

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Mrs. Elsie B. Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. H. Jackie Phillips; Mr. Robert D. Crockett; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary. Mr. Robert B. Martin attended telephonically.

Mrs. Mackie called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board Members. Mr. Crockett gave the Invocation.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of July 20, 2021**. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Minutes are approved as written. Mrs. Mackie noted one correction. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 10 – Purging of Fiscal Records**. Mrs. Weakley stated that monthly financial reports dating from January 2000 to January 2015 need approval for purging according to State guidelines. Mr. Crockett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, that the financial records be purged. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Adoption Consent (Case #21187632 and #21186031) and Director's Consult as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, 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. Mrs. Mackie called a vote (Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Phillips – yes; Mr. Martin – yes; and Mrs. Mackie – yes).

Mr. Crockett made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the Adoption Consent for Case #21187632 and #21186031. Mrs. Mackie called a vote for vote of all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 4 – Board Update – Mr. Henning**. Mrs. Weakley stated that if anyone was unaware, Mr. Henning passed away on July 31, 2021. Mrs. Weakley presented a card to the Board to offer their condolences to the family.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 5 – Introduction of Benefit Program Specialist I, Marco Hernandez, Jessica Bennett, and Karen Evans, and Fiscal Assistant III, Elizabeth Miller**. Mrs. Weakley introduced Karen Evans and Jessica Bennett. They have been promoted to Benefit Program Specialist I; Kathleen Miller is our new Fiscal Assistant III; and Marco Hernandez is our newest Benefit Program Specialist I in the Family's and Children's Unit. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Mackie congratulated and welcomed each one. The Board in unison expressed the same.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 6 – Fraud Report**. No questions or concerns were raised.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 7 – Director's Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, since the last Board meeting, she attended the CPMT (Community Policy and Management Team) Planning Retreat and 2 meetings; two Truancy meetings (there has been a rise in cases); Open Table Training (we are hoping to use this in VIEW, but it is also a way to address some of the poverty issues in the community); Families First informational meeting (Families First, the new prevention program, technically started July 1, 2021. We are now advertising for the fourth time. The applications that were received do not qualify. The advertisement will now remain open until filled. We, along with other agencies within the State, are having difficulty filling positions.); Meeting with DARS (Department of Aging and Rehabilitation Services); Interviews for Fiscal Assistant; Interviews for BPS (Other than those introduced today, we have one additional BPS that will begin work on September 7, 2021.); Professional Development Committee – VLSSE (Virginia League of Social Services Executives).

Mrs. Mackie inquired if there were additional vacancies for Benefit Program Specialists. Mrs. Weakley stated that we do not; however, one employee is on Family Medical Leave and staff is carrying her caseload.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 8 – COVID Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, as you may be aware, the numbers are rising. We have asked staff to wear masks again while in the building. The State sent out a \$300.00 gift card to everyone who had a child enrolled in Head Start. We were unaware that this occurred and received numerous issue related phone calls. The State has also added three additional months to the increased pandemic benefits. This will extend through the end of October. The State will only approve 90 days at a time, but we anticipate it extending through the end of the year. Again, we hope the State will give notice when the extended benefits will end. The basic SNAP amount raised to \$36.00 per person. The amount will not return to the pre-pandemic amount, but it will be a significant difference from what they have been used to receiving during the pandemic. The State is continuing the non-closure of Medicaid cases. At last check, we have a little over 2,000 cases that are “overdue.” The State says they will do a computer update when they open back up for cases to be reviewed. No further details have been given at this time.

Mrs. Mackie continued to **Item 9 – Job Posting Information**. Mrs. Weakley stated, as referenced previously, we have advertised the Family Services Specialist position in the Child Welfare Unit for the fourth time. Mr. Phillips asked at last month’s meeting where else it was possibly being posted. Mrs. Weakley stated that she learned when a posting is submitted to the State, they post it on Career Match, Monster, Indeed, Zip Recruiter, Lensa, Career Jet, and Glassdoor. Mrs. Weakley stated that she hopes we start receiving more applications. The first time the job was posted, we received applications, but only one person was eligible for an interview and that person was hired. We had two openings at that time and we were expecting a third. The next time it posted, we received no applications and the last posting we received applications, but everyone who qualified for an interview withdrew. Mrs. Weakley stated that she is aware that a number of agencies throughout the State are having the same difficulty.

Mrs. Mackie proceeded to **Item 11 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Mrs. Linton stated the Local Budget was \$816,299.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures is \$81,300.78 and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$734,998.22. Mr. Crockett asked if there were any concerns that Ms. Linton could see. Ms. Linton stated there are none at this point. Mr. Crockett stated we are 4% below budget in expenditures so that is good. He also stated that on target would be 12.61% and on budget would be 16.6%. He continued to say four points below is always good.

Mrs. Weakley inquired of Ms. Linton to share with Mr. Crockett a concern from the last month’s meeting in his absence. Ms. Linton stated that when this year’s budget was received, the County had mirrored the budget from the previous year. This has occurred for the last two years. With the raised minimums and the 5% raise the budget will not carry us through the year. Mr. Crockett asked if this had been raised with Mr. Mason. Mrs. Weakley stated that Mr. Mason had been contacted. Ms. Linton stated that the County is in the process of closing out last year’s budget. This will occur by August 31, 2021. Ms. Linton stated that the County is aware that the budget will fall short within the year. Mr. Crockett stated that he believes that it will be cleared up and thanked Ms. Linton for bringing it to the Board’s attention.

Mr. Phillips inquired if contact was made with Mrs. Proctor, the County Attorney. Mrs. Weakley stated that she spoke with Mike Mason. Mr. Mason requested that a letter be sent to Mr. Wolfe. Mr. Wolfe called last week and stated that the County Attorney is willing to consider representing the agency. Mrs. Weakley stated that the next step is to call the County Attorney and have a specific conversation in regards to what we would ask of them. At this time it appears the most significant work would be with the Adult Protective Services Unit. Currently, Thomas Dix represents the agency with Child Protective Services cases.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Crockett, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 A.M.

APPROVED: **Elsie B. Mackie** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** _____