

March 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2013 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:

Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera; Ginny Betteridge

Also present were: Shawn Sheekey, Director; Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Sharon Faber, Esquire; MaryEllen Sittner, Personnel Officer; Mary Ann Pagano, Fiscal Officer; Greg Smith, Sr. Management Assistant; Marc O'Connor, Sr. Systems Analyst; Joan Quinton, Confidential Aide to Freeholder Carmen G. Rodriguez; Sharon Hall, Administrative Clerk

Public Attendance: None

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 place at 600 Market Street and the County Clerk was notified.

Mr. Rhodes requested approval of the following items:

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

Dr. Krivy moved to approve. Ms. Betteridge 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 Dr. Krivy.

There were no members of the public wishing to address the Board. The Open Session of the meeting continued.

UPDATE STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey 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, Mr. Sheekey stated that he or his staff would be happy to comment on them.

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

Dr. Krivy moved to approve. Ms. Betteridge seconded the motion and there being no discussion on the motion, a vote was taken and the motion was unanimously adopted.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT..... Shawn Sheekey, Director

Mr. Sheekey provided the Board members with an update from the last Division of Family Development meeting. He reported that all 21 counties still have some outstanding PAAD (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled) food stamp applications that were given to the counties in waves that had overwhelmed the CWAs. The state agreed to hold back the last group thirty-five thousand applications. The state came up with the decision to pay the counties to bring in temporary help, for a limited engagement, to process the applications. Mr. Sheekey stated that he will be meeting with union officials to advise that the agency needs to do this to clear out the remainder of the PAAD applications so that the staff can again focus on the day to day operations. This project will be launched in June at the same time the agency is looking to launch Case Banking. The second initiative is what has spurred much of the discussion about Case Banking. Mr. Sheekey stated that New Jersey ranks 51st in timeliness of case processing. As an encouragement to counties the state has offered to pay counties a portion of the payment for the percentage of increased cases that are processed timely that meet the timeliness rate. The scale has been set and Mr. Sheekey stated that he would share the correspondence providing the specifics from the state with the Board members when it is received. This is a new source of revenue and will also result in customers getting their benefits in a more timely fashion. The state is excited about the prospect of seeing improvements as the feds have threatened sanctions.

Mr. Sheekey stated that main topic discussed at the County Welfare Directors Association meeting was the Affordable Health Care Act.

Mr. Sheekey stated that the agency is continuing to hold standing Case Banking meetings every Thursday and is now targeting a late-June rollout of Case Banking in the Intake, Active Case Units (ACU) and Food Stamp Departments. Mr. Sheekey stated that he has met with the entire Intake, NPA/GA and Active Case Unit (ACU) staff to start the buy in process of the employees and to explain why the agency is moving to Case Banking as well as afford the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Sheekey stated he intends to meet with all the departments in the agency so that everyone is aware that this big change is taking place. Originally the agency had set April as the tentative start date but there are still too many details that are not nailed down in order to have a successful April launch. The state would like counties to begin at the start of a quarter. Mr. Sheekey anticipates spending the summer to see how the new process rolls out. He hopes to see a comfort level by fall at which time CASS will begin to rollout. Mr. Sheekey stated that the state is no longer making Case Banking optional. It is now making it mandatory.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

Mr. Sheekey stated that renovations have begun in the lobby and that the agency will soon be taking steps to get ready for changing the entire reception layout and making preparations for implementing a new security process.

Mr. Sheekey mentioned the following upcoming community events:

- *Community Outreach Day Job Fair*
Thursday, March 21, 2013
Camden County College, Connector Building
9:00 am – 1:00 pm
For more information contact: hireAbility @ 856-374-4921
- *Pathway to Quality: An Early Care and Education Spring Conference*
Saturday, March 23, 2013
Camden County College, Connector Building
7:45 am – 3:00 pm
For more information contact: Sister Donna, Department of Children’s Services
- *Citizenship Rutgers: Free Naturalization Application Assistance Drive*
Saturday, March 30th
Rutgers Campus Center, Camden
For more information, contact: CR@eagleton.rutgers.edu. Volunteers needed! Register online at epid.rutgers.edu or call 848-228-3361

Citizenship Rutgers provides Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) access to free individual consultations with experienced immigration attorneys; knowledgeable, language appropriate application assistance; passport-sized photos; document certification; citizenship test questions; and ESL referrals.

- *Freeholder Carmen Rodriguez - “Parenting Conference”*
April 13, 2012
Pennsauken High School
Save-the-date

Ms. Betteridge and Ms. DeVera mentioned that they had tried to contact Rutgers to volunteer for the Citizen Drive on March 30th but received no return response from them.

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 was unanimously adopted.

FISCAL REPORT Mary Ann Pagano, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Pagano stated that each Board member has received in his or her packet copies of Fiscal Reports. If there were any questions, she commented that he would be happy to address them.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to accept the Fiscal Report as presented.

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

OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC SESSION

There was none.

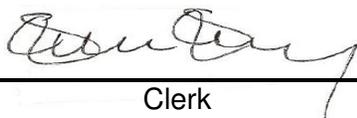
NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Betteridge stated that she is very concerned about the new health care initiative and the effect it may have on seniors and their ability pay for higher copays for prescriptions and outpatient services on fixed incomes. Ms. Betteridge stated that because of the changes coming to health care she is concerned as to the effect it will have on the agency in terms of the aging population seeking assistance due to rising health care costs as many are already choosing between taking their medications, paying their rent or taxes, if still living in their home, or the need to buy food. There are many middle class senior citizens out there that may end up becoming agency customers in the next year or two.

Ms. Betteridge provided two sources of possible assistance programs for health care for seniors. They are the HealthWell Foundation at www.healthwellfoundation.org/ and the Patient Advocate at www.patientadvocate.org/.

Mr. Sheekey stated that representatives from the Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services (DMAHS) attend the monthly meetings. Everyone is asking the appropriate questions and there are many questions that cannot be answered yet. Governor Christie advised two weeks ago that the state will be participating in the "expanded Medicaid". Mr. Sheekey stated he will provide the Board members with any updates regarding the Affordable Health Care Act and how it may impact the agency.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to close the Open Session 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 adopted.



Clerk