the Board of Social Services Board meetings.

**Resolution 205-2023 (cont.) – Adopting Meeting Schedule
and Designating a Newspaper to Receive Notices for the Camden County
Board of Social Services..... Edward Hill, Esquire**

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 205-2023

Mr. Camacho 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.

**Resolution 206-2023— Authorizing the Camden County Board of
Social Services to Recognize May 7th- May 13th, 2023, as Public Service Recognition
Week in Honor of the Millions of Public Employees at the Federal, State,
County, and Municipal Levels.....Edward Hill, Esquire**

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 206-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services recognizes its employees for their dedicated efforts on behalf of the citizens of Camden County in meeting its mission to provide timely, efficient, and cost-effective delivery of social, medical, and economic programs in a compassionate and financially responsible manner. The Camden County Board of Social Services values the rights and worthiness of all customers and staff. The success of our mission requires the cooperation, commitment, active participation, and ideas of all our employees. The Camden County Board of Social Services recognizes public servants include social service workers, teachers, doctors, scientists, nurses, policemen, firemen, safety inspectors, laborers, and countless other occupations. Day in and day out they provide the diverse services demanded by the American people of their government with efficiency and integrity.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 206-2023.

Mr. Camacho moved to adopt Resolution 206-2023 as presented. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 207-2023 —LIHEAP..... Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 207-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$29,734.00 to carry out a project to administer the intake and eligibility determination of prospective beneficiaries of the LIHEAP program, including the accurate input of verified client information in the FAMIS for the period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 207-2023.

Mr. Kendall moved to adopt Resolution 207-2023 as presented. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 208-2023 – Universal Service FundEdward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 208-2023. The Camden County Board of Social Services desires to apply for and obtain a grant from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs for approximately \$19,823.00, to carry out a project to code and verify FAMIS documents for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 208-2023.

Mr. Camacho moved to adopt Resolution 208-2023 as presented. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 209-2023 – Authorizing a Dividend from the Camden County Insurance Fund Commission for Fund Years 2015, 2016 & 2017.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 209-2023. The Camden County Insurance Commission (FUND) is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund. The FUND has obtained a calculation from its Actuary and Executive Director that \$860,000 in excess is available as a dividend from its 2015-, 2016- and 2017-Year Fund Accounts for the FUND's member entities. The Camden County Board of Social Services that it is in the best interest of the County taxpayers to accept this distribution of excess monies in the amount of twenty-one thousand seven hundred and forty-seven dollars and zero cents (\$21,747.00) from the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Insurance Commission Fund Accounts.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 209-2023.

Mr. Kendall moved to adopt Resolution 209-2023 as presented. Ms. DeVera seconded the motion and there being no other discussion on the motion a vote was taken and the Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Resolution 210-2023 – Authorizing a Dividend from the New Jersey Counties excess Joint Insurance Fund for Fund Years 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2019.....Edward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 210-2023. The New Jersey County Excess Joint Insurance Fund (FUND) is duly constituted as a joint insurance fund. the FUND has obtained a calculation from its Actuary and Executive Director that \$850,000 in excess is available as a dividend from its 2010, 2013-, 2014-, 2016- and 2019-Year Fund Accounts for the FUND's member entities. The Camden County Board of Social Services that it is in the best interest of the County taxpayers to accept this distribution of excess monies in the amount of ten thousand eight hundred and forty-one dollars and zero cents (\$10,841.00) from the 2010, 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2019 Insurance Commission Fund Accounts.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 210-2023.

Mr. Kendall moved to adopt Resolution 210-2023 as presented. 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 211-2023 – Authorizing the Appointment of Auditor to the Camden County Board of Social ServicesEdward Hill, Esquire

Mr. Hill presented Resolution 211-2023. In response to publicly advertised Request for Proposals, the Board has received and reviewed a proposal from Bowman & Company, LLP., a duly licensed Certified Public Accountant in the State of New Jersey. The Camden County Board of Social Services hereby appoints Bowman & Company, LLP. as Auditor to the Camden County Board of Social Services with an annual limitation not to exceed \$86,000.00 for a term commencing on April 19, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 211-2023

Commissioner Betteridge moved to adopt Resolution 211-2023 as presented. 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 reported on the current program updates or changes from DFD (Division of Family Development) and DMAHS (Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services).

Ms. Hentisz stated there has been recent communication campaign from DFD to SNAP clients regarding the Head Start program. DFD wants to ensure SNAP recipients are aware of their eligibility to enroll their children into Head Start. The Agency will have flyers posted in the client areas with information on how to apply.

Next, Ms. Hentisz stated DFD will be offering various trainings for the county welfare agencies over the next few months. The most recent training session will be an over-verification of SNAP training. Also, DFD is working along with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) in providing staff trainings through CSC's Learning Management System. The Agency is scheduled to have a soft skills training available sometime in July. Staff will be able to access these trainings at any time through the Learning Management System.

Ms. Hentisz stated DFD is also focusing on county welfare agencies Child Support departments. Child Support Departments assist TANF clients in receiving their child support payments from an absent parent. DFD wants to ensure the Child Support Departments are fully staffed and are properly working with the court system.

The last update from DFD is regarding annual budget re-allocations. There are some counties throughout the State that have unused funds. DFD is looking to reallocate over \$20 million to the county welfare agencies. Ms. Hentisz stated she will provide an update to the Board once she is informed of when funds are received for the Agency.

Next, Ms. Hentisz provided updates from DMAHS.

There is a large focus on the Medicaid 'unwinding' from the COVID-19 pandemic. Welfare agencies are ensuring that cases are terminated properly and/or being referred to the marketplace if necessary. Ms. Hentisz stated fortunately the Agency's Medicaid department has continued to process redeterminations throughout the pandemic, so our clients are already in the habit of submitting documents for their redetermination applications. Ms. Hentisz continued to say, beginning in May, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will be requiring monthly reports on case closures. Also, DMAHS are working along with HMO and State Vendors to ensure Medicaid applicants are aware of the urgent need to submit their redeterminations.

OPEN SESSION

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

DMAHS is also permitting Ex parte renewals, which means for county welfare agencies to utilize state access systems to renew an application without the need to contact the client.

Lastly, DMAHS are currently reviewing the Medicaid notices that are issued to clients from welfare agencies. DMAHS has noticed there are some inconsistencies, so there are working to revise and update the notices for all counties throughout the state to utilize.

Ms. Hentisz provided Agency updates and projects to the Board. Ms. Hentisz stated the Agency has provided many trainings to staff in the last couple of months. The two most recent is an Active Assailant Training and ComPsych Trainings. There has been great feedback from staff who have attended the trainings and have been truly beneficial.

Lastly, Ms. Hentisz provided an update from the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA). There has been a major push to improve the communication between county welfare agencies and DFD/DMAHS. Prior to the pandemic, state reps were stationed at the welfare agencies to aid or answer inquiries that may arise. Recently, DFD has resumed having their reps back at the welfare agencies. Although DMAHS has not resumed their reps being stationed at the welfare agencies at this time, having weekly and monthly calls with the reps have been beneficial. Deputy Director Marrero also informed that a Housing Department rep will be coming soon to the Agency as well, which is great news and will be a true benefit.

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

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to approve the Director's Report.

Mr. Kendall 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.

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 March 2023.

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 March 2023 as presented in the packet.

Mr. Camacho moved to accept. Mr. Kendall seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the Report was unanimously accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

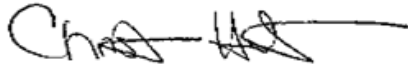
There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Rhodes requested a motion to grant the discretionary leave requests as were presented in Closed Session. Mr. Kendall moved to approve the requests. 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

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. Mr. Kendall 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