

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Martin; Mr. David Whalen; Mr. Jackie H. Phillips; and Vicki Weakley, Secretary.

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

Ms. Major read a thank you note from the Hart Family expressing their appreciation to the Board members during their loss of Melissa Hart.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of July 18, 2023**. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, 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 4 – Introduction of Amy Wilcox, Keisha Elmandorf, and Tatsiana Salazar – Promotions**. Mrs. Weakley introduced Amy Wilcox. Ms. Wilcox has been with the agency for 27 years in Child Welfare. She has been promoted from Family Services Specialist III to Family Services Specialist IV. This is the first of this position. Ms. Wilcox will serve as the supervisor's right hand. Keisha Elmandorf has been with the agency for 5 years. She has been promoted from Benefit Programs Specialist II to Benefit Program Specialist III. In this position, Ms. Elmandorf will be mentoring Benefit Programs Specialist II employees. Tatsiana Salazar has been promoted from Office Associate II in the clerical unit to a Benefit Programs Specialist I. Ms. Major congratulated all three on their promotions. The Board in unison expressed the same.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 5 – Fraud Report**. Mrs. Mackie asked for clarification on the statement in the 'Referral' section of the Fraud Report about "Fraud Investigator evaluations from superiors in Virginia Beach." Mrs. Weakley stated that she was unsure. There was recently a seminar for fraud investigators in Virginia Beach and it is possible that something was stated at that seminar. Mrs. Weakley will check with Mr. Stratton for that clarification. No further questions or concerns were raised.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 6 – Director's Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that since the last meeting, she attended a CPMT (Community Planning and Management Team) meeting, Truancy meeting, Commissioner's Call, meeting with Walden University (a student was set up to come to the agency in the Fall for an internship. After Mrs. Weakley complied with multiple request from the university, the student backed out. Initially, there were four interns that were coming to the agency and now there is only one.), and an HR Connect on-site meeting.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 7 – Medicaid Scam**. Mrs. Weakley stated that someone is calling Medicaid recipients and telling them that there is a relief package from President Biden that would pay the recipient emergency funds of \$5,200, but only if they would close their Medicaid case. Mrs. Weakley stated, the suspicion is, they are asking for verifying information to close the case so that they are eligible for this imaginary funds and then using that information to steal the person's identity. The caller is focusing on the younger recipients. There is no package from the federal government and no one is expected to close their Medicaid case to receive any funds from the federal government.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 8 – Funding Request**. Mrs. Weakley referred to the letter to The Honorable Glenn A. Youngkin, Governor originally written by another agency requesting the funds to replace the VACMS system which is approximately ten or more years old. The system has always had issues. The biggest issue has been latency. Before VACMS, one task would take a worker twenty minutes to complete. With VACMS, it now takes a worker one hour and twenty minutes to complete that same task. The Directors have attempted, on several occasions, to get the funds to replace the system with something that works better. Typically, systems are not designed to perform excellent for ten years. This request, from the state level, is for agency boards to sign a copy of the letter, requesting that the Governor consider putting the funds back into the State budget for a new system. The funding was in the budget last year and removed this year. Mrs. Weakley asked for the Board members consideration in signing the letter.

Ms. Major put a request before the Board. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the letter for the funding for the replacement of the Virginia Case Management System be signed and sent to the Governor. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 9 – Approval for Realignment**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, in the previous Comp Plan, the possibility of a realignment of salaries was included. Per the request of this Board, it is brought back to the agenda for the Board to approve moving forward with the realignment. Mrs. Weakley asked that the Board approve another realignment of salaries. Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, to allow the agency to move forward in performing a realignment of salaries. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Wendy Linton**. Ms. Linton stated the local budget was \$944,084.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$113,605.44, and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$830,478.56.

**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 (Acceptance of Custody, Director's Consult, and EPPE's) as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

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

Mrs. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that the Board accept the sibling Foster Care Case #21131426. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, that the Board the EPPE's of Mr. Kellam and Mrs. Greenley. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major**

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley**