

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, January 21, 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.

At the commencement of the meeting Ms. Major stated Family Service Specialist II Bessie Floyd had passed away. She further stated the Board Members needed to keep her family and her DSS family in their prayers. She further stated if you work with someone eight hours a day they become your family.

Ms. Major then called the meeting to order. At that time she asked everyone for a moment of silence for Ms. Floyd. Afterwards the Invocation was given by Mr. Martin.

Ms. Major then introduced Mr. Hart as our newest Board Member. Mr. Hart was welcomed to our Board.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Introduction of New Self-Sufficiency Specialist II Meghan Gaffney**. Mrs. Weakley stated Ms. Gaffney had been promoted from Human Services Specialist II to Self-Sufficiency Specialist II. The Board congratulated her. Mrs. Weakley stated Ms. Gaffney started with the clerical unit. At that time Ms. Gaffney stated she had been in the clerical unit for five years. Mrs. Weakley stated she had done an awesome job as a Human Services Specialist II and she believed she would do an awesome job as a Self-Sufficiency Specialist II. The Board welcomed her to our Agency.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Approve Minutes of December 17, 2019**. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the Minutes were approved as written. The motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Fraud Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated Fraud Investigator Frances Bailey wanted everyone to know the 2019 fraud figure shown on the bottom of front page did not include tax intercept. This was just money she saved the agency. Mr. Crockett, Ms. Major and Mrs. Mackie stated she was doing a good job.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director's Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated she attended two Bridges over Poverty planning meetings. She further stated she hoped the training would take place in March and it will be repeated again in April. She further stated they would be sending out invitations to everyone and she was hoping the Board would be able to come to at least one planning session to look at anything we can do to eliminate poverty on the Shore.

Mrs. Weakley further stated she attended a CPMT (Community Policy and Management Team) meeting and a Truancy meeting. She also attended a Time Tracker training session and we were all set to go and they put it on hold. The day after the training they said don't do anything as the contract has expired and we do not know whether we will renew it. In the past when the State has done studies to determine whether we are understaffed, they discredited the reports and she was worried they will do it again.

Mrs. Weakley further stated she also attended an Accomack County DSS Supervisors' meeting and a VLSS (Virginia League of Social Services Executives Professional Development Committee meeting. She forgot to write it down on the Agenda; however, she attended the Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness group meeting.

Mrs. Weakley stated the last item was we had an EBT (Electronic Benefit Transfer) review on January 7, 2020. This is the card SNAP benefits are loaded. She was very pleased with us and gave us some helpful hints for us to remember when we have our Federal review. They tell us that when the Feds come no one ever passed so they are trying to give hints to assist us with the Federal review. She stated we were one of the best agencies she had reviewed.

Ms. Major inquired about the Federal review. Mrs. Weakley stated they look at how you issue the initial cards and also look at the cards to see whether it was signed by the same person. They do check and balance pieces. They want to be sure they are not family members. Before we had an issue as two workers with the last name had a part in the issuance of the card; i.e., the first signature was the benefit worker who ordered the processing of the card and the second signature was the clerical worker who issued the card. The auditors inquired as they had the last name. We informed them they were not related.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Agency Profile**. Mrs. Weakley stated the poverty rate went down on 1%; however, the poverty rate for children went up 1% so we didn't make any progress. Page 5 of the report will show our number of CPS (Child Protective Service) referrals went down by three referrals this year. However, the the number of APS (Adult Protective Service) statistics are held by the Department of Rehab so we would now have any way of knowing; however, she believes the referrals went from 166-195. APS had 264 referrals last year and 74 were determined to be invalid. We are clearly doing more complaints in the APS unit. Ms. Bessie Floyd was in that unit and we now have a vacancy. We will be looking for someone to come and take over her job functions.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – 2019 Child Welfare Holiday Programs**. Mrs. Weakley stated we have most of the programs listed. There are a couple more that we will receive later. As you can see 276 families were served and 770 children were represented through those families.

At that time Mr. Martin stated he was contacted by Human Services Specialist II Dawn Parks who stated she had some toys left from the Toy Closet for Atlantic Fire Company to assist children in their area. He worked with three different organizations and they were able to help 121 children. He helped us for

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – Local Board Training**. Mrs. Weakley stated it will be held this year for our Region on June 12, 2020 and again on December 8, 2020. We now have a new Board Member Mr. Hart and she didn't know whether anyone else would like to go or just her and Mr. Hart who then asked where the training would be held. Mrs. Weakley stated the last two years we convinced them to come to the Shore and she could try to do that again this year. Unfortunately, the Regional Manager is no longer there and she didn't know how long before her position was filled. On one occasion they went to Virginia Beach and now the office is in Norfolk. The training was here last year.

Ms. Major stated she would like to see whether Northampton County DSS would be interested in attending as well. Everyone was in agreement if it was held here; however, Mr. Crockett he would attend unless it was held across the Bay.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 10 – SNAP E&T**. Mrs. Weakley stated historically we used to have a program called FSET (Food Stamp Education and Training). At some point they made that a voluntary program as they took away a lot of funding for it. They told agencies they could do it or not do it. We still provide education and training pieces for people who are receiving a monetary check for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). Accomack County DSS opted to stop running the program. That is what Jack Thomas did when he was

Fraud Investigator and before he retired. Ms. Major stated Northampton DSS never did FSET. The State has decided to take the pledge to offer education and training to SNAP (previously known as Food Stamps) population. For agencies it is no longer volunteer – we have to provide the program. Agencies across the State have not gotten many volunteers. In the past they stated if you volunteer but if you volunteer it will be mandatory. People then said never mind. They are doing mandatory training for people affected by the new program. It will be run by the Self-Sufficiency workers who currently run the VIEW program (Virginia Initiative for Education and Work). They have not given us a manual or policy yet although they changed a lot in child care program.. They are doing training and did not schedule enough slots. They are also talking about making benefit works who issue SNAP take some basic employment service training. We know we have to run it but do not know a date to start it. She believes at some point it will be mandatory; however, at this moment it is not.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11- List of Various Files to be Purged – To be signed by Ms. Reneta Major – Chairman:** Ms. Major inquired whether this was an action item. Mrs. Weakley stated it was. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the files were ordered to be purged as requested. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 12 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Shirley Harmon.** Ms. Harmon stated for the month of December our Total Expenditures were \$333,413.87. Our Year-To Date Total Local Adjustment was \$303,346.28 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$512,952.72. Mr. Crockett stated again we are doing well. We are about 8% below budget. He then asked Ms. Harmon whether there were any concerns to which she responded there were none.

On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Custody Case #001-0054510001; Director's Consult: Director EPPE (Scheduled for March) and April date for Board Meeting, as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the Board came out of Closed Session and confirmed that 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 we have one action item. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, Custody Case #001-054510001 was approved. The motion carried.

Ms. Major stated the next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, February 18, 2020, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Martin, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 A.M.

APPROVED: **C. Reneta Major** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki J. Weakley** _____

