

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**JULY 21, 2009**

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Mr. C. Ray Davis, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Kay W. Lewis; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Ms. Reneta Major; Mrs. Betty Wood; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

Mr. Obenshain called the meeting to order. Ms. Reneta Major gave the Invocation.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 4 – Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**. On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, Mr. Obenshain was elected to serve another term as Chairman. Mr. Obenshain stated he appreciated the vote of confidence, and he further stated the Board had been a great group.

On motion of Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mr. Obenshain, Ms. Major was elected to serve as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Major thanked the Board for the nomination.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 5 – Approve Minutes of June 16, 2009**. On motion by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Minutes of June 16, 2009 were approved as written. Mr. C. Ray Davis abstained from the motion as he was not present at the June 16, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 6 – Fraud Update**. Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas completed 26 investigations during the month of June. Mrs. Parker stated Mr. Thomas is working hard and accomplishes a lot to keep us from actually approving a case that would not be to anyone's benefit.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 7 – Director's Update**. Mrs. Parker stated she needed to add two items to her Update. **Community Relations**: On June 22, 2009 Mrs. Parker participated on the hiring panel for supervisor of Eastern Shore Healthy Families. On July 28, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended the Poverty Summit

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at the ESCC. This took place at Community Colleges across the State. They were asked if you had two minutes with Governor Kaine what are two things you would tell him you need in your community or what can we do to stamp out poverty in Virginia? There were over 100 people in attendance. People talked about education and vocational training for kids as well as other areas. All information will be compiled and presented to Governor Kaine for his review. You will also be able to view his decision on his website. Ms. Diane Musso, Director of Eastern Shore Area on Aging, was the Moderator, and Ms. Pauline Milbourne served as Secretary. **Regular Meetings:** On July 2, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended a Truancy Committee meeting for Accomack County. Northampton County also has a committee. We are trying to decide how to keep a child in school prior to the case being turned over to the Court system. On July 2, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended a regular CPMT meeting. On July 20, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended a Food Bank Advisory Council meeting.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 8 – Overview of the FNS Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Anna Anderson.** Mrs. Anderson stated she was going to tell the Board a little bit about what the Ongoing Food Stamp Unit does. It is no longer called the Food Stamp Program – the new name is Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Basically, what our Unit does is work with families and children of pregnant women. We get ongoing cases from Intake Workers. Our Unit consists of four workers and we have a total of 896 SNAP cases and 3015 Medicaid cases. We keep the ongoing cases in order to make changes and do re-determinations once a year. We get interim reports and on the fifth month we determine whether the client will be eligible for the following six months. We do Medicaid renewals for eligibility. Food Stamp eligibility is based on household size, income and household expenses. There was a Stimulus Package in April 2009 whereby benefits were increased per household. We have a mass change in October of each year for Food Stamps and normally the income level goes up and the benefits increase. This year in October 2009 the limits will go up; however, the benefits will not due to the Stimulus Package. Applications for expedite are processed within a seven day period and non-expedites are completed within a period of thirty days.

Mrs. Parker asked Mrs. Anderson to explain what comprises an expedited case. Mrs. Anderson stated if you come into the Agency and your expenses are more than your income for that month and your income is less than \$150.00 for the month, you will get expedited services within a period of seven days. Mrs. Parker stated the client has to have the benefits in his/her hand by the seventh day.

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Mr. Obenshain stated Mrs. Anderson had mentioned a lot of cases. He inquired how long can people stay within the program. Mrs. Anderson stated as long as they are eligible. Mrs. Parker stated in certain localities based on poverty level there are a lot of people who might be eligible for Food Stamps than actually apply. A lot of those are single people who are head of households. This is comprised mostly of elderly people do not see the value. We are probably serving 56% of the population in Accomack County based on the statistics. We have a lot more people who might be eligible but who do not get benefits.

Mrs. Parker further stated our TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) caseload is a money payment. You are required to have parents or a caretaker in order to draw from this program. Those caseloads had gone down; however, they are now rising due to the economy.

A lengthy discussion followed relative to the above. On behalf of the Board Mr. Obenshain thanked Mrs. Anderson for coming to the meeting and addressing the services rendered by her Ongoing Unit.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Mrs. Harmon stated the month of June was the first month of our new Fiscal Year. For the month of June our Total Expenditures were \$292,845.97. Our Total Local Adjustment was \$39,124.25 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$643,616.75.

Mr. Davis stated on the bottom of the first page it shows we have used 30% of the allocation of the Social Services Block Grant. He inquired whether that was anything we should be concerned about. Mrs. Parker stated we had one case where we had used some of this funding. However, we now plan to use some Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) money and this pot will be reimbursed for the amount expended. This was for a foster child and they were going back to their family and they needed rent and a month's security deposit for electricity, etc. We paid it out of the above but we will collect it from CSA or possibly Family Reunification funds. Mrs. Harmon stated there are some months when we do not have any expenditure from that money.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Mrs. Wood, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Leave Without Pay, Retirement, Acceptance of Custody, Consent to Adopt and Release of Custody), as permitted by Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3712.

On motion by Mrs. Wood, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board returned to Open Session. Mr. Obenshain polled the Board in order to determine that only those

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items listed were discussed in Closed Session (Mrs. Wood – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes; and Mr. Davis – yes).

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mrs. Wood, and by polling each Board Member (Mrs. Wood – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes; and Mr. Davis – yes) the Board approved the following:

- I. Personnel:
  - A. Leave Without Pay:
    - 1. Mary Rasmussen – Benefit Programs Specialist II –  
17.5 Hrs – 6/19-29/2009
  - B. Retirement:
    - 1. Sue Parks – Benefit Programs Specialist II –  
Effective 7/1/09

By polling each Board Member (Mrs. Wood – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes; and Mr. Davis – yes) the Board approved the following:

- II. Acceptance of Custody:
  - 1. Foster Care Case #001-046641007
  - 2. Foster Care Case #001-046524001
  - 3. Foster Care Case #001-046662004
- III. Consent to Adopt:
  - 1. Foster Care Case #001-039592009
- IV. Release of Custody:
  - 1. Foster Care Case #001-043568007
  - 2. Foster Care Case #001-042429003

Mr. Obenshain stated the next Regular meeting will be held on August 18, 2009.

On motion by Mr. Davis, seconded by Ms. Major the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary E. Parker  
Secretary