

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, July 15, 2014, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Reneta Major, Mr. John Sparkman; and Ms. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.** On motion by Mr. Sparkman, seconded by Ms. Major, Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain was re-nominated as Chairman and Ms. Kay W. Lewis was re-nominated as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Obenshain stated approving the Minutes of June 17, 2014 was not on the Agenda; however, that should be the next item. On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, the Minutes of June 17, 2014 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas has been busy as usual. We are still receiving a little Tax Intercept money. Mr. Obenshain stated it is a good report and he is doing all of it by himself; i.e., fieldwork, court work and secretarial work. Ms. Major stated he had also helped the new Fraud Investigator at Northampton County Social Services.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 5 – Director's Update.**

**Regular Meetings:** 06/26/14 – Mrs. Parker attended a Rapid Response Team meeting.

On July 3, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the regular CPMT meeting and covered for Northampton County Director Richard Sterrett who is out on extended medical leave.

On July 9, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the Smart Beginnings Eastern Shore Governance Committee. Smart Beginnings is a strong coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to working together to improve and expand the system of early childhood programs and services on the Eastern Shore. Mrs. Parker stated Ms. Major was also familiar with the program. The Governance Committee has to decide what type of group it is going to be; i.e., a 501(c)3 or a group under the umbrella of United Way. They will need to do some type of fundraising and determine a way to go about doing so. Mrs. Parker stated they will meet again in August.

On July 10, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended a Community Partners of the Eastern Shore meeting. Mrs. Parker stated a fellow who works with Veterans and some others were present at the meeting. He stated we currently have 5600 Veterans on the Shore. They have meetings at the VEC once a month. They are trying to find a way to get out and reach Veterans who may be eligible for more benefits than what they are currently receiving. Mr. Obenshain stated he did not realize we had that many Veterans on the Shore. Mrs. Parker stated they discussed our healthcare system. She further stated they have a Veterans medical office in Pocomoke; however, if a Veteran is seen at the Pocomoke office he/she is unable to go to the Hampton Roads office. Mrs. Parker stated the group is really aggressive about going out and reaching our population of Veterans. Mrs. Parker further stated there is also a Veterans medical facility in Baltimore, MD.

Mr. Obenshain stated before he commenced any further with the Agenda he wanted to make a statement that both Accomack and Northampton County Social Services handle Members Helping Members for ANEC. He further stated

we have done a great job in assisting residents in our communities who needed assistance. He wanted to thank both DSS offices for all that has been done. Mrs. Parker stated our Energy Assistance workers are handling it for us. It is a service to the community and filling a void after the heating season ends and the cooling season begins. It also manages the service in a way that everyone cannot come on a yearly basis to get assistance. It is done in a fair manner.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Fuel/Crisis and Cooling Update for Board – Office Supervisor Linda C. Rew.** Mrs. Rew stated our Fuel/CRISIS programs ran from October 20, 2013 to March 15, 2014. We had 3,054 applications. Under the CRISIS program we paid up to \$200.00 for deposit for new electrical service to ANEC for clients, we assisted with CRISIS fuel when under 10 gallons in the tank, and we repaired defective heating equipment when applicable.

All applications were processed in a timely manner and our two staff, Ms. Peggy McCann and Mrs. Patricia Roberts managed the programs well. Mrs. Jane Wyatt joined the staff to assist Ms. McCann and Mrs. Roberts. We had no appeals and any clients who had issues spoke with the workers first and if there was an additional issue, they were forwarded to Mrs. Rew and everything was resolved between all of us.

Our Cooling program commenced June 15, 2014 and will run until August 15, 2014. As of July 3, 2014, we had 499 cooling applications and this year clients are being allotted up to \$175 per household. If a client has a \$250 bill, they are responsible for paying the additional \$75 and then they bring us a receipt to show they have paid same and we pay the remaining \$175. Within the first two weeks we had received more applications than by the end of July last year. Mrs. Wyatt has returned to assist with the pending and processing of cooling applications. All weekly applications have to be pended by the Friday of that week. It appears everything is going nicely.

Each application requesting an air conditioner is given to our Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas. Mr. Thomas normally goes out every Friday and spends the day in the field checking each home. I spoke with him last week and he stated it has been running 50%-50%; i.e., 50 are legitimate and 50 are not. Mr. Thomas further stated these are mostly applications for clients he has not previously checked. He stated it appears most of them did not try to reapply for an air conditioner because they know he will be appearing at their doorstep.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 – FY15 Employee Bonuses.** Mrs. Parker stated she knew it was in the budget; however, the Accomack County Board of Supervisors had intimated if State employees did not receive a bonus the County would not. It still could happen that it does not come through; however, it is more upbeat than she thought it would be. Mr. Obenshain stated it appears there is a possibility staff could receive a bonus prior to the end of the year.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 8 – Medicaid Pending Applications Report.** Mrs. Parker stated we are doing quite well – we are at 95%. A few of the applications that are older are ones that we could not resolve so we sent them to the State for assistance and to date we have not received a solution. There could have been duplicate applications on some levels and people are receiving benefits but not from the applications that are showing. Mr. Obenshain stated that overall with ACDSS being at 95% we are doing better than some other localities. Ms. Major inquired what percentage the State would like localities to obtain and Mrs. Parker stated it is 97%.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager – Shirley Harmon**. Ms. Harmon stated for the month of June, the first month of our new Fiscal Year, our Total Expenditures were \$286,522.26. Our Year to Date Total Local Adjustment is \$41,086.31 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$683,021.69.

Mr. Obenshain stated there was another item that was not on the Agenda and it was relative to purging of cases. Mrs. Parker stated they are CPS (Child Protective Service) cases that have met the required retention levels. There appear to be 237 cases. On motion of Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, Mrs. Parker was given permission to purge and destroy the 237 CPS cases.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Leave Without Pay) and Acceptance of Custody (Foster Care Case #001036557008), as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

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

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

- I. Personnel:
  1. Leave Without Pay:
    - A. Benefit Program Specialist II Theresa Franklin; 72 Hrs. – 8.25 Hrs. – 06/11/14; 10 Hrs. – 06/12/14; 10 Hrs. – 06/13/14; 10 Hrs. – 06/17/14; 9.75 Hrs. – 06/18/14; 8 Hrs. – 07/04/14; 8 Hrs. – 07/08/14

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

- II. Acceptance of Custody:
  1. Foster Care Case #001036557008

Mr. Obenshain stated our next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Ms. Major, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**