

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, June 21, 2016, 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. Ms. Major gave the Invocation.

Mr. Obenshain stated since it was the last Board meeting he and Mrs. Lewis would be attending, he would like to congratulate the Board on how well they had gotten along during his tenure on the Board. He further stated eight years ago when he returned as a Board Member, it was the height of recession and we got through it but he really did not know how as it created a lot of problems at the agency. The big one that came to mind was the turmoil on the Board when he arrived; however, we got past it. He stated everyone has worked together well, said what they wanted to say and discussed things and to his knowledge he does not recall any cross word between the Members. That in itself is the definition of a successful Board. He hoped the remaining Board Members could carry on and keep that perspective. Ms. Gordy thanked him for the great job he had done as Chairman. Ms. Major stated ditto to Ms. Gordy's statement as Mr. Obenshain had been a good leader and the mark of a good leader is to be a good follower so whoever filled his seat would have some hard shoes to fill. Ms. Gordy stated they would be thinking of him. Mrs. Parker thanked Mr. Obenshain for becoming a part of our Board.

Ms. Major said she wanted to thank Ms. Lewis. She stated she and Ms. Lewis had always had a good relationship as Ms. Lewis was her supervisor at NCDSS. Ms. Major stated Ms. Lewis is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to social services. She still wants to be a part of social services even after retirement and that speaks volumes. Mrs. Parker stated she and Ms. Lewis had been friends for many years prior to her arrival on our Board and she has been a wonderful Board Member and a true friend. Mrs. Parker stated your heart is in two places – with the staff and with the people we serve.

Mr. Obenshain then thanked Office Supervisor Linda Rew and Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon for all they had done and he hoped we would pass onto staff how much he and Ms. Lewis had appreciated what they had done for the Agency and our community.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of May 17, 2016.** On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Minutes were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mr. Obenshain stated as usual Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas' update looked very good. Mrs. Parker stated he is a very busy fellow. Ms. Gordy stated she asked him after the last meeting where he got his information and he stated from workers. Ms. Gordy stated he must work well with staff. Mrs. Parker stated they did and now that cooling season has commenced, he will be out looking for air conditioners in windows. Mrs. Weakley also stated he is currently working with Northampton County DSS to get their fraud program up and running.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director's Update.** Community Relations: On May 23, 2016 Mrs. Parker and Day Care Coordinator Selina Lewis hosted a Smart Beginnings Quality Outreach session at our agency. Twenty-three providers were present and it went very well. They were interested in what was being said and some of the centers are interested in participating in Smart Beginnings, which is good.

Regular Meetings: On June 2, 2016 Mrs. Parker attended the regular CPMT meeting, and on June 16, 2016 she attended an Emergency CPMT meeting.

Regional/State Meetings: On June 7, 2016 Mrs. Parker attended a CSA audit and it was definitely not fun. This is the first place the auditor had been where there was no CSA Coordinator. Mrs. Parker stated it is definitely obvious to her we need one. Ms. Major stated she thought some funding had been appropriated for the position. Mrs. Parker stated \$12,500 in administrative funds is allocated yearly for Accomack and the same amount for Northampton. \$25,000 a year is inadequate to hire a full time coordinator.

Mr. Obenshain inquired how to go about rectifying this. Mrs. Parker stated she needed to speak with County Administrator Steve Miner. She stated Amy Ford of Central Accounting was at the exit review as well with them and heard everything. It has to be something that Accomack County and Northampton County jointly agree to do. Mr. Obenshain inquired whether there would be any problem with the Counties doing this. Mrs. Parker stated there might be an issue; however, they really need to do it.

Ms. Lewis inquired what CSA meant. Mrs. Parker stated it previously stood for Comprehensive Services Act; however, it is now Children's Services Act. They took money from Special Education, from our foster care and also some funds that Department of Juvenile Justice had and a little bit of money from the Community Services Board because the General Assembly felt people were double dipping. They were going to two different entities in a locality and receiving duplicate services. That was not happening here, but that was the consensus of the General Assembly. Foster children are mandated for any services they need as well as children qualifying for special education services. All services should be least restrictive and most appropriate. Other children in the community can receive services if there is a parental agreement, which stipulates that the child is in need of services and the parents agree to support the service plan and also be assessed a parental copay amount.

Mr. Sparkman remarked on the CSA Coordinator position having been vacant and whether it should be a social services worker to fill the position. Mrs. Parker stated we need someone who has had experience in one of the areas whether it is mental health, child welfare, etc. but they need a general knowledge of the community; i.e., what is available now and what we need to have. Ms. Major stated there are probably people in Northampton or Accomack County who could do the job; however, the problem is the compensation for the position – more than \$25,000. Ms. Major stated it is incumbent for both Counties to have a CSA Coordinator. Mrs. Parker stated we will wait until the auditor gets the report to us and we will be sharing that with the Board of Supervisors.

On June 13, 2016 Mrs. Parker attended the Eastern Region Directors meeting.

On June 17, 2016 our new Eastern Region Director JoAnn Harfst came to our agency and met with us. We had coffee and donuts in the training room and she got up and spoke and then spoke with individual workers and Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Weakley spoke with her before she left. Mr. Sparkman inquired whether Mrs. Parker had known her prior to her taking the new position. Mrs. Parker stated yes as she was the Director of Matthews County DSS previous to taking over this position. She further stated she has her certificate in Human Resources, which is quite helpful. She has a lot of years of experience in social services and other areas.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Destruction of Purged Benefit Program Cases – Deceased Files – Calendar Years 2005-2012.** Mrs. Parker stated she

needed the Board's approval in order to purge the above cases. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Board approved the destruction of the Benefit Program deceased files for Calendar Years 2005-2012.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 – Destruction of Purged Service Cases**. On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board approved the destruction of service cases.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 8 – Cooling Assistance Component**. Mrs. Parker stated the cooling program commenced on June 15, 2016 and will continue through August 15, 2016. With this program we have a \$300 maximum that will be paid towards an electric bill. She further stated if the first bill paid did not use the maximum payment allowed, they have to bring in future electric bills until the maximum amount has been used.

Mr. Sparkman inquired whether this program has to do with the air conditioners. Mrs. Parker stated this was the program for the air conditioners.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. For the month of May our Total Local Expenditures totaled \$352,843.83. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment is \$594,521.33 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$170,836.67. The month of May was the last month of our Fiscal Year for the State and we have one more month for the County, which ends June 30, 2016.

Mrs. Parker stated they said in the Eastern Region Director's meeting that they will know by the 9th of July 2016 if the State had met its quota for revenue dollars for the salary increase to come through in December 2016.

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Retirement) and Consent to Adopt (Foster Care Case #001-053033004), as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

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

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

- I. Personnel:
 - A. Retirement:
 1. Abigail Allen, Family Services Specialist III, Effective 06/01/2016

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

- II. Consent to Adopt:
 1. Foster Care Case #001-053033004

Mr. Obenshain stated the next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**