

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Betty Wood; Ms. Laura Belle Gordy; Ms. Kay W. Lewis; Mr. C. Ray Davis; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 - Approve Minutes of December 20, 2011**. On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Minutes of December 20, 2011 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 - Fraud Update**. Ms. Lewis commented on the Tax Intercept amount of \$164,543.26. She stated it would be helpful if we could collect 50% of the amount. Mr. Obenshain requested Mrs. Parker to inform Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas the Board approved of his job performance.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 - Director's Update**. **Community Relations**: On January 1, 2012 Mrs. Parker attended a Town Hall meeting held by Delegate Lynwood Lewis. She stated she learned a lot about uranium mining in Pittsylvania County, VA. It could possibly affect the water supply for lots of people depending on how the mining is done. The uranium supply is located on a family farm, is estimated to be worth \$5-8 billion and is believed to be the largest uranium deposit on the East Coast and possibly the entire United States.

**Regular Meetings**: On January 5, 2012 Mrs. Parker attended the CPMT meeting.

On January 12, 2012 Mrs. Parker attended a Community Partners of the Eastern Shore meeting. This prevention coalition recently completed an Eastern Shore community needs assessment the results of which will be made available online. Data compiled can be used throughout the Eastern Shore to guide policies and services as well as aid in the award of future funding opportunities.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 - Social Services Related Bills as of January 4, 2012**. Mrs. Parker had previously given the Board a list of bills submitted for action in the General Assembly compiled by Portsmouth DSS. The League of Social Services Executives' Legislative Committee meets each Thursday during the Session to review and monitor legislation as well as providing testimony regarding legislation.

Mrs. Parker stated last week we tried to find a patron for our 824 money, which is the funding we spent for companion services. This was taken away from us this year. However, we can tie it into prisoner re-entry as well as for other things. Senator Creigh Deeds has agreed to patron it in the Senate. There is no similar bill filed in the House. Delegate Lewis would co-patron the Bill in the House but felt the current climate in the House would not bode well for the bill should he sign on as the primary Patron.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 - Family and Medical Leave Act Twelve Month Period of Eligibility Designation**. With FMLA we have the option of using a calendar, fiscal year, another fixed 12-month period, or a rolling 12-month period looking back from the date the leave is required. For example, if someone applied for FMLA on January 17, 2012,

it would run until January 16, 2013. Previously we did not have a stipulation from the State for a Board action. We just did it by calendar year. It would be better to do it based on the date the worker initially starts with FMLA. It would be more to track; however, it would be better to do it that way. Mrs. Parker stated we have not had a problem in the past with the calendar year, but we needed an action on this. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Wood, the FMLA would be changed from a calendar year to a rolling 12-month period. The motion carried.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 8 – Virginia Case Management (VaCMS) Update**. Ms. Parker stated she had spoken with Social Worker III Nadine Greenley and Social Worker II Selina Coulbourne relative to an update. Things are calming down somewhat. One of the biggest problems was when the information was mailed to the vendors, we had explained that while we understood the vendor's 911 address was needed for delivery and installation of the Point of Service device, in our area many people do not receive home delivery of their mail and sometimes have a post office box address several miles from their home. We were advised to write the mailing address on the sheet and we did; however, they did not use it. A lot of mail was returned which slowed the process of entering vendor information in the system as well as completing case approvals as the client and vendor must be linked in the system in order to complete the process. Ms. Major, who performs the same duties at Northampton County DSS, stated she believed it was more of a system problem than a policy problem.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 9 – VDSS Annual Financial Statement for 2011**. Mrs. Parker stated this statement is provided to us by the State. It represents a synopsis of program and administrative costs for the social services provided to our community. The statement also reflects the share of costs paid by federal, state and local governments. Mrs. Parker further stated it shows our total Comprehensive Services Act costs for fiscal year 2011 as \$390,420; whereas, the previous year it had been \$1.2 million. Several factors are responsible for this reduction. CSA funds are no longer used for behavioral aides in the school setting and the number of children in Foster Care is less than 10. The reduction of children in Foster Care can be attributed to older children aging out of the system and several processes are in place to prevent children from coming into care. Family Engagement is a deliberate and structured approach to involving youth and families in the decision making process throughout the family's involvement with the agency.

At this point Mr. Obenshain inquired as to whether the Energy Assistance Program amount was up or down from last year. Mrs. Parker stated it is down. Our Financial Statement shows it was \$1.4 million in 2010 and not quite \$1 million in 2011. This year it will be less due to the shortage of funds. Mrs. Parker stated we had been inundated with applications. As of January 12, 2012 at noon we had 78 Medicaid applications, 47 SNAP applications and 6 TANF applications. Ms. Lewis stated there are probably a lot of elderly people who are really in dire straits and need assistance; however, they will not apply for benefits.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 10 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Mrs. Harmon stated for the month of December our Total Expenditures were \$282,041.78. Our Total Local Adjustment was \$286,738.50 and our Total Balance to Date is \$372,854.41.

Mr. Davis stated he noticed we had used approximately 78% of the Fee Block Grant and he felt we would probably be out of funds by February 2012. Mrs. Harmon stated the month of January is the last month we will issue daycare payments. They will be automated. We will have to return any remaining balance to the State. She further stated if her calculations are correct, we will have enough for the daycare program through the month of January 2012.

Mr. Obenshain inquired whether the Food Stamp program was slowing down. Mrs. Parker stated it is not. She further stated since 2004 we have tripled. The economy is the biggest factor for the increase in SNAP.

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

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

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

- I. Personnel:
  1. Leave Without Pay:
    - a. Bonnie Munn, Office Associate III – 12/16/11 – 01/11/12  
- 105.75 Hours
  2. FMLA – Leave Without Pay:
    - a. Beverly Payne, Office Associate II – 12/16/11 – 01/11/12  
152 Hours
  3. Termination:
    - a. Claudia Rodriguez – Emergency Office Associate II  
(Energy Assistance Program) – Effective 12/22/11

Mr. Obenshain stated the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, at 9:30 A.M. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**