

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. C. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie B. Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. H. Jackie Phillips; Mr. Robert B. Martin; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board Members. Mr. Martin gave the Invocation.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of June 15, 2021**. On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the Minutes are approved as written. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 & 5 – Purge Approval – CPS - Benefits**. Mrs. Weakley stated that there are 66 CPS cases, Foster Home cases, and 224 Benefit cases for purging according to State guidelines. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, that the cases, collectively, be purged. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 6 – Fraud Report**. No questions or concerns were raised.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 7 – Director’s Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, since the last Board meeting, she and the VIEW team have completed four additional trainings for the WorkNet program (WorkNet is the program that will be used to revamp VIEW), Commissioner update, VLSSE (Virginia League of Social Services Executives) Board meeting (They are attempting to have the overtime decision repealed. If it is repealed, it will take four months to fully take effect. They are also looking at possible changes to the budget allocation formula for Social Services. This could possibly happen as early as 2023. They indicate that they will try to hold agency’s harmless for at least the first year so that no budget will get cut in the first year. There will be no guarantees after that. The funding allocation was determined about 30 years ago in the early 80s and nobody seems to know what it was based on. We know it’s not based on caseload sizes or the economic conditions of a community. Anyone who would have knowledge of what it was based on has since retired. Ms. Major inquired what they will base it on. Mrs. Weakley stated she was not sure at this time, but she expects the formula will include caseload sizes and economic conditions. A committee has been formed to move forward. A number of agency’s are concerned about budgets possibly being cut. In July, the VLSSE added domestic violence wordage to our applications. There have been some changes in Medicaid. Undocumented individuals will still be eligible for the emergency pregnancy Medicaid, but Medicaid has extended their coverage. We are seeing some influx in applications coming in. The State doesn’t think it is going to significantly impact us, but they say they are going to watch it in case that changes. If there is a significant impact, they will consider whether we need additional staff. TANF has also increased to 200% of the poverty level so there are additional people eligible now. The additional allotments (SNAP), that we have previously discussed, were supposed to end in July. The State is requesting approval from the USDA to extend it to the end of the year. With this decision in limbo, it makes it very hard for us to prepare our clients. The State is also looking into expanding the Fuel Assistance Program. Currently, this is a part-time program that runs mostly during the winter for heating assistance and also during the Summer for cooling assistance. The expansion would make the program full-time and it would be called the Utility Assistance Program. The expansion would include, water, possible rent relief, Broadband, and the existing fuel and cooling. Currently, we have three people in the Fuel Assistance Program who all work part-time. When wintertime comes, we usually have to hire an additional part-time person to help process the time-limited applications. Lastly, the State has discussed replacing our VACMS computer system in the next two years.), meeting with Northampton Director about all the changes occurring to Families First and CSA, meeting with Botetourt DSS Director around IT support, Members Helping Members Board meeting, Families First meeting, Supervisor’s Meeting, call with Mike Mason in reference to the county looking at putting money into increasing the availability of child care.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 8 – COVID Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the agency is open to the public. There has not been a massive number of people coming into the

agency. We believe people became accustomed to using the telephone and computer to conduct their business. We have forms available inside and outside of the building. We have noticed that people are choosing to use the ones outside verses coming inside. Our drop-off box has been fixed and is available as well. Ms. Major inquired about staff being present in the building. Mrs. Weakley stated that, for the most part, staff are in the building four days a week. They are permitted to work one day a week from home and are also allowed to be on flextime (four - ten hour days).

Ms. Major continued to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Mrs. Linton stated the Local Budget was \$816,299.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$41,396.73 and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$774,902.27. Ms. Major asked Mrs. Linton if there were any concerns or red flags. Mrs. Linton stated that this year’s budget was mirrored from last year’s budget. Mrs. Weakley has spoken with Mr. Mason about adjusting our budget due to the raised minimums, increase in salaries, and an increase in insurance. There was a shortfall in the budget because of those. Mrs. Weakley stated that normally the county increases our local match for the 15.5% local match, required by the State, however, for the past two years, this was overlooked.

Closed Session - On motion by Mrs. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing resignations and Director’s Consult as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, 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. Phillips – yes; and Ms. Major – yes).

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** _____