Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund Commission

**Open Minutes**

**June 10, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, J. Prontnicki at 9:32 a.m.

J. Prontnicki announced that in compliance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, the specifics as to time and place of this meeting were sent to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Department of Personnel for filing and posted on the official bulletin boards provided by those offices for notice of public meetings. Also, notices were prepared for two newspapers to inform the public of this meeting.

Due to the state of emergency declared by Executive Order 103 (March 9, 2020) associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with P.L.2020, c.11. (allowing public bodies to conduct meetings, and provide notice, by electronic means during periods of emergency), this meeting was conducted through a combination of teleconference (for the open session) and video/teleconference (for the closed session). The open session teleconference phone number and access code were referenced in the prepared notices and published on the public website of the State Office of the Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund.

J. Prontnicki conducted a roll call of members as follows:

**Present:**

Janice Prontnicki, Chairperson

Ellen DeRosa, Vice-Chairperson

Ralph Condo

Phyllis Shanley Hansell

Dawn Mergen

Carl Underland

Jeffery Carrick

Howard Weinberg (left at 9:45)

Anthony Valenzuela

**Guest:**

Jeanette Barnard, DAG

**Staff:**

Christian Heiss, Executive Director

Amy Taklif, Analyst

**Agenda Approval:**

P. Shanley Hansell made a motion to approve the proposed meeting agenda for today’s meeting. E. DeRosa seconded the motion. All Commission members voted in favor.

**Approval of Open Minutes of May 6, 2020 Meeting:**

R. Condo made a motion to approve the open minutes of May 6, 2020 which was seconded by P. Shanley Hansell. All Commission members voted in favor.

Note: Minutes of the May 6, 2020 Closed Session will be completed by the State Office and forwarded to the Minutes Committee for voting by the full Commission at their next regularly scheduled meeting.

**Review of Applications:**

**Closed Session:**

P. Shanley Hansell made a motion to go into closed session to review application abstracts, which was seconded by R. Condo. All Commission members voted in favor.

**Appeals:**

P. Shanley Hansell made a motion to approve application 220512019 as presented and reverse the Commission’s previous determination of ineligibility. C. Underland seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was held:

- E. DeRosa – No

 - R. Condo – No

 - P. Shanley Hansell – Yes

 - J. Carrick – No

 - C. Underland – Yes

 - D. Mergen – No

 - A. Valenzuela – No

 - J. Prontnicki – No

The motion failed with 2 votes in favor and 6 against.

**Eligibles:**

E. DeRosa made a motion to approve the eligible applications as presented in closed session, with the exception of applications 218532019, 221082019, 221152019, and 222932020.

P. Shanley Hansell seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

R. Condo made a motion to approve application 218532019 with the removal of expenses related to cord blood storage, in accordance with discussion in closed session.

P. Shanley Hansell seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

E. DeRosa made a motion to conditionally approve application 221082019 pending the completion of discussions with the insurance carrier for potential additional insurance coverage, and with the stipulation that the family’s remaining expenses after further insurance consideration must continue to meet the eligibility guidelines for Fund reimbursement, in accordance with discussion in closed session.

R. Condo seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

R. Condo made a motion to approve application 221152019 with the removal of expenses related to Outpatient Psychotherapy/Counseling and Psychiatry services received from non-participating providers, in accordance with discussion in closed session.

E. DeRosa seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

R. Condo made a motion to hold application 222932020 for additional information, in accordance with discussion in closed session.

D. Mergen seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

**Bylaws Committee:**

R. Condo made a motion to accept the memo submitted by the Bylaws Committee with the clarification that the proposed amendment to the Bylaws refers to Article III, Section 1, and to adopt the proposed clarification that ex-officio members of the Commission “have full voting rights and representation for purposes of establishing a quorum.” P. Shanley Hansell seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

**Legislative Committee:**

E. DeRosa made a motion to accept the memo submitted by the Legislative Committee and to approve implementation of the recommendations proposed in the memo. P. Shanley Hansell seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

**Service Eligibility & Medical Advisory Committee:**

R. Condo made a motion to accept the memo submitted by the Service Eligibility & Medical Advisory Committee and to approve implementation of the recommendations proposed in the memo. P. Shanley Hansell seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

**2020-2021 Commission Meeting Schedule:**

R. Condo made a motion to accept the dates proposed for the 2020-2021 Commission Meeting schedule and to provide public notice of the dates in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act. E. DeRosa seconded the motion; all Commission members voted in favor.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn meeting made by E. DeRosa and seconded by P. Shanley Hansell. All Commission members voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 p.m.