

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

9:00 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, Stierwalt, Wysocki

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Kimberly Muhammad (City of Champaign Township Case Worker and Representative for the City of Champaign Township Supervisor)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wysocki called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Burnison, Schmidt, Starwalt, and Wysocki were present at the time of the roll call. Wysocki declared a quorum present and proceeded with the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Starwalt to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Burnison. **Motion carried.**

**DATE/TIME OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Wysocki stated the next regular Public Aid Appeals Committee meeting was scheduled for July 11, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. Burnison reminded the committee that he would be unable to attend the next meeting because he will be out of town.

Stierwalt entered the meeting at 9:01 a.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no communications for the committee.

**PUBLIC AID APPEAL FROM THE CITY OF CHAMPAIGN TOWNSHIP REGARDING APPELLANT #01.1**

**Receipt of Evidence from Appellant and Township**

Wysocki noted Appellant #01.1 was not present and offered the floor to Muhammad. Muhammad stated that Appellant #01.1 has caused trouble at various Workfare sites in the past, to the point that Appellant #01.1 has been banned from two Workfare sites. This led to Appellant #01.1's public aid being terminated in the past. Ninety days after the termination, Appellant #01.1 reapplied for and was granted general assistance in May. Appellant #01.1 was assigned to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank as a Workfare site. Muhammad stated Appellant #01.1 failed to report to the assigned Workfare site, report to the Workfare site supervisor, or contact the Township Office to explain the absences. The Eastern Illinois Food Bank underwent a sudden change in management, which resulted in the site not reporting to the City of Champaign Township Office that Appellant #01.1 was not performing the Workfare assignment. Appellant #01.1's general assistance was terminated due to the failure to comply with the assistance requirements. Muhammad met with Appellant #01.1 and explained why the assistance was terminated. Appellant #01.1 requested Muhammad change the appellant's Workfare site to Restoration Urban Ministries or the Metanoia Center, where the appellant has worked before. Both Restoration Urban Ministries and the Metanoia Center have requested that Appellant #01.1 not return to their sites. The township is running out of Workfare sites where this appellant can be assigned because the appellant causes problems at the sites. Appellant #01.1 told Muhammad that the appeal was filed in order for the appellant to continue receiving general assistance after the township issued a termination.

McGrath noted the time was 9:04 a.m. and recommended the committee determine how long they would wait for the appellant to appear. It is typical to allow ten minutes for the appellant to arrive. If the appellant does not appear, McGrath said it is appropriate for the committee to consider a default motion against the appellant and in favor of the township. The committee agreed and moved onto other business while they waited for the appellant.

By 9:11 a.m. the appellant had not appeared. Wysocki asked if Appellant #01.1 was duly notified of the hearing. The Recording Secretary stated, pursuant to the Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules, that a notice of hearing was sent to Appellant #01.1 via certified mail and the signed receipt confirmed that Appellant #01.1 received the notice.

**Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c) (4) to Consider Evidence or Testimony Presented in Open Hearing to This Quasi – Adjudicative Body**

There was no closed session.

**Announcement of Decision**

Muhammad requested the committee enter a default decision in favor of the township and against the appellant.

**MOTION** by Burnison to uphold the City of Champaign Township Supervisor's decision to terminate Appellant #01.1's general assistance benefits and enter a default decision in favor of the City of Champaign Township and against Appellant #01.1. Motion seconded by Stierwalt.

Schmidt stated he could not understand what the basis for the appeal was by reading the notice of appeal filled out by Appellant #01.1. He felt some standard should be met for the notices of appeal to be accepted by the townships. The committee noted for the record that evidence was received from the City of Champaign Township and no evidence was received from the appellant.

**Motion carried.**

Burnison asked if there was any procedure to stop the continuous abuses of the system from certain public aid recipients, such as recipients who fail to appear at the required appeal hearings and then reapply for assistance after ninety days. McGrath said the only way for the current requirements to change would be for the state legislature to give the committee the authority to do so.

**OLD BUSINESS**

McGrath informed the committee that the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee agreed to be the parent committee for the Public Aid Appeals Committee and the revised Public Aid Appeals Committee Rules will be on that committee's August agenda for approval. Once the rules are approved by the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee and the County Board, they will be distributed to the townships. Wysocki explained there will be no County Board committee meetings in July, so August is the earliest meeting the revised rules could be considered.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

A binder containing the committee's closed session minutes was at the meeting for the committee's review. McGrath explained the closed session review process for the benefit of the committee. McGrath recommended the closed session minutes remain closed in order to protect the privacy of the appellants.

**MOTION** by Starwalt that all closed minutes remain closed; seconded by Schmidt. **Motion carried.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Schmidt to adjourn; seconded by Starwalt. **Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork  
Administrative Secretary

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*