

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

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

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Introduction of New Employees**. Mrs. Weakley introduced Denise Stadler who has been promoted from Benefit Program Specialist II to Benefit Program Specialist III in the Family's and Children's Unit. Ms. Major congratulated Mrs. Stadler on her promotion. The Board in unison expressed the same.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Approve Minutes of December 20, 2022**. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, 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 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 meeting she attended a Community Planning and Management Team (CPMT) meeting, a Child Protective Services Review (CFSR) - (the review went well with no fatal errors), a Supervisor's meeting, employee interview, and an Open Table meeting.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 - COVID Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the last extra SNAP supplement will be February 2023. A letter will be sent to notify recipients after the last allotment has been sent out. The guaranteed Medicaid coverage will end March 31, 2023. April 1, 2023, the agency will begin the massive project of reviewing the nearly 4,000 overdue cases. The federal government and DMAS do not want us to process them all at one time, which is in our best interest. The State will give us a list each month telling us which cases to process that month. Cases will be divided up over a 12 month period.

PEBT will become permanent during the summer for children who are enrolled in school. Initially, PEBT included children who were in pre-school, but they will no longer be included. A request has been made to raise the amount of SNAP benefits for the retired population. There has been no confirmation if that will occur. Mrs. Mackie asked for clarification if every child who is enrolled in public schools will receive the summer PEBT. Mrs. Weakley confirmed she was correct. At the moment, it is our understanding that the amount will not exceed \$120.00 per child.

Ms. Major stated that she is sure that the Board and Accomack County staff are aware of the announcement that was made regarding Northampton County employees receiving a \$500.00 bonus. Ms. Major has been in communication with the Accomack County Administrator, Mike Mason. The Board of Supervisors will be meeting on January 18, 2023, and Mr. Mason will propose something that hopefully can extend to Accomack County employees. Ms. Major continued to say that Accomack County employees are appreciated and she, as a Board of Supervisor member, as well as, Mr. Phillips will speak up for the employees of Accomack County. Mrs. Mackie inquired if any other Accomack County agencies received a bonus. Mrs. Weakley stated the Accomack County Schools did receive a bonus. Ms. Major clarified that the school bonus was State mandated. The Governor put in that all State agencies receive a \$1000.00 bonus. Mrs. Mackie suggested that all Accomack County Department of Social Services employees be notified that the school bonus was State mandated and that the Board of Supervisors will be doing their best to implement something for Accomack County employees. Ms. Major agreed.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Purge Benefits Records**. Mrs. Weakley stated that 200 benefits case records are ready to be purged according to State guidelines from 1990 to 2016. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, that the benefits case records listed be purged. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – Christmas Projects**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the Child Welfare Toy Closet served 348 children (119 families) and the Angel Trees served 15 children (6 families). The Adult Protective Services Unit Angel Trees served 107 children and 50 adults.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 10 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Ms. Linton stated that the beginning budget was \$864,543.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$320,370.31, and the Total Local Balance-To- Date is \$544,172.69. The beginning allotments have increased. During the mid-year review additional funds were requested and approved in the amount of \$60,700.00. The allocations are shown in the budget lines. Ms. Linton stated at this time, we are running about 12% below budget. She has spoken to agency supervisors about funds allocated for various programs and the need to use deplete those funds or return them to the State for other agencies to use.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing items stated on the Agenda (Consent to Adopt (case #21192057), Personnel Issue, and Director’s Consult) as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712.

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

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the Board approve the Consent to Adopt (case #21192057). Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 21, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Phillips, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** _____