

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. David Whalen; Mr. Jackie H. Phillips; Mr. Budd 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 February 15, 2022**. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, to approve the Minutes as written. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Introduction of new employee: Matthew Bernart, Office Associate II & Lanequa Washington, Benefit Program Specialist II**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Matthew Bernart would not be present this morning because of an appointment. Mrs. Weakley introduced Lanequa Washington, Benefit Program Specialist II. Ms. Washington was a previous employee and has now returned to us. On behalf of the Board, Ms. Major welcomed Ms. Washington to the agency. The Board in unison expressed the same.

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

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director’s Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, since the last Board meeting, she attended a CPMT (Community Policy & Management Team) meeting, a Truancy meeting, two CPS (Child Protective Services) reviews ((IV-E and Child & Family Services Review) the agency did very well on both), Open Table Fund Raising meeting, Supervisor’s meeting.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – COVID Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the agency has moved to masks being optional. Employees are encouraged to wear a mask in the field or in the lobby to meet with clients. Employees were also given a ‘Please wear a mask’ sign to place on their office door so other employees were made aware before they entered the room.

The State continues emergency allotments, a month at a time. No updates have been given as to the allotments continuing for April. The recent update for Medicaid renewals, the cases workers have not been allowed to work on, is the workers will have one year to review all of those cases. At this time, it is unknown when the process will begin and if during that time the State will reduce or cancel their coverage without asking for updated information. A request has come from the State asking if we had staff willing to work overtime to do renewals for other places in the State and if reimbursement would be expected. Mrs. Weakley stated that reimbursement would be expected from this agency. Mrs. Mackie inquired if the public has been made aware that this change will be forthcoming along with SNAP benefits. Mrs. Weakley replied that she does not believe so. A few times the State has stated that the extra allotments would be ending and attempts were made to make the public aware. The State then retracted these statements. Mrs. Mackie stated that there will be hostility when SNAP allotments end, but when Medicaid allotments end it will be just as bad, if not worse. Mrs. Weakley stated that the State has hired someone for public relations. Agencies are being assured that they will send announcements. There have been instances where the State sent out information to the clients well in advance before sending it to this agency. Mrs. Mackie asked if Mrs. Weakley believes that they will cut off SNAP and Medicaid around the same time. Mrs. Weakley stated she believes SNAP will come to an abrupt end and Medicaid will possibly taper off especially if the State is giving a year to complete renewals.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Mrs. Linton stated the previous Local Budget was \$861,543.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures is \$430, 785.60 and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$430,785.60. Mrs. Linton continued to state that we are into nine months of the budget, everything looks good and we are about 13.5% below budget.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Board Acceptance – Foster Care (Case #21195764, #21195682), EPPE: Vicki Weakley and Director’s consult.

On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, 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. Whalen – yes; Mr. Martin – yes; Mr. Phillips – yes; Ms. Major – yes). The motion has carried.

Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that the Board accept the proposed foster care case. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Phillips seconded by Mr. Martin, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major**

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley**