

MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
May 9, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chairperson and Secretary and Treasurer Sandra Coleman opened the meeting by reading a statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975.

A motion was made by Eric Marozine, 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 Commissioner Azcona-Barber, ratifying transactions accomplished by direction and authority of the Director from April 11, 2024 to May 8, 2024. The motion was unanimously adopted.

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

A motion was made by Eric Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Azcona-Barber, 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 April 11, 2024 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Copies of the State Statistics Report for the month of March 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 620 families (1,605 persons); the SNAP food stamps caseload was 30,323 households (56,025 persons); and 666 General Assistance cases were active.

Staff reports on New Applications in April 2024 showed 305 TANF applications; 539 GA applications, and 1,518 applications for SNAP. SNAP recertifications totaled 1,557 in April. In April, our receptionists attended to 3,488 individuals, with 542 of them visiting the Perth Amboy office. During the month, our call center answered 9,942 calls.

A copy of the Medicaid Statistics Report for the month of April 2024 was submitted to the Board for review. The report shows a total caseload of 46,906 individuals. Approximately 33% of our redeterminations are overdue.

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Johnson of CWA, Local 1032, and Elizabeth Figueroa, one of the new stewards for CWA, Local 1032, introduced themselves to the Board.

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Suchitra Kamath, to discuss personnel matters, client reimbursements and protective payees, and attorney-client privileged communications in closed session. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Azcona-Barber, to go into Closed Session. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Members of the public left the room.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

RESOLUTIONS (CONSENT AGENDA):

#24-037 Approval of Payrolls from May 16, 2024 to May 31, 2024 and from June 1, 2024 to June 15, 2024

#24-038 Confirmation of Overtime Payroll for April 2024

#24-039 Approval of Personnel Report

Requests for Leaves of Absence

Jennings, Joseph A.	Chief of Personnel and Labor Relations	04/08/24 – 05/15/24
Kershaw, Amanda A.	Social Services Technician	04/24/24 – 06/17/24
Amato, Kim M.	Human Services Aide	04/08/24 – 07/08/24
Pozo, Elsy	Social Services Technician, BL, S/E	05/16/24 – 06/17/24
Connolly, Jacqueline L.	Clerk 2	04/26/24 – 06/17/24

Permanent Appointments

Hassan, Maha	Administrative Supervisor of Income Maintenance	\$141,772	04/11/24
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Promotion, Reclassification, Title, Salary Change

Cosley-Richardson, Leann	Personnel Officer, Provisional	\$129,444	04/11/24
Franco, Liza	Clerk 2, Bilingual S/E, Provisional	\$43,010	03/21/24

Retirements

Franceschi, Nilsa	Clerk 2, Bilingual S/E	07/01/24
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Terminations

Veronnica Ramos	Human Services Aide	04/19/24
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Ms. Coleman asked if any Board Member had any questions on the resolutions. There were none.

A motion was made by Commissioner Azcona-Barber, seconded by Mr. Marozine, to adopt the Consent Agenda, consisting of Resolutions #24-037 through #24-039. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

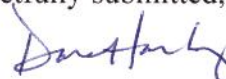
Ms. Johnson, of CWA, Local 1032, said there have been payroll issues, including the change in method of how employees are paid. The agency changed from an equal amount paid each pay period to paying employees for the actual number of hours worked in a pay period. Though the union and its members understand that the annual pay will be the same, they are not happy with the change. She said she is in communication with Administration and Human Resources.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Azcona-Barber. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dara Harkay, Director