

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 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. Lewis gave the Invocation.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of April 14, 2014.** On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, the Minutes of April 14, 2014 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update.** Mrs. Parker stated Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon received a check on May 19, 2014 from the State. There are still some unhappy people in our community who did not get their income tax refunds. Ms. Lewis stated the year-to-date Tax Intercept figure of \$44,260.95 is excellent. Mr. Obenshain inquired whether it continued on a yearly basis until the entire fraud amount was collected. Mrs. Parker stated we have to go through the process yearly in order to keep collecting the payments.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update. Community Relations:** On April 29, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the ESCC Open House to showcase a new course in Human Services. This is a certificate course and you would take it for a year and that is all there is of that course. It will give the person a skill level on how to work with people and how to deal with issues that person might have.

On May 1, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the National Counseling Group open house in Exmore. She stated they chatted about the services they provide and they had a delicious luncheon catered by The Island House.

Regular Meetings: On May 1, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended a Truancy Meeting (Northampton County cases) at 1 PM, and at 2 PM that afternoon she attended the regular CPMT meeting.

Regional/State Meetings: On May 7-9, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the Virginia League of Social Services Executives Spring Conference in Williamsburg. It was a joint conference with the affiliate organizations and it was a good conference. Mrs. Parker stated they had their Business meeting for the League and it went on forever because they had to figure out what our position was going to be with the State regarding the Medicaid Expansion. After many hours and at 5:30 PM Mrs. Parker stated they had a response for the State from the League. Their answer was “If you give us the resources, we will be happy to take care of it;” however, they do not have the resources to give the local agencies.

Other Meetings: On May 5, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the CSA Self-Assessment work group at Northampton DSS. Last year Northampton DSS was chosen for a Self-Assessment for CSA. At the time Accomack County DSS was not chosen with them. We have an Eastern Shore CPMT which is comprised of both Counties. The auditor refused to believe that we had a joint CPMT. Northampton County DSS Director Richard Sterrett dug in his heels on the issue and about a year later the auditor came back and said. “Okay, it is a joint CPMT and you have one month to get the information to me.” Mrs. Parker stated they worked together on it on May 5, 2014; however, Mr. Sterrett had done some background work for the self-assessment which is approximately 90 pages long. Mrs. Parker stated case reviews also must be completed for both counties. Northampton County has selected their sample and completed the review. Accomack will also select a sample using the same methodology as Northampton and review them as well.

On May 13-14, 2014 Mrs. Parker stated Jim Altice, SNAP Consultant, came to the office and read a selection of SNAP cases. He stated the report would be forthcoming; however, the mistakes we made were similar to what every other agency is making. Mrs. Parker stated this shows maybe the State is not providing enough training.

On May 16, 2014 Medicaid Consultant Lynn Brodnax visited ACDSS to review our progress on processing VaCMS Medicaid applications.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – May is Foster Care Month.** Mrs. Parker stated the Governor has officially recognized May 2014 as Foster Care Month in the Commonwealth. Mr. Obenshain stated the Newsletter was colorful and great reading. Mrs. Parker stated there would be a reception on May 29, 2014 for foster parents. Mrs. Parker invited the Board Members to attend. She further stated we have recently had two foster children adopted and we will be having a celebration for the adoptive family.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 7 – May is Adult Abuse Prevention Month.** Mrs. Parker stated this comes under DARS which is the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services. Our staff is still our staff but the program has moved over to another agency. April is CPS month, May is Foster Care Month and APS month.

At this time Ms. Major stated she felt it is important for Board Members to attend the May 29, 2014 reception for foster parents.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 8 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon.** Ms. Harmon stated for the month of April our Total Expenditures were \$308,377.04. Our year to date Total Local Adjustment is \$506,808.00 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$217,303.00. Mr. Obenshain stated we had one month left in the FY and inquired whether we were okay. Ms. Harmon stated we were fine. He further stated we do a wonderful job to see that we have enough funds to meet our needs. The Board Members stated they needed to praise Ms. Harmon for her accurate assessment.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 9 – Preliminary Budget Allocation FY2015.** Mrs. Parker stated this is if we have a budget. If we do not, we might be giving people SNAP and TANF but no one will be paid to determine eligibility. We will have to wait and see what our elected officials are doing. There is not a big change from last year. We hope everything goes along as it should and we have a budget commencing July 1, 2014.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 10 - VaCMS Aging & Disposition Report.** Mrs. Parker stated this is the Medicaid applications that we are getting through VaCMS. She stated she is happy to report this week our disposition percentage was 92%. At that time Mr. Obenshain stated he had compared us to other Counties, and it appeared that a lot were showing 91% or 92%, which were higher ones. He did see a couple of 93% and 94%; however, many agencies were below 90%. He stated we were doing a good job. Mrs. Parker stated we are pulling ourselves up and moving along and she commended staff for their hard work. She further stated the State has improved the system and given us more to work with as far as finding a path to get the answers we need.

Mrs. Parker further stated there are approximately 60,000 applications that went through the Federal HUB which were not eligible and were sent to the State. The State has contracted with people to work on these applications; however, if

they fall under certain criteria; i.e., disabled Medicaid, they will be sent to local agencies for processing.

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

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Lewis, 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. Sparkman – yes).

On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Major, 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. Retirement:
 - A. Carol Watson – Benefit Programs Specialist III – Eff. 4/30/14
 2. Leave Without Pay:
 - A. Theresa Franklin – Benefit Programs Specialist II – 3/20/14 – 10 Hrs. and 3/26/14 – 10 Hrs.

Mr. Obenshain stated our next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 9:30 A.M.

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

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**