

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on October 21, 2014, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Kay W. Lewis, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Laura B. Gordy; Ms. Reneta Major; Mr. John Sparkman; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

Mr. Obenshain called the meeting to order. Mr. Sparkman gave the Invocation.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of September 16, 2014.** On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Minutes of September 16, 2014 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update – Jack Thomas, Fraud Investigator II.** The Board welcomed Mr. Thomas to the meeting. Mrs. Parker stated Mr. Sparkman had never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Thomas and had hoped to meet him at the Staff Recognition; however, Mr. Thomas was off that day. At this time Mr. Thomas stated as of September 20, 2014 he had completed 182 investigations so far this year. Mr. Thomas stated he interviews the clients and determines whether the applications are fraudulent. As of September 25, 2014 Mr. Thomas stated he had approximately \$30,520 in fraud claims. Mr. Thomas stated a fraud claim is determined by whether the individual intentionally committed fraud, did same inadvertently or through a conviction. If they get money and did not tell us about it, Mr. Thomas goes in the system and checks earnings for that month and shows what the client got and should have gotten and shows a claim for the overage which will need to be paid back to the Agency.

Mr. Thomas stated he had a situation where he had to confront a client relative to earnings. It appeared the client had been working for two years and we had no record of it and had not counted the additional income. He called the client and asked him to come to our office. Mr. Thomas asked him about the information we had received. The client adamantly denied working and stated he did not get the job. Mr. Thomas at that time stated someone had been getting pay checks under this client's Social Security Number for two years and the employer had also viewed a picture of the client and stated he was working for them. The client finally admitted to the fraud.

Mr. Thomas stated we also have a duplicate benefits issue. This has hurt us where the State changed the policy that clients do not have to report moving. In the past you had 10 days to report moving. They now go state to state and forget to tell the other state they left and we don't know they are getting benefits from another state. Now they have an EBT card and they can take it any place. They move here and use that card as well as coming in to apply with us.

Mr. Thomas reviewed the remainder of his report with the Board and explained how he processes household error claims; cash payments; recoupment; tax intercept payments; savings from Front ends, IPV allotment reductions, etc.

He also briefly touched on the Fuel/Crisis Programs and Cooling Program. Mr. Thomas stated the fraud has gone way down the last couple of years. Linda Cicoira of the Eastern Shore Post has written two articles concerning our front end fraud detection in the Cooling Program which Mr. Thomas believes have been deterrents against fraud. Mr. Thomas stated in 2012 we received 126 applications for air conditioners. He stated in 2013 it was decided he would go to every home that applied for an air conditioner to see if they already had one that was working as you are not allowed to have any in your home when you apply. Out of the 126 homes he inspected 98 had working air conditioners. About 80% of the applicants had not been honest. We saved \$47,850 that year.

In 2013 there were only 84 applicants and 56 were determined to be ineligible. In 2014 he did the same procedure; however, only 46% were dishonest with a savings of \$23,700.00.

On behalf of the Board Mr. Obenshain thanked Mr. Thomas for his report. Ms. Gordy stated she always enjoys his monthly Fraud Report.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update. Community Relations:**

On September 16, 2014 Office Supervisor Linda C. Rew and Mrs. Parker attended the United Way Kick-Off Luncheon. It was very interesting and they spoke about the tornado at Cherrystone.

On September 17, 2014 Child Welfare Supervisor Libby Beasley and Mrs. Parker attended the Business After Hours – Eastern Shore Community Services Board Vocational Center to meet and greet ESCSB Executive Director Lisa Sedjat.

Regular Meetings: On September 17, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the Prisoner Reentry meeting.

On October 2, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the regular CPMT meeting.

On October 16, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended an Emergency CPMT meeting in the morning and a Rapid Response Team meeting in the afternoon.

Regional/State Meetings:

On October 17, 2014 Mrs. Parker participated in the Information Technology Operations Committee monthly conference call.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Regional Local Board Member Training – October 29, 2014 – RSVP by October 22, 2014.** Mrs. Parker stated she needed to know by the next day who could attend. Ms. Kay Lewis and Ms. Reneta Major stated both of them would be attending with Mrs. Parker.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 – Financial Statement – Shirley Harmon, Administrative Office Manager.** For the month of September our Expenditures totaled \$301,326.34. Our Year to Date Total Local Adjustment is \$182,190.31 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$541,920.69.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Employment and Leave Without Pay), as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board returned to Open Session. On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board confirmed the matters discussed in Closed Session (Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes).

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board was polled (Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes) and approved the following:

- I. Personnel:
 - A. Employment:
 1. Kathleen Kenyon, Emergency Benefit Program Specialist II – Effective 08/11/14
 - B. Leave Without Pay:

1. Theresa Franklin, Benefit Program Specialist II – 55 Hrs. from 8/27/14 to 9/11/14
2. Alba Castillo, Office Associate II – 18 Hrs. from 9/5-12/14

Mr. Obenshain stated our next regular meeting would be held on November 18, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**