

September 21, 2016

The regular meeting of the Camden County Board of Social Services was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016 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:

Susan Michielli, Vice Chair; Dr. Leonard Krivy, PhD, Secretary/Treasurer; Gwen DeVera; Ginny Betteridge

Also present were: Shawn Sheekey, Director; Christine Hentisz, Deputy Director; Martin F. McKernan Jr., Esquire, Board Counsel; Edward Hill, Esquire; Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer; Greg Smith, Sr. Management Assistant; Sharon Hall, Sr. Management Assistant

Public Attendance: Darnell Hardee, Allegra Reed

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

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve.

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

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to open the meeting for public participation. Ms. Michielli moved to open the Public Participation portion of the Open Session, seconded by Dr. Krivy.

Mr. Rhodes asked if there were any members of the public wishing to address the Board. Seeing as 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 of the meeting. Ms. Michielli 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 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 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 was unanimously adopted.

**Resolution 123-2016 – Appointment of Alternate Commissioner for the
Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund Edward Hill, Esquire**

The BOSS joined the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund by Resolution 217-2014. Membership in the Fund required the Board appoint a Commissioner and an Alternate Commissioner to represent the Board’s interests as a member of the Fund.

By Resolution 207-2015, the Board appointed a Fund Commissioner and an Alternate Fund Commissioner. It has become necessary to appoint a replacement Alternate Fund Commissioner.

Resolution 123-2016 permits the Camden County Board of Social Services to appoint Paulette Konopka as the Alternate Fund Commissioner to the Southern New Jersey Regional Benefits Fund, effective September 1, 2016.

Mr. Rhodes requested a motion to approve Resolution 123-2016.

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

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

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

Mr. Sheekey stated that the County Welfare Directors' Association held their annual retreat the beginning of the month and that he was, unfortunately, not able to be in attendance at the DFD meeting the following week. Mr. Sheekey stated that the big issue discussed at the Directors' Retreat was the concern with Emergency Assistance and how the State is trying to get everyone to realize that Emergency Assistance is a temporary housing placement, not a full time placement, although there have been clients rolled over from year to year. Mr. Sheekey stated that he may be attending the Senate Oversight Committee next week because they are asking the CWAs to represent their side of the story, that people are not being kicked out of housing. The State is working with DCA to get vouchers for people who are continually rolling from one pilot program to the next. These are the people who are usually very difficult to place in terms of Emergency Assistance and have been placed with an intensive case manager vendor. There was a conference call last week that Ms. Hentisz participated in regarding the matter. Mr. Sheekey stated that he would keep the Board informed on the matter. Mr. Sheekey stated that there were also IT items discussed at the Retreat.

Mr. Sheekey stated that bi-weekly meetings regarding the transition to a generic workforce continue to be conducted and that the cleanup of the mail and the transition to digital imaging are the primary push. Mr. Sheekey stated that there have been internal discussions regarding these items and there may be meetings held with State representatives to see how the transition to digital imaging could be fast tracked.

Mr. Sheekey stated that the follow up partner's meeting tentatively scheduled for October 20th may need to be rescheduled to a later date. This is something that was discussed during yesterday's Rutgers tour, where the agency is trying to open the dialogue with all the other entities, primarily with the non-profits that have a common interest in the clients that the agency serves. There was an initial meeting held back in February and there was great feedback, the partner agencies were glad to see the changes taking place at the BOSS, and the fact that there is communication. These partner's meetings are helping to identify problems other agencies and the community may be experiencing with the agency.

Ms. Hentisz provided the members of the Board with an update on the FNS Collaborative. The first conference taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina starts on Monday, September 26th and concludes on Wednesday, September 28th. Ms. Hentisz stated that it is a large group and she hopes to bring back much information on best practices being used to process SNAP benefits from the other State participants attending this first round of the conferences.

Mr. Sheekey mentioned that he shared some upcoming community events on his Director's Report.

Ms. DeVera mentioned that she would like to take the opportunity to invite everyone to International Day being held at the Eastern Regional High School on October 1, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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.

**OPEN SESSION
Public Participation**

FISCAL REPORT..... Paulette Konopka, Fiscal Officer

Ms. Konopka stated that each Board member has received copies of Fiscal Reports in their packet for the month of August 2016. Ms. Konopka stated that there is an increase in revenue due to the Medicaid federal funding increase from 50% to 75% covering the period of October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014. Mr. Sheekey stated that this is the retroactive Enhanced Medicaid Funding from the State that he had mentioned to the members of the Board in past meetings. Ms. Konopka stated that the funds receiving amounted to \$2,825,371.00.

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 August 2016 as presented in the packet.

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.

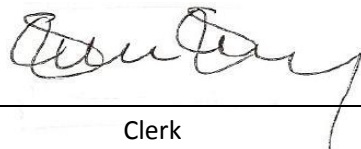
OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC SESSION

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Rhodes mentioned that a group consisting of two administrators and two students from Rutgers Walter Rand Institute for Public Policy visited the agency yesterday. One a Master's in Public Administration and another from Georgia who is a part of the VISTA Program which has been around for years who was here in Camden, New Jersey. Mr. Rhodes stated that it was an eye-opening experience as the visitors were walked through the agency, visited the Navigator Desk, and were provided with a briefing on services, technology and processes. Mr. Rhodes extended his 'thanks' to Mr. Sheekey and Ms. Hentisz for extending their hospitality to the Rutgers guests.

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 adopted.


Clerk