

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Kay W. Lewis; Mrs. Betty Wood; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Ms. Reneta Major; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mrs. Wood, the Minutes of August 18, 2009 were approved as written. Ms. Major abstained from the approval as she was not present for the August 18, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 4 – Fraud Update**. Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas prepares the Fraud Report by Fiscal Year. Mrs. Parker stated Mr. Thomas went to see the Commonwealth Attorney on September 18, 2009 to determine whether Mr. Agar would handle some fraud cases for us. Prosecuting the fraudulent clients is a deterrent for other clients who might possibly have the idea of doing the same. When they read our local newspapers and see the Grand Jury has indicted local residents for fraud, it might make them think before they try to do the same.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 5 – Director’s Update**. **Community Relations**: On September 11, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Business Training and Workforce Development Center at Eastern Shore Community College in Melfa. Mrs. Parker stated it is a “state of the art” building.

On September 16, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended a luncheon sponsored by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Community Services Board to introduce their new staff psychiatrist specializing in the treatment of children, Dr. Michael Henderson.

**Regular Meetings**: Mrs. Parker stated there were no Regular Meetings.

**Regional/State Meetings**: On September 8, 2009 Social Work Supervisor Libby Beasley, Social Worker III Sylvia Stanley and Mrs. Parker attended Safe Measures training in Virginia Beach. This was relative to a web-based system where you can go in, drill down and obtain information about child welfare. If you are not meeting the goals, you go into the individual case, worker and action taken relative to the case. It should be a big help for us.

On September 21, 2009 Mrs. Parker attended the Eastern Regional Directors meeting at the new Suffolk DSS. Present at the meeting was DSS Finance Director J. R. Simpson. He presented information which Mrs. Parker shared with the Board. It outlines the actions Commissioner Conyers has taken because they have lost 80 positions in this last budget issue. Some positions were unfilled, contract and fulltime employees. They have compressed positions so people in training management will be with Human Resources. Mrs. Parker also discussed other positions which have been placed into different areas.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 6 – Building Update**. Mrs. Parker stated the defective door at the Benefit Programs end of the building has now been fixed. They had to replace every part of the mechanism. ADT is going to hook up audio in the Child Welfare Visitation Room. We have a video camera in the visitation

room and can currently see what is transpiring in the room; however, it would be nice to have audio as well.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 7 – Adult Services FY 2010 Budget Reductions**. Mrs. Parker stated these are the only budget lines that have affected us. As far as Auxiliary Grants it was money that would be unspent anyway. Money for Touring Companions will not be affected as we turn back money in the spring. We have looked at our usage and feel like it will not be a problem.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Our Shore Children Need YOU! Foster Care Town Hall Meeting – October 15, 2009**. The Eastern Region Office and Northampton and Accomack Department of Social Services have proposed, and we have agreed, to have a Town Hall meeting at the Community College on August 15, 2009. It will be in the evening. We will provide something for people to eat. They are trying to get people interested in becoming foster parents. Ours is the first area to try doing this. Mrs. Parker stated she felt we needed to get this out to the public as soon as possible. We had a conference call on Friday, September 18, 2009, about the meeting. Mrs. Parker stated she hoped the Board would attend and show moral support. We are trying to get people interested in becoming foster parents. If it works on the Shore, there might be other areas in the State who try this.

Ms. Major inquired whether we have lost foster children to other agencies. Mrs. Parker stated we have lost some to therapeutic and private providers. She further stated if we choose to have a specialized foster home commencing in October 2009, we could pay foster parents more if they chose children who met that higher level.

Mrs. Parker stated the first thing we do when a child comes into foster care, or there is a possibility of a child coming into care, is try to determine if there is a family member who can take the child into their home until the parent can get straight and the child can be returned to him/her.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 9 – Financial Statement**. In the absence of Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon, Mrs. Parker presented the Financial Statement. Our Total Expenditures were \$\_\_\_\_\_ and our Total Balance to Date is \$556,114.57.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 10 – Annual Staff Recognition Luncheon, Friday, October 9, 2009**. Mrs. Parker stated this year we are having Starlight Pizzeria in Onley cater the luncheon. We are serving various types of pizza and salad. Mrs. Parker stated after the luncheon we normally present pins and certificates for years of service. Then, the Board normally gives staff the remainder of the afternoon off. On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Wood, the Board approved the luncheon and time off for staff.

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Termination) and Adoption Subsidy (Foster Care Case #001-039593009 and Foster Care Case #001-042997001), as permitted by Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3712.

On motion by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Board returned to Open Session. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Wood, the Board confirmed the matters discussed in Closed Session. Mr. Obenshain polled the Board to confirm the matters discussed in Closed Session (Mrs. Wood – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Ms. Lewis – yes). On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Board was polled and approved the following:

- I. Personnel:
  - A. Termination:
    - 1. Colleen Killeen – Benefit Programs Specialist I – eff. 09/15/09

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Wood, the Board was polled and approved the following:

- II. Adoption Subsidy:
  - 1. Foster Care Case #001-039593009
  - 2. Foster Care Case #001-042997001

Mr. Obenshain stated the next Regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2009, at 9:30 A.M.

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

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_