



**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
COMMITTEE AGENDA**

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**PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 4**

**1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

**Thursday, January 30, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.**

**CHAIR:** Al Kurtz

**MEMBERS:** Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, Andrew Quarnstrom, Bryan Wrona

**ITEM**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL**

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. October 31, 2013 Open Session Minutes
- b. October 31, 2013 Closed Session Minutes *(to be distributed)*

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**VI. PUBLIC AID APPEAL FROM CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP REGARDING  
APPELLANT #02.81**

- a. Oath, Testimony, & Receipt of Evidence from Appellant
- b. Oath, Testimony, & Receipt of Evidence from Township
- c. Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(4) to Consider Evidence or Testimony Presented in Open Hearing to This Quasi – Adjudicative Body
- d. Announcement of Decision

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

*(Oath Script: Please raise your right hand. Do you solemnly swear and affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth to the best of your ability?)*

*Please note that parties to a case heard by the Public Aid Appeals Committee receive only the agenda attachments relevant to their case, in order to protect the privacy rights of any other parties who may have their case heard before the committee.*

1 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
2 **COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
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5 **PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
6 **Thursday, October 31, 2013**  
7 **Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3**  
8 **1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**  
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10  
11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Alan Kurtz, Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, Bryan Wrona  
12

13 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Andy Quarnstrom  
14

15 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Fred Grosser (Cunningham Township Attorney), Deana Landess  
16 (Cunningham Township Caseworker), Michelle Mayol (Cunningham  
17 Township Supervisor), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant)  
18

19 **CALL TO ORDER**  
20

21 Kurtz called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.  
22

23 **ROLL CALL**  
24

25 Rhodes called the roll. Magsamen, Rusk, Kurtz, and Wrona were present at the time of the  
26 roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.  
27

28 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
29

30 **MOTION** by Rusk to approve the minutes of June 14, 2013; seconded by Magsamen.  
31 **Motion carried with unanimous support.**  
32

33 **AGENDA/ADDENDUM**  
34

35 **MOTION** by Rusk to approve the agenda for the meeting; seconded by Magsamen. **Motion**  
36 **carried with unanimous support.**  
37

38 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
39

40 There was no public participation.  
41

42 **PUBLIC AID APPEAL FOR CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP**  
43 **REGARDING APPELLANT #02.78**  
44

45 Appellant #2.78 entered the hearing at 9:03 a.m. Kurtz asked Appellant #2.78 to provide her  
46 oath and testimony regarding her appeal. Appellant #2.78 testified that while working at her  
47 designated workfare assignment, the Habitat Store, situations arose between herself and another  
48 worker there that made her uncomfortable. This worker made sexual advances towards her but she

49 did not report it because she did not know what to do about it. Appellant #2.78 stated that she did not  
50 realize that what was happening was called workplace sexual harassment until much later when she  
51 had a conversation with a worker at A Woman's Place.

52  
53 Kurtz asked Appellant #2.78 if she had reported this to anyone because he did not see it  
54 mentioned in the Statement of Facts presented by the Cunningham Township Supervisor. Appellant  
55 #2.78 stated she had not because she did not know that she had any recourse. Appellant #2.78  
56 acknowledged that she signed herself out of work early on several occasions without permission and  
57 falsified timesheets.

58  
59 Fred Grosser, Attorney for Cunningham Township Supervisor's office asked Appellant #2.78  
60 if an employee at A Woman's Place had advised her to list sexual harassment on her request for  
61 appeal. Appellant indicated the employee did not tell her what to do; they had only discussed what  
62 had happened to her and that it seemed to her to be workplace sexual harassment. Grosser asked if  
63 anyone at A Woman's Place had told her to falsify time records. Appellant denied this.

64  
65 Kurtz asked Michelle Mayol, Cunningham Township Supervisor and Deana Landess,  
66 Caseworker for their oath and testimony regarding this case. Grosser questioned Landess regarding  
67 her work at the Cunningham Township office, as well as her interactions with the Appellant. Landess  
68 testified that she performed intakes, determined eligibility, made assignments to worksites and any  
69 follow-up necessary to make sure the client performed the mandatory hours in order to remain  
70 eligible for assistance.

71  
72 Landess testified that she met the Appellant when she came in for an intake appointment and  
73 processed her application. Grosser presented exhibits 1-15 into evidence on behalf of Cunningham  
74 Township: the General Assistance Application dated May 20, 2013; Notice of General Assistance  
75 Benefits dated June 10, 2013; Notice to Report for Workfare Assignment dated June 10, 2013;  
76 Request for documentation of court dates preventing workfare attendance dated June 13, 2013;  
77 Documentation regarding court signed by Public Defender attorney, dated June 16, 2013; General  
78 Assistance Termination Notice dated July 1, 2013; Email communication from Restore Manager  
79 stating failure to complete July hours and removal from schedule dated July 14, 2013; Email  
80 communication from Restore Manager regarding falsification of timesheets dated August 31, 2013;  
81 Notice of General Assistance Termination dated September 3, 2013; Notice of Appeal received  
82 September 12, 2013; Pre-Hearing Conference Notice dated September 12, 2013; Letter noting failure  
83 to appear at pre-hearing conference dated September 2013; Email communication from Restore  
84 Manager regarding claim of sexual harassment dated September 24, 2013; Notice of Cunningham  
85 Township General Assistance Standards dated October 29, 2013; Illinois Department of Human  
86 Services PR 445.1 Participation Requirements; and Statement of Facts prepared by the Cunningham  
87 Township.

88  
89 Landess testified that the Appellant was to work 20 hours pro-rated the first month and 29  
90 hours each month after that at her workfare assignment, the Restore. Landess testified that benefits  
91 were terminated because she did not complete her workfare hours and she falsified timesheets.  
92 Grosser asked Landess if the Appellant had ever mentioned any harassment taking place at her  
93 workfare assignment. Landess testified that she was not aware of any type of harassment until it was

94 mentioned in the Appellant's Notice of Appeal. Landess then contacted the Restore manager who  
95 stated that she was also unaware of any harassment.

96  
97 Grosser asked Mayol to read sections of the Illinois Department of Human Services PR 445.1  
98 Participation Requirements: ...A client who is assigned to work, education, or training projects is required to  
99 accept the assignment as a condition of eligibility for assistance....Sanctions: ...If a client fails to accept or  
100 complete an assignment, sanction the non-cooperating person...When a client fails to cooperate or accept a  
101 work assignment and is sanctioned, the client is ineligible for GA for 3 months...All nonexempt GA clients  
102 must accept assignment and cooperate with Work and Training Programs, as a condition of eligibility for GA.  
103 Non-cooperation by a nonexempt person receiving TA makes the case ineligible...A sanctioned client is  
104 ineligible for 3 payment months...

105  
106 **MOTION** by Kurtz to enter into closed session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(4) to consider  
107 evidence or testimony presented in open hearing to this Quasi – Adjudicative Body. He further  
108 moved the following individual remain present: the Recording Secretary; seconded by Rusk.  
109 **Magsamen, Rusk, Wrona, and Kurtz voted in favor of the motion.**

110  
111 The township representatives, township's legal counsel, and Appellant #02.78 exited the  
112 meeting room. The committee entered into closed session at 9:30 a.m. The committee resumed open  
113 session at 9:35 a.m. The township representatives, township's legal counsel, and Appellant #02.78  
114 re-entered the meeting room.

115  
116 After consideration of the evidence, the Public Aid Appeals Committee determined that  
117 Cunningham Township properly denied General Assistance benefits to Appellant #2.78 because she  
118 did not complete required hours at Workfare Assignment.

119  
120 The committee also found that Cunningham Township complied with its regulations, as well  
121 as the regulations of the Department of Human Services, and there was no evidence that those  
122 regulations were applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner. Accordingly, the decision of the  
123 township to deny General Assistance to Appellant #2.78 was affirmed.

124  
125  
126 **OTHER BUSINESS**

127  
128 There was no other business.

129  
130 **ADJOURNMENT**

131  
132 The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

133  
134  
135 Respectfully submitted,  
136 Kay Rhodes  
137 Administrative Assistant