

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES
FEBRUARY 13, 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

Roll Call was taken. The following Board Members were in attendance: Barbara Blackwell, Sandra Coleman, Eric Marozine, Suchitra Kamath, Commissioner Azcona-Barber, and Commissioner Koppel. Janelle Rodriguez joined the meeting at 10:13 a.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Koppel, approving the Minutes of the previous meeting as distributed. The motion was adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Koppel, ratifying transactions accomplished by direction and authority of the Director from January 10, 2025 to February 13, 2025. The motion was unanimously adopted.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Koppel, 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. Notification from the Middlesex County Board of Commissioners that:

- Commissioner Claribel Azcona-Barber and Commissioner Leslie Koppel were each appointed for a one-year term to the Board of Social Services
- Janelle Rodriguez was reappointed to the Middlesex County Board of Social Services for a five-year term.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff reports on new applications in January 2025 showed 366 TANF applications; 657 GA applications, and 1,706 applications for SNAP. SNAP recertifications totaled 1,802 in January. In January, our receptionists assisted 3,466 individuals, with 432 of them visiting the Perth Amboy office. During the month, our call center answered 11,855 calls.

A copy of the Medicaid Redetermination Report for the month of January 2025 was submitted to the Board for review. The report shows a total caseload of 43,171 individuals. Approximately one-half of our redeterminations are overdue.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Input

There was no public comment.

Ms. Blackwell moved to discuss personnel matters, the Workers' Compensation Report, a client reimbursement, and attorney-client privileged communications in closed session. A roll call vote was taken. The motion was unanimously adopted.

A motion was made by Ms. Kamath, seconded by Commissioner Koppel, to go into Closed Session. The motion was unanimously adopted.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

RESOLUTIONS

#25-019 APPROVAL OF PAYROLLS FROM FEBRUARY 16, 2025 TO FEBRUARY 28, 2025 AND FROM MARCH 1, 2025 TO MARCH 15, 2025

#25-020 CONFIRM OVERTIME PAYROLL FROM JANUARY 1, 2025 TO JANUARY 31, 2025

#25-021 AMEND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 9, 2025 AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS

#25-022 AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM ASSESSMENT AND REPAIRS WITH RHA COMMUNICATIONS, EAST BRUNSWICK, ON AN "AS-NEEDED" BASIS THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025

#25-023 AUTHORIZE ADOPTION OF 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

#25-024 APPROVAL OF PERSONNEL REPORT

REQUESTS FOR LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Figueroa, Elizabeth G.	Human Services Specialist 2, Bilingual, S/E	01/09/25 – 02/06/25
Baez, Andres	Human Services Specialist 2, Bilingual, S/E	01/13/25 – 02/03/25
Chaprin, Halyna Y.	Senior Building Services Worker	01/22/25 – 03/05/25
Keyte, Allison	Human Services Specialist 3	12/31/24 – 01/21/25
Brenckman, Tyler	Human Services Aide	02/26/25 – 05/19/25

PERMANENT APPOINTMENTS

Pane, Rebecca	Human Services Specialist 1	\$55,785	12/10/24
Allotey, Shannon N.	Human Services Aide	\$42,920	01/22/25
Dukes, Ayanna S.	Human Services Aide	\$42,920	01/22/25

PROMOTION, RECLASSIFICATION, TITLE, SALARY CHANGE

Vega, Christopher	Human Services Specialist 2, Bilingual, S/E	\$79,732	01/24/25
Collado, Yanelys	Social Work Supervisor, Provisional	\$90,203	02/06/25
Ramos, Natalie	Social Worker	\$72,972	02/06/25

NEW HIRES

Giyasova, Yana	Human Services Aide	\$42,920	01/21/25
Metwally, Kholoud A.	Human Services Aide, Bilingual, Arabic/English	\$42,920	01/21/25
Chaudhry, Momina J.	Human Services Aide, Bilingual, Urdu/English	\$42,920	01/21/25

TERMINATIONS

Camacho, Gisel K.	Human Services Aide	01/24/25
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RETIREMENTS

Ioanis, Anita	Fiscal Officer	04/01/25
Jay, Linda	Administrative Supervisor of Welfare	04/01/25
Quick, Julia	Clerk 2, Bilingual, S/E	05/01/25
Njemanze, Abigail	Social Work Specialist	05/01/25

Ms. Blackwell asked if any Board Member had any questions on the resolutions. There were none.

A motion was made by Mr. Marozine, seconded by Commissioner Koppel, to adopt the Consent Agenda, consisting of Resolutions #25-019 through #25-024. The motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dara Harkay, Director

