

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mrs. Elsie Mackie, Vice-Chairman; Mr. David Whalen; Mr. Robert Martin; Mrs. Vicki Weakley, Secretary, and Mrs. Nadine Greenley, Assistant Director.

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

Ms. Major continued to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of April 16, 2024**. Mrs. Mackie 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 Promotion – Dawn Parks**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Mrs. Parks has been promoted from Administrative Coordinator I to Administrative Coordinator II. Ms. Major congratulated her on her promotion. The Board, in unison, expressed the same.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 - Fraud Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, as discussed at the last meeting, a fraud worker has been hired. Last week he was in Williamsburg at the fraud conference; yesterday and today he is in Newport News shadowing their fraud staff. Mr. Parks will be introduced to the Board at the next monthly meeting.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director’s Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that since the last meeting she attended a D-SNAP information and training session (D-SNAP is the disaster piece of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that most people refer to as food stamps even though food stamps no longer exist. About every other year the State makes sure agencies know what to do in the event of a disaster. Mrs. Weakley must write a plan and submit it to the State each year on what this agency would do in the event of a disaster. Benefits would be distributed not only to the people we currently serve, but a larger group in the community would also become eligible based on the disaster. Traditionally, the State has found that there is a great deal of fraud that occurs during that time; therefore, after the program closes, the federal government will look at all the possible fraud that occurred. It is a long process. The planning and training are in place to insure everyone is aware of what to do in the event a disaster happens. Only the President can decide to activate a D-SNAP program. The Governor can make a request to the President, but only the President can authorize D-SNAP.), a CPMT (Community Planning and Management Team), a CPS teams meeting (This meeting was about how complicated the work has become and how to deal with the stress of the work. On Thursday of this week, there is a virtual meeting with a group that performs case aid services. Staff will learn what that looks like and if it would be helpful to lessen staff stress. In July, a similar group will visit in person to talk with staff about the same service available for benefit workers.), multiple realignment meetings (The realignment has been completed. Eligible staff will see the increase in their paychecks on the 30th of this month. A handful of staff, typically the ones who have been here the longest, were below where they needed to be in salary. Hopefully, doing a realignment each year will encourage staff to stay knowing their salary is going to be more reasonable.), an Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Coalition meeting, a fraud supervision meeting (After conducting a meeting with the benefit supervisors, the Assistant Director, and Mrs. Weakley, the conclusion was to share supervision because there are pieces of fraud that cannot be handled by the benefits supervisors, but can be handled through the Director and Assistant Director.), a Director’s Coffee Break, a Right to Review hearing (This is the Adult Protective Services version of a CPS appeal. Mrs. Greenley added that the Right to Review hearing went into effect approximately a year ago, but this is the first one that has been requested at this agency.), a doughnut welcoming for new staff, a VLSSE (the Virginia League of Social Services Executives) three-day conference in Williamsburg, and a supervisors meeting.

Mrs. Mackie inquired how many people received an increase during the realignment. Mrs. Weakley stated that nineteen people were increased. Most of them were around 20% below where they should be and there were a small handful that were about 10-12% below. With this increase and the 3% raise in July, it will bring most people to a salary that aligns with where they are supposed to be. In speaking with Ms. Linton, it would be

wise for us to look at doing a realignment every year and keeping staff aligned with what they should be earning. Mrs. Mackie added that by doing that, staff will feel appreciated. Mrs. Weakley agreed and added that since the 5% increase when a person completes their probation or conditional status has also made a significant difference.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Per Diem**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Mrs. Mackie was correct during the last action on the per diem amounts in that the dinner rate should be increased also. After Mrs. Weakley and Mrs. Greenley attended the VLSSE conference and it became apparent that the per diem amount was low even choosing some of the less expensive restaurants. Mrs. Mackie added that being in the city, there are a lot of taxes that get added to that expense. Mrs. Weakley requested that the Board approve the dinner per diem be changed to \$45.00. Mr. Martin made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie that the Board approve the dinner per diem amount of \$45.00. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Adult Abuse Prevention and Foster Care Awareness Month**. Mrs. Weakley stated that this month is Adult Abuse Prevention and Foster Care Awareness month. Each board member has been given a reminder gift for Adult Abuse Prevention month. The foster care unit has been striving to recruit additional foster parents.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – In-Home Safe Measures Data Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the State is getting ready for the federal review. The last federal review that was completed in child welfare was the onset of the implementation of the federal review. Child Welfare staff are doing their best to ensure all cases are as they should be for the review. Some of the goals for a federal review are: in-home contacts (94% is passing; Accomack has a 96%) and service plans status (86.7% is passing; Accomack has 100%). Mrs. Weakley stated that she was proud of the workers when the report came out. They have worked very hard to fix some of the deficits and be above the expected percentages.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 10 – Medicaid Unwinding**. Mrs. Weakley stated that, as the Board is already aware, Medicaid unwinding was supposed to be completed by the end of April. Last month there were 2,139 cases that were listed as overdue, but the State's data is always a month or two behind, so Mrs. Weakley pulled the actual data as of yesterday and there are 1,317 overdue cases. An additional person has been contracted to assist with the cases. She works full time for Northampton County DSS so is familiar with the process. Northampton County DSS has completed their overdue cases. The benefit supervisors met Monday afternoon to decide the best avenue to complete the process. The adult benefits unit was the unit that was hit the hardest, but they currently have 424 overdue cases, whereas the families and children unit has 893 overdue. One of the emergency workers has been moved to assist the families and children unit. Tomorrow the State is conducting a virtual meeting with all the agencies that have not completed the overdue cases to talk about a plan for completion. Workers had been able to work overtime because of the overtime funds that were issued for the completion. Those funds were taken away a month before the deadline. The expectation was that the funds would be redistributed according to the agencies need. This has not occurred, but it may be part of the discussion tomorrow. Ms. Major inquired if a new deadline had been set. Mrs. Weakley stated not at this time, but that could also be part of the discussion in tomorrow's meeting.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 11 - Purge Benefit Case Records**. Mrs. Weakley stated that there are 649 benefits case records that are ready to be purged according to state guidelines. Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, that the mentioned benefit case records 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 \$624,462.09, and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$319,621.91. Ms. Linton added that we are running 14% below budget.

Closed Session - On motion by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Martin, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing items stated only on the Agenda

(Director's Consult) as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712. The motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Martin, 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. Martin – yes; Mrs. Mackie – yes; Ms. Major - yes). The motion carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Whalen made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, to adjourn the meeting at 10:39 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major** _____

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** _____