

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 9:30 A.M. Present were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Crockett; Mr. John Sparkman; Mr. Robert Martin; Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr.; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order. Mrs. Mackie gave the Invocation.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of January 21, 2020.** On motion by Mr. Crockett; seconded by Mr. Hart, the Minutes of January 21, 2020 were approved as written. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4: Fraud Report.** Ms. Major inquired whether anyone had any questions relative to the report and no one had any.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Report.** Mrs. Weakley stated she attended two Bridges over Poverty planning meetings. She further stated the actual event was scheduled to take place on March 24, 2020, repeated on April 22, 2020 and on April 23, 2020 we will have a community planning session. Mrs. Weakley stated she hoped the Board Members would attend at least one session. Governor Ralph Northam has been invited; however, he has not responded. After the training session there will be a community planning session on April 23, 2020 for the community to plan strategies for the future of the Shore.

At that time Mr. Hart inquired about the dates. Mrs. Weakley stated it would be on March 24th and April 22nd at the Eastern Shore Community College in the Workforce Center. We will be doing registration 8:30 AM – 9 AM. The actual event is 9 AM – 4 PM.

Mrs. Weakley also attended a CPMT (Community Policy and Management Team) meeting; three Truancy meetings, new CFSR Child Family Services Review) process webinar; ACDSS Supervisors’ meeting; a Census meeting; and a Professional Development Committee meeting.

Mrs. Weakley stated we had a Quality Initiative review on child welfare on February 13th. They were very pleased with how it went. All IV-E cases were done correctly and there was one finding; an underpayment of \$16.00 which does not translate into a negative error. It was an agency error of Therapeutic Interventions who undercut themselves \$16.00. There were no errors in the ongoing cases reviewed. The only finding to be written up was not a negative reflection on us; however, the judge and attorney delayed approving the adoption of four siblings, so we are out of compliance with the 24 month deadline. She wrote it up as out of the agency’s control. Mr. Crockett inquired whether it was documented and Mrs. Weakley stated it was. The reviewer stated that in the 2-1/2 years she has been coming to the agency she had seen marked improvement. The reviewer was pleased with the improvements we have made and felt we are a totally different agency since her first visit.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 6 – Angel Tree Report.** Mrs. Weakley stated 122 children and 55 families were helped by Angel Tree Project 2019. The Community Partners who supported the Angel Tree were Grace United Methodist Church; Coca Cola; Peebles Dept. Store; Tangier Combined School; Edward Jones and Broadwater Academy.

On the Adult Angel Tree Project 2019 there were 62 Shore residents who received gifts.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 7 – Legal Authority.** In reviewing everything and getting Mr. Hart’s pre-Service Agreement ready, Mrs. Weakley discovered there is

a list of authorities that the Board is supposed to give the Director permission to do every year, which had previously been overlooked. In order to become official she was bringing it to the Board to sign off to give Mrs. Weakley permission. Ms. Major stated she was giving the Board Members a moment to review it as it was an action item.

On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, in order for the Board to be in compliance Mrs. Weakley was given delegation of authority. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Family Partnership Meeting Award Letter**. Mrs. Weakley stated we received \$300.00 as a result of Family Partnership meetings that occurred during September 1, 2019 – November 30, 2019. For anyone unfamiliar with this item, these are meetings held by the Child Welfare Unit. If we have a child coming into custody or we have trouble getting a child out of the system, we have a meeting to bring the whole family together and on the phone for out-of-town folks and discuss what is in the best interest of the child. In this situation you have everyone together at the same time, to make a plan for the child.

Ms. Major inquired if \$300.00 was the maximum. Mrs. Weakley stated it is based on the number of meetings you hold.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – Benefits Appreciation Month**. Mrs. Weakley stated this is a Resolution of Appreciation signed by the State Board of Social Services. We allow the benefits unit – which is comprised of three units – to go out to lunch together, on the agency. In the past everyone went to The Island House but now they get together and choose the place they want to go. They will be going to lunch and receive a small plant in appreciation of all the hard work they have done.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 10 – Local Board Training**. Mrs. Weakley stated Ms. Jen Cooper of the Eastern Regional Office gave her dates in April when they would be available to do the training on the Shore. Mrs. Weakley's options were April 2nd, 9th, 13th, 14th or or 21st. Mrs. Weakley stated NCDSS Director Mozella Francis was talking with her Board, as well, about dates so we can do both agencies together.

The Board Members discussed the dates and how long the training was. It is normally held in the mornings and over by noon and lunch would be provided. The Board agreed on the second Monday in April which is April 13th or April 9th.

Mrs. Weakley stated she would relay April 13th as our first option and the 9th as our second choice.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Shirley Harmon**. Ms. Harmon stated for the month of January our Total Expenditures were \$343,632.98. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$355,728.69 and our Total Balance to Date is \$460,570.31. Mr. Crockett stated we are 8% below budget. He then inquired whether there were any concerns to which Ms. Harmon stated there were none.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Custody Case #001-054510001 – UPDATE and Director's Consult: Director EPPE (Scheduled for March), as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board returned from Closed Session and confirmed the only items discussed were the ones listed on the Board Members' Agenda. Ms. Major called a vote (Mr. Martin – yes; Mrs. Mackie – yes; Mr. Hart – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes; and Ms. Major – yes).

Ms. Major stated the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.

APPROVED: **C. Reneta Major**

ATTEST: **Vicki J. Weakley**