

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, March 15, 2011, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Betty Wood; Ms. Kay Lewis; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Mr. C. Ray Davis; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of February 15, 2011.** On motion by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Minutes of February 15, 2011, were approved as written. Ms. Gordy abstained from the motion as she was not present for the February meeting. Ms. Gordy commended Secretary I Linda C. Rew on the informative Minutes. She stated they keep her up to date whenever she is unable to attend a meeting.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mrs. Parker stated we have been able to straighten out the dilemma concerning a client's Federal income taxes which were intercepted due to the embezzlement which occurred at our Agency. The client has now received her refund. Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas is trying to resolve the same issue for other clients. Ms. Lewis stated it appeared from the Fraud Update we had done well with Tax Intercept. Mr. Obenshain stated Tax Intercept's greatest value is a deterrent of clients to commit fraud.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update. Community Relations**: On March 9, 2011 Mrs. Parker met with Mickie Spangler (ESCC), Diane Musso (ESAAA/CAA), Robin Sexauer (Virginia Dept. of Rehabilitative Services), and Richard Sterrett (Northampton DSS) for lunch to discuss issues within the respective agencies, budgetary issues the agencies face, and what services there are to help our communities. Mrs. Parker stated they will be meeting every quarter.

Regular Meetings: On March 3, 2011 Mrs. Parker attended the regular CPMT meeting.

Regional/State Meetings: On March 7, 2011 Mrs. Parker attended the Eastern Region Local Directors meeting at the Eastern Regional Office in Virginia Beach. J. R. Simpson, Chief DSS Financial Officer, was present and discussed the budgetary process and how Governor McDonnell was requesting 2%, 7% and 5% reduction plans from each agency. The State DSS submitted a budget request to be reviewed by the Governor, Department of Planning and Budget, and the Cabinet. Then, Governor McDonnell outlined his budget, presented it to the General Assembly Committees and Member Amendments were introduced. Some of the Amendments presented were based on what departments presented and others were based on what the League of Social Services Executives presented on behalf of DSS agencies; i.e., things which were not in Governor McDonnell’s budget that the State DSS did not oppose but because Governor McDonnell did not propose it in his budget, they could not speak for or against. Within that process it gets down to the conferees and what they put in the budget. Governor McDonnell signed part of the proposed budget but not all. The State DSS was allotted \$584,000.00 to pay the VITA bill for data processing to Northrup Grumman. They restored \$2.4 million of the Auxiliary Grant reduction that was in the budget last year. They increased some funding for DCSE, adjusted some TANF funds designated for other programs, and they balanced funding for foster care and adoption. They also reduced money for at-risk child care and made other changes as well. The State has now changed training for DSS workers to in-house. They had previously been contracting with VCU for millions of dollars. Mrs. Parker stated she felt this would be better for everyone and save the State money.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 6 - Social Worker Appreciation Month**. Mrs. Parker stated their pizza party had been scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2011. The luncheon consists of various types of pizza, a large tray of tossed salad, drinks and cake. The food is delivered and served in our Agency Training Room.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 7 – Members Helping Members Program**. Mrs. Parker stated this years’ program will begin on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. Last year there was approximately \$15,000 to be distributed to those in need of assistance with their energy costs. This year there is approximately \$20,000 in funds for assistance. Mrs. Parker stated she hoped the funds would last until the commencement of our Cooling Program on June 15, 2011.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Mrs. Harmon stated we have just completed the ninth month of our Fiscal Year. For the month of February our Total Expenditures were \$285,963.60. Our Total Local Adjustment was \$366,414.52 and our Total Balance to Date is \$282,189.48. Mr. Obenshain inquired whether Adult Services had another fund to use.

Mrs. Harmon stated they could use Home Based funding if Adult Services is depleted. Mr. Davis inquired about the \$24,828.00 credit in Local Administration for September 2010. Ms. Harmon stated this was a refund to our local budget. Mr. Davis then inquired why we received it. Mrs. Parker stated she was appointed Guardian for a gentleman who was mentally incapacitated. Before she could get the Court procedure and insurance straight, she had to pay the nursing home bill. She used Local Funds to pay those charges until she could get reimbursement from the gentleman's accounts. The money was reimbursed to our Local Only funding. This money was from the previous Fiscal Year. Mrs. Parker stated in the County's budget they have included for public comment a 2% merit bonus for all County employees, which includes ACDSS. Accomack County Finance Director Mike Mason had contacted Mrs. Parker and inquired whether our Evaluation Tool included performances for good, better or best. Mrs. Parker stated we have always had a tool for this; however, we have never used it for the purpose for which it was intended. Mr. Mason stated they were looking into this area and it included our Agency. Mrs. Parker stated this would be a bonus based on merit and not salary level. Ms. Lewis stated she believed it would be a huge mistake to give the bonus based on merit. Having previously been a Supervisor, Ms. Lewis stated there are some workers who go well beyond the call of duty and there are others who have the potential but do not excel in the workload. It will cause numerous problems between co-workers if one worker gets the bonus due to his/her performance evaluation and the other does not. There will be tension and conflicts between workers. Ms. Lewis stated she definitely did not think the Board of Supervisors had thought about the final outcome.

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Leave Without Pay and Disciplinary Action), as permitted by Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

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

- I. Personnel:
 1. Leave Without Pay:
 - a. Ashley Esquivel, Office Associate II – 02/24/-03/10/11 - 80.50 Hrs.
 2. Disciplinary Action:
 - a. Christine Santos, Benefit Program Specialist I – Suspension Without Pay from 03/10/11 – 03/11/11

Mr. Obenshain stated the next Regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 19, 2011, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Wood, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

APPROVED: _____

ATTEST: _____