

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Kay W. Lewis, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Betty Wood; Ms. Reneta Major; Ms. Laura B. Gordy; Mr. John Sparkman; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of August 20, 2013.** On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Minutes of August 20, 2013 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas had been busy. Mr. Obenshain stated the report looked good.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update. Community Relations:** On 09/13/2013 Mrs. Parker attended a meeting at Eastern Shore Rural Health’s administrative office regarding outreach and enrollment opportunities with the Affordable Care Act. Mrs. Parker stated Accomack and Northampton Departments of Social Services took their ambassadors and met with ESRH and its navigators. We discussed our application process, and that the preferred method for applications is online through Commonhelp. The navigators had hoped we could refer individuals denied for benefits to them, but because of the way our automated system works, we are unable to intercede and give them information about the navigators. ESRH navigators are going out in the community and talking with folks. If anyone knows of a group that would benefit from hearing from them, they would speak with the group and give them information about the Affordable Care Act, how it works and how to sign up for their insurance which is different from the way it would work with us. We will be meeting about sometime in October after we both of us have worked on it.

**Regular Meetings:** On September 5, 2013 Mrs. Parker attended a CPMT meeting.

On September 12, 2013 Mrs. Parker attended Community Partners of the Eastern Shore. The person in charge of Star Transit spoke to the group about their bus routes and how they are funded. He stated everyone wants a bus to come to wherever they are located but it is not feasible to do so. He further stated it is public transit; however, they have to stay within their budget.

**Regional/State Meetings:** On August 28, 2013 Director Richard Sterrett and Ed Stetar of Northampton County DSS, Mrs. Parker and IT System Specialist II Steve Niblett attended a meeting in Richmond with representatives from Deloitte, Sandy Wiseman of VDSS and other local agencies about VACMS and interfacing our paperless system with it. Mr. Obenshain inquired about VACMS. Mrs. Parker stated this is the motor which eventually will be running all agency benefit program functions. Daycare is currently using this program and Medicaid for families and children will be in the program effective October 1, plus TANF and SNAP will also be pulled into VACMS within the next two years. The meeting was just about Medicaid and whether we wanted to move our forms into their forms. The VACMS case is considered the case of record, and we will upload our record into theirs, however, we plan to keep our system here as well. Mrs. Parker stated the new Laserfische program appears to be working quite well. She further stated Mr. Niblett would be doing a presentation of the program to the Board Members after the meeting adjourned.

On September 5, 2013 Mrs. Parker attended a VACMS Webinar and they discussed how the program would work. The morning did not work too well because people could not figure out how to mute their telephones, etc.;

however, the afternoon session was much better and participants were provided copies of the Power Point presentation prior to the session.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Upcoming Changes in SNAP Allotments – Significant Decrease in Benefits in November 2013.** Mrs. Parker stated the SNAP benefits will increase in October due to slightly higher deduction amounts driven by the rate of inflation, and down in November as the ARRA in April 2009 provided an increase in SNAP benefits due to the stimulus package will expire October 31, 2013. The average decrease per household will be about 5.4%.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 7 – Annual Staff Recognition Luncheon – October 11, 2013.** Mrs. Parker stated we need a Board action in order to have the luncheon. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the Annual Staff Recognition Luncheon with staff having the remainder of the afternoon off was approved.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon.** Mrs. Harmon stated for the month of August our Total Expenditures were \$335,856.08. Our Year-to-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$131,094.25 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$593,016.75. Mrs. Parker inquired how the single line for staff and operations was going. Mrs. Harmon stated it was fine because it comes out of one pot.

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

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

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

- I. Personnel:
  1. Leave Without Pay:
    - A. Theresa Franklin – Benefit Program Specialist II – 20.25 Hrs. (7/30/13; 8/6/13; 8/20/13)
    - B. Mary Beasley – Benefit Program Specialist II – 10.75 Hrs. (8/12,27,30/13 & 9/2/13)

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

On motion by Ms. Wood, seconded by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Lewis, the meeting adjourned at 9:55 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**