

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, July 17, 2012, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Ms. Betty Wood; Ms. Kay W. Lewis; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

Mr. Obenshain called the meeting to order. Ms. Major gave the Invocation.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Election of Chairperson and Item 4 – Election of Vice-Chairperson**. On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, Mr. Obenshain was re-elected to serve as Chairman and Ms. Major was re-elected to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 5 – Approve Minutes of June 19, 2012**. On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Wood, the Minutes of June 19, 2012 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 6 – Introduction of New Employees – Office Associate II Kathy Mason and Benefit Program Specialist II Pat Roberts**. Mrs. Obenshain welcomed them to the agency.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 7 – Fraud Update and Presentation Regarding Cooling Program Front-End Fraud Detection – Jack Thomas – Fraud Investigator II**. Mr. Thomas stated last year Energy Assistance Supervisor Linda C. Rew and he discussed the fraud situation concerning clients who wanted air conditioners. A decision was made for him to not only check the homes of clients who wanted to pick up their own air conditioners but also check the ones who wanted a vendor to install an air conditioner. Mr. Thomas stated as of July 13, 2012 Mr. Thomas had 63 referrals of which 10 were legitimate and 53 were fraudulent resulting in program savings of \$18,800.00 thus far.

Mr. Thomas further stated some houses he inspected had two or three air conditioners which were working perfectly. Normally if the person is at home Mr. Thomas goes to the door and informs them why he is there. If there is an air conditioner at the residence, he goes inside and checks to see whether it is working. If so, he informs the applicant he is unable to authorize another air conditioner for their home. He stated the excuse mostly used by applicants who already have existing units in their windows is "I borrowed that one from a friend." Most of the time following the denial, a request is made for payment of the electricity bill. In many cases applicants are trying to cool their entire home with one unit. You cannot cool the entire house with a window unit. He further stated we are taking a more active role in the cooling program. The Board felt it would be good to get word out to the community that out of 63 applications only 10 were legitimate and 53 fraud. If this was put in the local newspaper it would be a deterrent to those who were planning to fraudulently apply. Mr. Obenshain stated this would show taxpayers we are here to help those in need and deter those who try to defraud the agency. On behalf of the Board Mr. Obenshain thanked Mr. Thomas for his presentation.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Director's Update. Community Relations:** On June 25, 2012 Adult Services Supervisor Wayman Trent and Mrs. Parker attended a meeting with Scott Johnson and the lead team from Gayton Baptist Church to discuss projects to be completed during the week of July 15-20, 2012. They will be rehabbing houses for our clients and Veterans in the community. They are staying at Nandua High School. Mrs. Parker stated they will be having a dinner on Thursday, July 19, 2012, for the families. Mr. Trent, some of his staff and Mrs. Parker have been invited to attend. There should be around 20-25 homes that will be rehabbed. Some of the church group will be working at the Food Bank and weeding the garden.

On June 29, 2012 Mrs. Parker attended the Food Bank Building Task Force meeting.

**Regular Meetings:** On July 9, 2012 Mrs. Parker attended the Food Bank Advisory Committee meeting.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 9 – Suspension of Discussions with Norfolk State University Regarding BSW and MSW Distance Learning Programs.** Mrs. Parker stated this is the second time this has happened. Ms. Major asked whether they were suspending the entire program. Mrs. Parker stated they are suspending discussions about expanding the program. Mrs. Parker stated VCU has a distance learning option which may work out better for people who choose to pursue it.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 10 – Continuation of Parent Infant Program for FY 2012.** Mrs. Parker stated the PIPS program is going to continue for this year.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 11 – Revision of Section V. Part B. of the Local Department of Social Services Compensation Plan 2012-2013 to Increase Local Salaries of All Employees Required to Pay 5% Member Contributions to VRS.** This is to cover the fact the County elected to fund the full 5% and added a full percentage in there to fund it so people would be paid like they were the previous month. Mrs. Parker stated this had been approved by the Board of Supervisors and needed to be approved by the ACDSS Board. She further stated the Board had to go through the formality of approving the Plan. We did not receive any additional funding from the State so our budget will be tight. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the plan was approved.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 12 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon.** Mrs. Harmon stated the month of June was the first month of the new Fiscal Year. For the month of June our Expenditures totaled \$310,624.25. Our Total Local Adjustment was \$44,816.01 and our Total Balance to Date is \$614,776.99.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 13 – Meetings with Eastern Regional Director and County Administrator.** Mrs. Parker had not talked with County Administrator Steve Miner to determine his schedule. Ms. Gordy stated he would be back in the office the following day. Mr. Obenshain inquired whether Board Members would be interested in Eastern Region Director Steve Blythe coming to the Agency to give the Board refresher training. He had done this in previous years. Ms. Wood and Ms. Major stated it would probably be a good idea. Mrs. Parker stated it would be good to have the refresher training after our new Board Member arrives.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 14 – Resolution – C. Ray Davis.** On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, the Resolution for C. Ray Davis as a former Board Member of ACDSS was approved.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Resignation, Employment), as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Board returned to Open Session. On motion by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Board confirmed the matters discussed in Closed Session (Ms. Wood - yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes).

On motion by Ms. Major seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Board was polled (Ms. Wood – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes) and approved the following item:

- I. Personnel:
  - A. Resignation:
    - 1. Margaret Layne, Benefit Program Specialist II, eff. 06/15/12
  - B. Employment:
    - 1. Kathy Mason, Office Associate II, eff. 06/28/12

Mr. Obenshain stated it appeared there would be no August meeting. Mrs. Parker stated if any issues should arise she would contact them. The next meeting will be held on September 18, 2012.

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**