

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr.; Mr. Robert Crockett; virtually - Mr. William D. Henning, II and Mr. Robert B. Martin; and Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board Members. She further stated it was her first meeting with Mr. Henning and welcomed him to the ACDSS Board. Mr. Crockett gave the Invocation.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Minutes of September 15, 2020**. On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Martin, the Minutes of August 18, 2020 were approved as written.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated we are working on the PARIS matches we discussed at the August 18, 2020 meeting. She further stated the question was raised about the reason why folks from out of State were calling Fraud Investigator Frances Bailey. Mrs. Weakley stated the reason is because Accomack is the default on the computer system. When offices pull up Virginia to call and they don't pay attention to the fact you have to put in the County, it will automatically come to Accomack County as we are FIPS 001. The State Fraud office refers to it as "a glitch in the system" and there is nothing they can do about it. The phone calls are entered into the system, by Ms. Bailey, and the proper parties will be alerted to complete the work.

Mr. Crockett stated that was a lazy person's response. Mrs. Mackie stated that is a little ridiculous as a glitch can be fixed at some point. Mrs. Mackie further stated they could give them a general telephone number to call when they go into the system. Mrs. Weakley stated when they go into the system they do not know who to call and that is the first number that shows up. Mrs. Weakley then stated she believed there was a two or three year waiting list for corrections to the system.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Director's Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated on September 8, 2020 our Agency opened by appointment only. She further stated she had copied the announcement that was placed in the newspaper so everyone would have a copy. It has been a little rocky as people are not understanding and coming to the front door upset because they cannot get into the agency. Workers have been excited to be back and have been visiting co-workers' offices. We have had to remind them of the social distancing rules and stressing the importance of wearing masks, especially if they need to go to someone else's office.

Ms. Major inquired whether we were back to full staff. Mrs. Weakley stated we were not and that we were staggering staff; i.e., one-half of workers in the building

at any one time. In the mornings there is someone to take temperatures as they arrive to the building. Some staff are still working from home because they have health issues or they are in the population that is at greater risk. Those working from home either come early mornings or late afternoons to pick up things or print things if they need something from the office.

Mrs. Weakley stated she had attended the following meetings: Two Social Security Disability workshops; a State Board meeting; a fraud meeting about how we are going to handle the PARIS matches; an EOC (Emergency Operations Center) drill – there are a lot of concerns about opening shelters with the new Red Cross requirements; Bridges Over Poverty meeting; and a Virtual Regional Director's meeting.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Emergency September SNAP Allotment**. Mrs. Weakley stated a couple of months ago the State informed us they were not going to do any more Emergency SNAP allotments, however, every month we have been getting notifications they will do it for “one more month”. At this time Mrs. Weakley does not know when they will stop.

Mrs. Weakley then stated **Item 7 – SNAP Certification Interview Tracking** contains a report so the Board Members could see how many interviews benefit workers did not have to do, based on COVID regulations.

Ms. Major inquired whether we had many clients to call after Hurricane Isaias about replacement of SNAP allotments when their electricity was out for an extended period of time. Mrs. Weakley stated we did. Ms. Major then inquired whether there were any issues with clients not being able to get through to their workers with those types of issues. Mrs. Weakley stated we received a number of phone calls. If someone had difficulty contacting their worker, the call was put through to a supervisor. One particular supervisor stated she had taken calls and was really frustrated because people know if their electricity goes out and their food ruins, it will be replaced. Some called reporting “everything” had been ruined. The supervisor would explain that oatmeal, cereal, bread and canned items are not perishable items that would be ruined when the power went out.

At that time Mrs. Mackie then inquired whether that was required; i.e., what was ruined. Mrs. Weakley stated no it wasn't required. Mrs. Mackie stated the supervisor had put herself through a lot of extra work. Mrs. Weakley stated an example would be when someone called and said I got \$400 of SNAP and I spent it all the day I got it and now it is all ruined. Mrs. Mackie then stated policy does not state that. Mr. Crockett stated he appreciated the extra work the supervisor did because a lot of people would not have gone to that extent. Mr. Hart then inquired what the policy states. Mrs. Mackie then stated benefit workers have to

verify the electricity is out and prorate from the date the electricity was out; i.e., that is the way it used to be.

At that time Mr. Crockett stated if everyone would do that, it would save a lot of money. Mrs. Mackie then stated if policy states that is something you should not do, you could get a complaint about it. Mr. Crockett then inquired whether it was discretionary; i.e., is this person allowed to do that. Mrs. Weakley stated yes but it is not required. Mrs. Mackie said Mrs. Weakley might need to double check that. Mr. Crockett stated hopefully they are allowed to do that. Mrs. Weakley agreed to look into it further. Mr. Crockett stated if the food is in the refrigerator and the door is closed, it will stay the same for a long time. Mrs. Mackie stated there is a timeframe in the Manual that tells you how long the power has to be off. Mr. Crockett said kudos to the worker who went the extra mile.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 8 – Reminder: Virtual Board Training September 24, 2020 – 10 A.M. – 12 Noon.** Mrs. Weakley stated this is a reminder about the virtual meeting the following week. She stated it appeared nearly everyone would be present and she believed Mr. Hart would be present for part of the meeting. She further stated she had the training books, but would hold on to them until the actual training date.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 9 – Staff Appreciation – Friday, October 9, 2020.** Mrs. Weakley stated that is set for the above date and we have a nice meal selection planned for everyone. We also will pass out certificates for years of service. This year will be different so at this point we are planning bag lunches like we are doing for the Board training. She further stated Office Supervisor Linda C. Rew was working on that with Joan Carrow of Heavenly Creations. She stated if the Board wanted to come they could be served in the Training Room as all staff who are present will be in their respective offices.

Mrs. Weakley further stated we are going to do Google Meet and to do the awards and recognize everyone for what they have done during this pandemic. Mr. Hart inquired what time it started. Mrs. Weakley stated it commenced about 11:30 A.M. and would probably be over by 1 P.M. She further stated Mrs. Rew would contact them and let them know the menu choices and they could select what they would like. Mr. Crockett stated he would be unable to attend.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 10 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon.** Mrs. Weakley stated Mrs. Harmon was doing a virtual training in her office; however, if anyone had questions to ask her, Mrs. Weakley could get her to come into the meeting. At that time Mr. Crockett stated we are 5.75% below budget and expenditures look good, so Mrs. Harmon has us in a good position.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Hart, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing CPS Update; 2 Staff EPPEs (Staff Evaluations – Linda C. Rew and Troy Greenley); and Director’s Consult, 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 (Mrs. Mackie – yes; Mr. Hart – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Henning – yes; Mr. Martin – yes and Ms. Major – yes).

On motion by Mrs. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board accepted CPS case #21175891 into custody. The Board Members accepted same by saying Aye. The motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board accepted two staff EPPE’s – Linda C. Rew and Troy Greenley. The Board Members accepted same by saying Aye. The motion carried.

At that time Ms. Major inquired whether anyone had anything else to say during the meeting. At that time Mr. Martin stated he wanted to thank Mrs. Weakley for the card she had sent during the recent passing of his Mother.

Ms. Major reminded the Board about the Virtual Board Training on September 24, 2020.

Ms. Major stated the next Board Meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

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

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major**

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley**

