

MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MEETING HELD APRIL 11, 2024

HELD TELEPHONICALLY (PER N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b)) AND IN-PERSON

AT THE OFFICES OF THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES

181 HOW LANE, NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY

ROLL CALL:

Called to order by Barbara Blackwell at 10:00AM

Ms. Barbara Blackwell ✓

Mr. Jerome Hayes _____

Ms. Suchitra Kamath _____

Mr. Eric Marozine ✓

Ms. Janelle Rodriguez _____

Commissioner Claribel Azcona-Barber ✓

Commissioner Leslie Koppel ✓

County Adjuster Sandra Coleman ✓

Ms. Dara Harkay, Director ✓

Attorney Kyle Trent ✓

Also Present:

Stacey Bersani, Public Information Officer

Melyssa Lewis, Director, Middlesex County Office of Human Services

Jennifer Johnson, CWA, Local 1032

Lisa Rankins, CWA, Local 1032

David Blevins, Member of the Public

MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
APRIL 11, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Blackwell opened the meeting by reading a statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975.

A motion was made by Ms. Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Azcona-Barber approving the Minutes of the previous meeting as distributed. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Eric Marozine, seconded by Ms. Coleman, ratifying transactions accomplished by direction and authority of the Director from March 14, 2024 to April 10, 2024. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koppel, seconded by Mr. Marozine, approving the Treasurer's Financial Report. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Koppel, seconded by Mr. Marozine, authorizing the requisitioning of funds. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Azcona-Barber, seconded by Mr. Marozine, approving the payment of bills as listed. The motion was unanimously adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Each Board member was sent a copy of correspondence received by the Board since the March 14, 2024 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Copies of the State Statistics Report for the month of February 2024 were submitted to the Board for review. These reports are issued by the Division of Family Development and provide statistics on the NJSNAP, TANF, GA and Child Support programs. The report shows the WFNJ/TANF caseload in Middlesex County was 610 families (1,579 persons); the SNAP food stamps caseload was 29,882 households (55,154 persons); and 689 General Assistance cases were active.

Staff reports on New Applications in March 2024 showed 273 TANF applications; 510 GA applications, and 1,462 applications for SNAP. SNAP recertifications totaled 1,384 in March.

A copy of the Medicaid Statistics Report for the month of March 2024 was submitted to the Board for review. The report shows a total of 47,704 individuals were due for redetermination. Approximately 28% of our redeterminations are overdue. The statistics show that almost a third of all counties in NJ have an overdue rate above 20%. Over half the counties have an overdue rate of 15% or greater.

NEW BUSINESS:

FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Johnson of CWA, Local 1032, and Lisa Rankins, one of the new stewards for CWA, Local 1032, introduced themselves to the Board. Ms. Johnson mentioned moving into negotiations and her hopes for

an amicable resolution for our staff members. David Blevins, a member of the public, said he appreciated that the Meeting Agendas were added to the Board's website.

RESOLUTIONS:

Consent Agenda:

#24-032 Approval of Payrolls from April 16, 2024 to April 30, 2024 and from May 1, 2024 to May 15, 2024

#24-033 Approval of Overtime Payroll from April 1, 2024 to April 30, 2024

#24-034 Authorize Purchase of 100 HP Laser Jet Toner Cartridges from SHI Under State Contract

#24-035 Accept Proposal of SHI for Purchase of CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection System for Computers for the Time Period of May 24, 2024 to May 23, 2025 (New Jersey Cooperative Purchasing Alliance)

#24-036 Approval of Personnel Report

Requests for Leaves of Absence

Robinson, Madelaine	Social Services Technician, Bilingual S/E	04/19/24 – 04/26/24
Connolly, Jacqueline L.	Clerk 2	03/27/24 – 04/26/24
Fehl, Andrew	Human Services Specialist 2	04/09/24 – 06/27/24
Restivo, Sabrina	Social Services Technician	04/12/24 – 07/11/24

Permanent Appointments:

Arias, Julisa	Clerk 1, Permanent	\$39,015	03/12/23
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Promotion, Reclassification, Title, Salary Change:

Harkay, Dara	Director of Welfare, Provisional	\$191,268	03/14/24
Edelstein, Lisa	Clerk 2, Provisional	\$43,010	03/21/24

Resignations:

Maggi, Richard	Supervising Security Guard	03/15/24
Marcus, Jasmine	Human Services Aide	04/03/24
Reindel, Zenaida	Social Services Technician, Bilingual S/E	04/08/24

A motion was made by Commissioner Koppel, seconded by Ms. Coleman, adopting the Consent Agenda, consisting of Resolutions #24-032 through #24-036. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was moved by Chairwoman Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Marozine to discuss Personnel Matters and Matters Falling Within the Attorney-Client Privilege in closed session. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Members of the public left the room.

The Board entered Closed Session.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Johnson of CWA, Local 1032 told the Board that there have been a few payroll issues since the Board began paying on a semi-monthly pay schedule in January 2024. She said the union wants to ensure their membership that these issues will not continue.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Koppel, seconded by Ms. Coleman. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dara Harkay, Director

