

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Ms. Laura B. Gordy, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Martin; Mrs. Elsie Mackie; Mr. Robert Crockett; Mr. John Sparkman; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

Ms. Gordy called the meeting to order. At the request of Ms. Gordy those in attendance repeated The Lord's Prayer.

Ms. Gordy proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of February 19, 2019.** On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Ms. Major, the above Minutes were approved as written. At that time Mr. Martin stated the February 19, 2019 Minutes showed his name in the first paragraph as "**Robert Marshall.**" On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Ms. Major, the February 19, 2019 Minutes were approved with the above correction. The motion carried.

Ms. Gordy continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Report.** Ms. Gordy stated it was a nice report and Mr. Sparkman stated it was very detailed.

Ms. Gordy proceeded to **Item 5 – Director's Report.** Mrs. Weakley stated she attended a Trauma Informed Workgroup; a Caseload Study meeting; Supervisors' meeting; an Orientation Manual meeting - it appears by the summer we will have it completed; a meeting with Heritage Hall representatives to see about getting bills paid and getting folks in the nursing home a little quicker; and the Excellence in Leadership program meeting.

Mrs. Weakley stated the Healthy Communities group has written a grant to bring Bridges Over Poverty to the Shore. We have to go through a couple of extra hoops to jump through in order for the trainer to get certified by the State. The trainer is currently working on the above. We will set a date and the Board Members will be invited.

Mrs. Weakley then commented on the legislation update. She wanted to mention the legislation they expected to pass relative to raising the minimum salaries unfortunately did not go through. They had talked about a 2% raise for us and a one-time bonus; however, they proposed a 3% raise. Mrs. Weakley stated she did not know whether Governor Northam had signed it. She further stated they would probably try to get the legislation through again next year for increasing minimum salaries. Ms. Major stated they will probably need to find some funding.

At that time Mr. Crockett stated he is surprised that other agencies did not tag onto it and give increases to their employees rather than others. Mrs. Weakley stated unfortunately over the years everyone else got increases instead of us. Mr. Crockett asked if it was separately and Mrs. Weakley stated yes. Sometimes they lumped groups together; however, we were consistently left out and she had hoped they would make up for it.

Ms. Gordy continued to **Item 6 – Elder Abuse Article.** Mrs. Weakley stated everyone had gotten a copy of the Elder Abuse Article. She wanted to give the Board some numbers, as follows: 2014 – 36 abuse complaints; 2015 – 72 complaints; 2016 – 76 complaints; 2017 – 139 complaints; 2018 – 166 complaints; 2019 – as of this morning 53 complaints (23 for month of March and 3 for morning of March 19, 2019). Mr. Crockett inquired whether there was a common theme. Mrs. Weakley stated a lot of dementia – more than normal at this time. Mr. Crockett then inquired whether that would be self-abuse as he had read the article. Mrs. Weakley stated that would be self-neglect. It depends on the situation because there is someone who is supposed to be taking care of them. If that person is not and this is why it is happening, that would not be classified as

self-neglect. She further stated if there is someone out there who has no one to care for him/her, then it would be categorized as self-neglect. Mr. Crockett inquired which was more common. Mrs. Weakley stated we are seeing more self-neglect at the present time due to the dementia.

Mrs. Weakley further stated in the last day or two we have received several clients we thought had resolved and now they are back. There was an elderly lady who was being abused and we got her moved away from here. She decided to come back and was beaten up again. Mr. Crockett stated when the next report comes he would appreciate Mrs. Weakley showing the Board whether it was self-neglect or something else as this would be helpful to him. His reason is if this information gets on the street that it has gone up from 50 to 170 in a couple of years, he would like to be able to push back and say "No, most of these cases were self-neglect" - if that is the case. Mrs. Weakley stated we have seen a rise in financial exploitation. She further stated people are convincing them to turn over their money. She has seen in the past they do a good job of a sob story about what had happened to them and the elderly will turn over money. Mr. Crockett stated the elderly will believe just about anything. He continued by telling a story of an incident. Mrs. Weakley stated she would get the breakdown when the figures are given to her.

Ms. Gordy continued to **Item 7 – March is Family Service Specialists Month.** Mrs. Weakley stated the Family Service Specialists will be going to lunch like the Benefit Program Specialists did the previous month. Last year this group went to the Island House but they haven't stated their selection yet.

Ms. Gordy proceeded to **Item 8 – Update on Medicaid Renewals.** Mrs. Weakley stated this is a continuing theme. She stated the previous month we were on the "Top 10 Worst List" and we were on it again this month. However, the beginning of March we had 113 over dues and 209 cases that were due this month. As of this month we have 12 over dues and 38 cases due this month which have not been completed. We are really doing well and by the end of the week all of the over dues will have been completed and we hope to have made a significant impact on the 38 cases due by the end of this month. We are finally in a position we can start working ahead as we are getting caught up. We have 177 Medicaid cases due next month and we have already started working on those. We are expecting it to get better and to start working two months ahead. With all the changes, vacancies and Medicaid Expansion, we were not able to do that. We are now full-staffed for the first time in years and everyone is pulling together and working hard. We have two retirees who have come back to assist and new workers are beginning to do their trainings.

At that time Mr. Crockett inquired whether we have seen an increase in numbers for Medicaid Expansion. Mrs. Weakley stated we have not gotten total numbers. At the beginning the State predicted we would get 2,000 cases; however, we have gone over that amount and they are still coming. The State did not predict that some of the elderly applicants would have others living with them that were not previously eligible for Medicaid so they became an "add a person." It wasn't a new case; however, there was a lot of extra work involved. Mr. Crockett stated we did not get credit for it. Mrs. Weakley stated that was correct. The State did not anticipate that happening so that shot the numbers up and caused a slowdown in keeping up with what we already had. She has not seen final numbers yet.

Mr. Sparkman stated Medicaid Expansion blew a hole in the budget. Mrs. Weakley stated it was not Medicaid Expansion which caused that to occur. It came to light at the same time, but the State went to managed care and so they miscalculated what it would cost to have those six intermediary agencies

and that caused the increase without Medicaid Expansion. Ms. Major stated it was easy to blame Medicaid Expansion.

Ms. Gordy proceeded to **Item 9 – Financial Report – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Ms. Gordy inquired whether Mrs. Harmon had any red flags and Mrs. Harmon stated maybe one – the IV-E Adoption Assistance Program; however, she had made a BRS request to State for the money.

Mrs. Harmon stated for the month of February our Total Expenditures were \$303,189.91. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$391,435.59 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$424,863.41, and we have three more months left in our State Fiscal Year. Mr. Crockett stated he had a question. He further stated percentage wise we are in good shape. We are three-quarters away from the budget and not even two-thirds through our numbers. He further stated he always looks at the bottom line of the budget. He inquired whether we are allowed with the Title IV-E – we are above the 75% at 83.76% - to shift funds in the end if we do not get the extra funds requested. Mrs. Harmon stated no and Mr. Crockett stated that was not good. Ms. Major stated this was a mandated program so she would receive the money. Mrs. Weakley stated this is the program where they have the State Negotiator and they have always given us the money. Ms. Major stated with mandated programs they have to give us the money.

On motion by Mr. Sparkman, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Client Action and Director's Consult (Evaluation and Other), as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Ms. Major, the Board returned to Open Session (Mr. Martin – yes; Ms. Mackie – yes; Ms. Major – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes; Ms. Gordy - yes).

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Ms. Major, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 A.M.

APPROVED: Laura B. Gordy

ATTEST: Vicki J. Weakley