

Approved 1/30/2014

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC AID APPEALS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 31, 2013

**Brookens Administrative Center, Meeting Room 3
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Kurtz, Bernard Magsamen, James Rusk, Bryan Wrona

MEMBERS ABSENT: Andy Quarnstrom

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

AGENDA/ADDENDUM

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

**PUBLIC AID APPEAL FOR CUNNINGHAM TOWNSHIP
REGARDING APPELLANT #02.78**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant