

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie B. Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Donald L. Hart, Jr.; Mr. Robert Crockett; Mr. Robert B. Martin; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary. Mr. William D. Henning, Jr. was present telephonically.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board Members. Mrs. Mackie gave the Invocation.

Ms. Major wished the board members a Happy New Year. She stated that for the month of January, the board chose not to meet due to the passing of Mrs. Weakley's mother. The board extended their sincere condolences.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Introduction of new Family Services Specialist II - Lakeisha Wilson**. Mrs. Weakley introduced Ms. Wilson to the Board and stated she is coming to us from the prison system in Oklahoma and we were excited to learn that she speaks Haitian Creole. Mrs. Weakley stated that Ms. Wilson is in our Adult Protective Services unit. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Major welcomed her to ACDSS. The Board in unison, welcomed, Ms. Wilson.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Approve Minutes of December 15, 2020**. On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Minutes were approved as written.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Fraud Report**. No questions or concerns were raised.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director's Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated she appreciated the allowance of cancelling the January board meeting and everyone's patience and thoughtfulness at the loss of her mother.

Mrs. Weakley stated that, since the last board meeting, she attended the Members Helping Members Board Meeting through ANEC (The initial funds set up to help persons pay their bills was depleted. An additional \$20,000 was designated to the county and those funds are now down to \$200.00. A moratorium on disconnecting power, is still in effect.), Commissioner's update meeting (some agencies across the State are shutting

down again. Our agency continues to be by appointment only), Virtual Retirement Celebration for retirees, CPMT (Community Policy and Management Team) meeting – twice, Bridges out of Poverty planning meeting, a supervisors meeting, and an interview panel.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Snap Restaurant Meals Program**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, with this program, certain groups of people (i.e., elderly, disabled, homeless) will now be able to use their SNAP card at participating restaurants.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Local Dashboard – update 2nd quarter**. Mrs. Weakley stated she wanted to bring a few issues to the Boards attention. One, not meeting the mark in the timeliness of response to Child Protective Services complaints. While we acknowledge that there are cases out of compliance, most of those appear to be when a worker has exhausted means of being able to reach someone. All attempts are documented; however, it still counts against us. The Safe Measures system uses a 9:00 a.m -5:00 p.m. business hour and anything documented outside of 5:00 p.m. is considered out of compliance. Also in regards to Child Welfare, another issue is the approved court hearing status. The Safe Measures system is not clear regarding cases that are not required to be heard in court or for a case that has been continued. When asked, Safe Measures states that we are 100% in compliance on their side, but the dashboard will show differently.

Secondly, child care applications processed on time dropped below the targeted 97% to 94%. This was caused by one application and during a time when the worker's mother was passing away, so should be corrected with the next review.

Lastly, medical assistance cases are falling below the mark. Again, we are not allowed to close those cases. A case is worked until there is an adverse reaction and then stops

because we are not allowed to close the case, but it is still held against us. We currently have a little over 1,000 cases that are “out of compliance”.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – Agency Profile** – Mrs. Weakley referred the Board to the attachment showing the statistics for the county. She pointed out that the total number of children referred to Child Protective Services is 336 whereas the previous fiscal year total was 363. Mrs. Weakley stated she believes the difference is due to schools not being in session, as they are contributing reporters. The Adult Protective Services report shows 255 reports, with the previous year showing 166 reports. There has been an increase in financial exploitation reports. The number of people in the community receiving SNAP and TANF has declined. The number of Medicaid cases has increased.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 10 – FPM – Family Partnership Meeting Allocation** – Mrs. Weakley referred the Board to the attachment. She stated that we have held five Family Partnership Meetings. An additional \$1,500.00 has been allocated to the budget line. The state has added regulations to the Family Partnership Meetings stating the meetings must be held for at least an hour and a half or the agency will not be compensated.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11 - TANF and SNAP – interview updates** – Mrs. Weakley stated that, just to update the Board, the state continues to waive interviews.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 12 - COVID update** – Mrs. Weakley stated that almost half of the agency’s staff have received the first COVID vaccine and are due for their second dose this coming Monday.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 13 - Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Mrs. Linton stated the Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$353,636.68 and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$462,662.32. Mr. Crockett inquired if there were any red flags or concerns with the budget. Mrs. Linton responded that there were a couple budget lines that were a little bit over where we should be running at 66% but, we are watching them. Mr. Crockett stated we are ten percentage points below budget, which is good.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Retirements – Shirley Harmon (01/01/21) and Linda Rew (01/01/21), FML – Sylvia Stanley, and Director’s Consult – EPPE due in March as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Martin, 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. Martin – yes; Mr. Henning – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Hart – yes and Ms. Major – yes).

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** _____