

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Betty Wood; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Ms. Kay W. Lewis; Mr. C. Ray Davis; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of December 21, 2010.** On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Minutes of December 21, 2010 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas had started collecting Tax Intercept money. She further stated Mr. Thomas had been doing some front end fraud; however, she was not sure which program was affected.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update.** **Community Relations:** On January 13, 2011 Mrs. Parker attended a Community Forum on Reentry for Ex-Offenders on the Eastern Shore of Virginia at the House of Prayer UMC in Bloxom. Court Services for juvenile offenders and adult offenders were also in attendance. They also had a Committee present which was comprised by parishioners of the church. Their questions involved what we can provide prisoners when they reenter society, what we can do to assist their families while they are in prison and whether we could set up a way for them to be able to visit online. Mrs. Parker stated a church across the Bay is doing this. However, prisons will only allow video meetings on Saturdays and Sundays. Director of Adult Court Services Glenn Crim stated it is important to keep families in touch with prisoners while they are incarcerated so when they return home they maintain a connection and are aware of what is happening within the family.

Mrs. Parker stated some in attendance could not understand why someone who had been convicted of distribution of drugs would never be eligible for benefits. However, if their family is, their income has to be included. Mrs. Parker concluded by saying it was a good meeting and fairly well attended.

Regular Meetings: On January 6, 2011 Mrs. Parker stated she attended the regular CPMT meeting. Mrs. Parker stated there would be no Food Bank Advisory Committee meeting until Monday, January 24, 2011, due to the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, January 17, 2011.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Amending Virginia State Code 15.2-1508 regarding Employee Bonuses.** Mrs. Parker stated the Board had requested Mrs. Parker to speak with the League relative to getting the Code amended regarding bonuses. Mrs. Parker stated she sent it out to the League, as well as the League lobbyist, who stated this would be something to plan for next year as it was too late for this year. She further stated we needed to get other agencies onboard. Mrs. Parker stated the Code would have to be amended and policies of the VDSS would have to be changed as well.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 – Virginia League of Social Services Legislative Bulletin.** Mrs. Parker stated this was the first packet they had sent. She further stated she had received an email that morning relative to using the term “social worker” because the Virginia Board of Social

Work is trying to get a Title Protection Bill through so a worker would have to be a graduate of a college that was accredited by a certain group of people. She believed the meeting for this was at 8 A.M. that morning. They only had one Director to speak on behalf of the League. The League was asking all Directors to contact everyone on the Committee in order to get this stopped.

Mrs. Parker stated one of the big changes was for CSA. They are trying to treat therapeutic foster care the same as residential costs with the same local match. By doing so Accomack County would have a 45% match on any dollar spent in therapeutic foster care. They also want to do away with all non-mandated funds. We have previously served children with non-mandated funds. While we only have \$38,000, sometimes it does not take a lot of money to assist a child in achieving a better point in his/her life. Mrs. Parker stated she would be watching this as well.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Child Welfare Critical Outcomes Report**. Mrs. Parker stated Child Welfare Supervisor Libby Beasley would be addressing the Board on this issue.

Mr. Obenshain stated while they were waiting for Mrs. Beasley to arrive, he would proceed to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. In the absence of Ms. Harmon Mrs. Parker reviewed the Financial Statement with the Board. There were no questions pertaining to its contents.

Upon the arrival of Mrs. Beasley Mr. Obenshain went back to **Item 8 – Child Welfare Critical Outcomes Report**. Mrs. Beasley stated Mrs. Parker had asked her to come before the Board to discuss the latest report and answer any questions. Mrs. Beasley stated her Unit had worked hard to figure out the report. One of the things she learned is the way the State obtains the percentages is not as straight forward as it appears. Some of our lower percentages were due to the workers entering the information incorrectly. For instance, the Safety Outcome sheet for January is the report about Child Protective Services (CPS). In doing the research we learned how they obtain the percentages. We have twenty-four hours, three days or thirty days to talk with someone critical to a case. That is what we enter in OASIS during an investigation; however, this is not what the report is registering. This also shows each attempt to visit someone. OASIS for the investigation does not consider unsuccessful attempts to visit someone critical to a case, so we have only been entering the actual visits. By entering all attempts to visit an individual and no one is home Mrs. Beasley stated her Unit could increase their percentages.

Another issue addressed by Mrs. Beasley is recurrence of complaints. Her Unit had been entering all second complaints as new complaints. The Manual gives you latitude of not having to count all of them as new complaints. If a complaint is received while another complaint is pending and it is the same type of complaint, we do not have to consider it as a new complaint. That will allow another figure on the report to improve.

Mrs. Beasley stated her Unit had done an investigative approach to determine how the percentages were determined. Mrs. Parker stated it would seem logical for the state, if they wanted to assure the numbers would be correct they would inform agencies from the beginning what to do when the information is entered into the system. Mrs. Beasley stated another example is Kinship Care Placements. At the present time Virginia does not have anything called Kinship Care. They would like to

implement it; however, this report is judging you on the number of Kinship Care placements. Mrs. Beasley stated she called another Supervisor in Southwest Virginia who had some values for Kinship Care. Mrs. Beasley asked how they entered a figure for Kinship Care when Virginia does not have it. The Supervisor informed Mrs. Beasley she is showing children who are placed with relatives under the Kinship Care Placement category. The Supervisor further stated if her Agency was going to be evaluated on it, she was going to place a figure in it. Mrs. Beasley stated the next time ACDSS places a child in a family member's home her Unit would be coding the placement as Kinship Care. Unfortunately, if Virginia develops a placement plan in the fashion they desire, children placed in a family member's home will not meet the definition of Kinship Care Placement. The State wants to keep a child out of foster care by placing the child with a kinship caretaker; however, they want to give that kinship caretaker a foster care payment each month for the length of time the child is in the home. There is a lot of controversy about this issue as there is no money. Some critics believe the State would be creating a different type of welfare by paying relatives to take care of children.

Mrs. Parker thanked Mrs. Beasley for the presentation and stated her Unit had been doing a good job.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 10 – Accomack County FY 2011-2012 Budget**. Mrs. Parker stated the budget increase of \$10,989 was because there will be a 6% increase in health insurance costs.

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms/ Major, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Termination and Confidential Personnel Matter), as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

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

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

- I. Personnel:
 1. Termination:
 - a. Ann Moscatello, Office Associate III, Effective 1/15/11

Mr. Obenshain stated the next Regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2011, at 9:30 A.M.

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

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____