

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Jackie Phillips; Mr. David Whalen; Mrs. Vicki Weakley, Secretary, and Mrs. Nadine Greenley, Assistant Director.

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

Ms. Major continued to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of March 19, 2024**. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, to approve the Minutes as written. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 4 – Introduction of New Employee – Dalton Horton, Tylar Libertino, and Courtney McCloud**. Mrs. Weakley introduced Dalton Horton who joined the Child Welfare Unit, Courtney McCloud who joined the fiscal office, and Tylar Libertino who also joined the Child Welfare Unit. Ms. Major welcomed them to their new positions. The Board, in unison, expressed the same.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 - Fraud Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Zachary Parks has been hired for the Fraud Investigator position. He was required to give a month's notice to his employer so he will begin work at the agency on May 1, 2024. A Fraud conference is being held in May and he is scheduled to attend. Ms. Major inquired if there was a fraud report for this period. Mrs. Weakley stated there was not, however, fraud referrals are being collected. The plan is to contact Newport News Social Services, who came highly recommended by a previous Fraud Investigator, so that Mr. Parks can spend a couple of days there and learn the process. Fraud trainings are only held quarterly so the training from other sources will give him direction until the training is scheduled. The hope is that a quarterly training will be scheduled after the conference in May.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director's Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that since the last meeting, she held employment interviews (Three of the interviewees were introduced to the Board today. One vacancy remains in Child Welfare and one in Adult Services. The Child Welfare position has received applications and the Supervisor is reviewing them now. The Adult Services position closed on Friday, April 12th. Ms. Major inquired if the two new employees were Child Welfare. Mrs. Weakley stated yes, both are in Child Welfare.); Commissioner meeting (The current Commissioner has resigned as he has decided to run for Mayor of Richmond); Paris match training (Mrs. Weakley stated that she and Assistant Director Greenley participated in the Paris match training. Paris matches are a list that comes out quarterly from the State of persons who appear to be receiving benefits in two different states at the same time. Several of them are people who moved in the middle of a month, but there are, unfortunately, a number of people who intentionally receive from two different states. Paris matches have a couple of issues. One, participating in Paris matches determines the State fraud allocation for the upcoming year. The Human Services Assistant in benefits completes the initial piece which consists of emailing or otherwise contacting the other state involved for verification that the person is receiving benefits from them, how long, etc. The Fraud Investigator then enters information into the computer system. The Supervisors of benefits were unable to log into the information system and act as the Fraud Investigator because the State looks at it as a conflict of interest to be able to give benefits and also be able to remove that benefit, therefore; that left Mrs. Weakley and Mrs. Greenley to log the information and handle the fraud portion. Mr. Phillips inquired if there seemed to be a lot of people receiving from two states and playing a game with the system. Mrs. Weakley stated, yes. Mrs. Mackie added that in a report, there may be one out of one hundred that is found, but there are a great deal that are unreported. Just going through the report is a lot of work. Mrs. Weakley stated that there are times when someone could be living in Virginia and decide to move to Maryland. When they get to Maryland, they apply for benefits so technically they are receiving benefits from both states in the same month, but most likely Maryland has prorated the benefit, so they are not receiving the full benefit from either state for that month. If it is a Medicaid case, the only thing that can be done is to turn the case over to DMAS (Department of Medical Assistance Services). Mrs. Mackie inquired if there was still a timeframe in which the list had to be completed. Mrs. Weakley stated that the State has not been holding to a timeframe as much, but reminders are sent to get it completed. Secondly, it is unknown at what point the State will evaluate for the upcoming budget. If they evaluate at a time that the matches haven't

been completed, then that is what will be evaluated. It will not matter what is completed the week after the evaluation. The budget decision will only count for what has or has not been completed at the time of the evaluation.), a virtual VLSSE (Virginia League of Social Services Executives) Board Meeting; Realignment meetings; Regional Office visit; and a Members Helping Members Board meeting.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Comp Plan Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that nothing has changed from the previous year. On page 4, the realignment remains a yes, but at such time a realignment is proposed, it will be brought before the Board for a vote before it can be achieved. Ms. Major inquired if this year's realignment was on task to be completed. Mrs. Weakley stated that it was. Between the previous realignment and the raise received last year, employees are closer to where their salaries should be than it has been in a long time. Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, to approve the Comp Plan as written. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Child Abuse Prevention Month**. Mrs. Weakley stated that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the month that we celebrate all the service workers. The agency will be paying for them to go out to lunch. The blue ribbon in front of members is to represent child abuse awareness.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – April is Administrative Professional's Day**. Mrs. Weakley stated that April is also Administrative Professional's Day and they will be going out to lunch as well.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 10 – Medicaid Unwinding**. Mrs. Weakley stated that she is proud of the workers this month. The current number of overdue Medicaid cases is 2,139 which means, in the last month, 196 have been completed. The state still has not given any indication as to what the consequences will be when we don't make the deadline. Mr. Phillips inquired if that was still April 30th. Mrs. Weakley stated, yes. The State decided to take away the overtime funds in the last month. Funds were removed on April 1st. The State may at some point redistribute the funds, but in the meantime, they are strongly suggesting that we do everything possible to complete them all by April 30th. Taking away the one incentive does not help. There has been discussion to extend the deadline by five months. Mr. Phillips inquired if the overtime funds have been pulled before. Mrs. Weakley stated that every now and again with a special project, the State will provide overtime funds for a huge influx of work that was created by them. Ms. Linton added that the State will inquire if any funds remain during a given time so that it can be redistributed to another agency in need of the funds. Fifteen thousand dollars was sent initially and \$7,591.00 was paid out to workers for the Medicaid Unwinding overtime.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11 - Pure Benefit Case Records and Position Postings**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Position Postings from September 2019 through March 2021 and 158 benefit case records from 2002 to 2017 are ready to be purged in accordance with State guidelines. Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, that the mentioned case records and position postings be purged. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 12 – Financial Statement**. Ms. Linton stated that the local budget was \$944,084.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$565,571.74, and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$565,571.74. Ms. Linton stated that the budget will be winding down as we approach the end of the fiscal year.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing items stated only on the Agenda (Foster Care Relief of Custody case #21131426 and 21229641, Approval of EPPE's for Dawn Parks, Kamesha Watson, Nadine Greenley, and Gary Kellam, Director's Consult, and Director's EPPE) as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712. The motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, the Board returned from Closed Session and confirmed that the only items discussed were the ones listed on the Board Members' Agenda. Ms. Major called a vote (Mr. Whalen – yes; Mr. Phillips – yes; Mrs. Mackie – yes; Ms. Major - yes). The motion carried.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen that the Board accept the Relief of Custody case #21131426 and 21229641. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Mrs. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips that the Board accept the EPPE's for Dawn Parks, Kamesha Watson, Nadine Greenley, and Gary Kellam. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Mrs. Mackie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips that the Board accept the EPPE for the Director. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, to adjourn the meeting at 11:17 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major**_____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley**_____