

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, July 21, 2020, at 9:30 A.M. In the absence of Chairman Reneta Major, Vice- Chairman Elsie Mackie presided over the meeting.

At that time Mrs. Weakley welcomed Mr. William D. Henning, II as a new ACDSS Board Member. She further stated she hoped the Board Members were able to meet with him before they left. It was also stated Mr. Robert B. Martin was unable to attend the meeting.

Present were Mr. Robert Crockett, Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr., Mrs. Elsie Mackie and our new Board Member Mr. William D. Henning, II.

Mrs. Mackie called the meeting to order. Mr. Crockett gave the Invocation.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 3 – Introduction of Latasha Banks – Human Services Assistant III – Effective June 16, 2020.** Mrs. Weakley introduced Ms. Banks to the Board. She was previously a home healthcare person and earned a Bachelor's Degree; however, she is excited about starting a new career. On behalf of the Board Mrs. Mackie welcomed her to ACDSS.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 4- Approve Minutes of June 16, 2020.** On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the above Minutes were approved as written.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 5 – Fraud Report.** Mrs. Weakley stated our Fraud Investigator was going out checking for air conditioning units.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 6 – Director's Report.** Mrs. Weakley stated the ACDSS doors have remained closed to the public since March 20, 2020.

Mrs. Weakley stated she had attended a virtual DSS Commissioner briefing; five weekly student supervision meetings with an employee at ACDSS who is working on her Bachelor's Degree; four Building Bridges Out of Poverty Summit training sessions; four ACDSS Supervisor's weekly meetings; Virtual VLSSE (Virginia League of Social Services Executives) Board meeting and State Dialogue; CPMT (Community Policy and Management Team); Members Helping Members Board meeting; Housing Study Stakeholders Advisory Input session; Healthy Communities Executive Retreat; Red Cross Sheltering in a COVID environment; ESDPC (Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Committee) meeting. Mrs. Weakley stated sheltering in this environment is a major concern. We will continue to work on how to address it, with the EOC.

In reference to the Poverty/Building Bridges Summit Mrs. Weakley shared with the Board the basic resources that are instrumental in lifting someone out of poverty:

- 1) **Financial:** Not being able to purchase services
- 2) **Emotions:** Your job and being able to control your responsibilities without self-destructive behavior
- 3) **Mental:** Having the ability and skills to deal with daily living, being able to read and put figures together; i.e., add and subtract
- 4) **Spiritual Beliefs:** Being able to live out of poverty
- 5) **Physical:** It is easier to work when you have health and mobility
- 6) **Support Systems:** Having friends and family relationships and good role models

- 7) **Support:** Having good next door neighbors who can babysit your child or having someone who can get you to work
- 8) **Hidden Rules:** These are critical; i.e., knowing the unspoken cues and habits of a group

Mrs. Weakley informed the Board Members ANEC is giving Members Helping Members an additional \$20,000 to assist clients with paying their power bills. We had totally exhausted our funds.

Mr. Crockett asked whether they give the funds as a grant or does ANEC hold the funds. Mrs. Weakley stated they handle the funds.

Mrs. Weakley stated most workers come to the agency two or more days per week. We seem to be doing well. Statistics are showing we have improved. The only difficulty we are having is some workers are having internet connection issues and calls are not going through to their cellphones. Therefore, we are getting customer complaints and workers are stating they are not getting the calls. We have worked out an alternate plan. Now when we get complaints from clients we refer the client to the worker's supervisor and he/she will handle it.

Mrs. Weakley stated service workers – CPS (Child Protective Services and APS (Adult Protective Services) - are coming to the office two days per week or more if they are needed to go out and do field visits. The CPS and APS complaints are beginning to pick up. The State is anticipating we are going to see an influx of cases at the end of July.

At that time Mrs. Mackie inquired whether Mrs. Weakley had given any thought to when we might be reopening. She further stated the County was getting ready to reopen. Mrs. Weakley stated we had thought around August 3, 2020 but then we listened to Governor Northam and we decided to put it off until after Labor Day weekend. We are concerned whether we are going to see any resurgence. Mrs. Weakley further stated we have workers coming in from each unit. Service workers are coming a couple of days too but it is difficult for them to do everything from home especially when they do field visits. They have to come to the agency to pick up a car and often document or do other work while they are in the building.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 8 – Purge Approval for BPS cases and Services Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated there were 25 benefit cases that required approval for purging in accordance with the State guidelines. We also have 146 CPS cases from 2009-2017 for purging in accordance with the State guidelines. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hart, the purging of the above records was approved.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 9 – Board Letter**. Mrs. Weakley stated she had included a copy of a letter the State sent to all Board Chairs. She wanted to be sure our Board was informed. She has already shared changes with staff about COVID and things to be ware of, including no face-to-face interviews, when possible.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 10 – SNAP Certification Interview Tracking**. Mrs. Weakley stated one of the changes the State made is they did not require SNAP (previously Food Stamps) face-to-face interviews. If the worker did not have enough information on the application, they are to call the client and obtain what they need.

Mrs. Weakley stated Item 10 showed the breakdown of applications received since March 6, 2020. The State is expecting us to see a resurgence of applications. The waiver will expire at the end of the month, so the expectation is Benefits will have to interview people, again, but this can be done by phone.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 11 – State Board Funding Resolution**. The State Board is looking at how they determine funding to each DSS locality by redoing the guidelines. Mrs. Weakley stated she did not know how it would affect ACDSS, but it is likely some agencies will get less, and others will see an increase. They have not determined what the new formula will look like, but it will be discussed at the next State Board meeting.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 12 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Shirley Harmon**. Ms. Harmon stated the month of June is the first month of our Fiscal Year for the State. Our Total Expenditures were \$302,919.49. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$34,476.09 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$781,822.91. Mr. Crockett stated the numbers are good and we do not know what the budget will be. The State is meeting on August 8th and Accomack County will have a meeting after that. Mr. Crockett then inquired whether we had heard anything from the State DSS about what changes they expect. Mrs. Weakley said the State had not given us much information at all. She further stated she was surprised they had not announced any cuts yet. Mr. Crockett then stated we needed to be cautious with our spending. He stated his experience had been to emphasize caution until we know what is happening.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Director's Consult, as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board returned from Closed Session and confirmed the only item discussed was the one listed on the Board Members' Agenda. Mrs. Mackie called a vote (Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Hart – yes; Mr. Henning – yes; and Mrs. Mackie – yes).

Mrs. Mackie stated the next meeting would be held on August 18, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hart, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 A.M.

APPROVED: **Elsie B. Mackie**

ATTEST: **Vicki J. Weakley**