

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on November 18, 2014 at 9:30 A.M. Present were Mr. R. Dodd Obenshain, Chairman; Ms. Kay W. Lewis, Vice-Chairman; Ms. Laura B. Gordy; Ms. Reneta Major; Mr. John Sparkman; Ms. Nicolette A. Baker; and Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary.

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

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 3 - Introduction of New Board Member - Nicolette A. Baker.** Mrs. Parker introduced Ms. Nicolette A. Baker, the new Board Member who was selected to replace the vacancy created by Ms. Betty Wood. Ms. Baker stated she was originally from Chincoteague and is currently living in Horntown. She felt she had some experience in our field as she was employed by the Division of Child Support Enforcement – a branch of DSS – in 2008. She later returned to her family owned real estate business – Chincoteague Resort Realty. She further stated she looks forward to becoming involved with our Agency. Everyone welcomed her to our Board.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 4 – Approve Minutes of October 21, 2014.** On motion by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Minutes of October 21, 2014 were approved as written.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 5 – Fraud Update.** Mr. Obenshain stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas continues to keep things rolling.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 6 – Director’s Update.** Regular Meetings: On October 21, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended a Food Bank Advisory Council meeting.

On November 4, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the regular CPMT meeting.

On November 13, 2014 Mrs. Parker attended the Community Partners of the Eastern Shore meeting. They are planning for the Point in Time count. This is the time of the year when we try to get all of the homeless in our community counted. Mrs. Parker stated she believed January 24th or 25, 2015 had been selected as the day for the count. Anyone who goes to McDonald’s in Accomack and Northampton Counties on that date will be asked to participate in the count. If they complete the form they will be given a coupon for a free meal at McDonald’s. This will be the third year McDonalds has participated.

On November 14, 2014 Mrs. Parker participated in the Information Technology Operations Committee conference call. The State is going ahead with their paperless system. However, if you already have a paperless system there will be a way to tie into it, which is good news.

Regional/State Meetings: On November 29, 2014 Ms. Major, Ms. Lewis and Mrs. Parker attended the Local Board Member Training at the Eastern Regional Office in Virginia Beach. Ms. Lewis stated it was a shame Ms. Baker had not already started as our new Board Member as it was an interesting meeting. Mrs. Parker stated October 15, 2015 has been selected for the next Board Member training. Ms. Major stated she wanted to commend Mrs. Parker and Office Supervisor Linda C. Rew for the manner in which the ACDSS Minutes are prepared. She further stated it is not often you attend a meeting and they use an agency’s minute format as the manner in which they are to be prepared. Ms. Major stated it made her feel good they stated Accomack County DSS as the role model. Mrs. Parker stated everyone could thank Mrs. Rew for the excellent preparation of the monthly minutes. Ms. Gordy then stated she had always told Mrs. Rew about the excellent minutes.

Mrs. Parker stated they have made recent revisions to the HR policy. Mrs. Parker further stated she had given each Board Member a copy of the training manual plus the HR policy manual. We will begin a review of the of the Board Manual after the first of the year.

Mr. Obenshain stated **Item 7 – Local Board Member Training** had just been explained above.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 8 – Medical Assistance Marriage Equality/Same Sex Marriages**. Mrs. Parker stated effective immediately we will no longer look at marriage as a man and a woman when determining eligibility for programs – it can also be two women or two men.

Mr. Obenshain continued to **Item 9 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Supervisor Shirley Harmon**. For the month of October our Total Expenditures were \$311,218.79. Our Year to Date Total Local Adjustment was \$233,515.59 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$490,595.41.

Mr. Obenshain proceeded to **Item 10 – 2014 Annual Financial Statements**. Mrs. Parker stated this is the yearly financial statement VDSS is required to prepare by the General Assembly. At the Local Director's training they talked about this and most every agency in the room is spending less than 2% in local funds to derive the funds shown. The total funding for Accomack County DSS for the previous Fiscal Year was \$63,984,386. Non-reimbursable, which means local money not reimbursed, was \$61,901. Mr. Obenshain inquired whether the \$63,984,386 included all of our operational expenses, including salaries. Mrs. Parker stated it did. He further asked how much is disbursed in the local economy. Mrs. Parker stated for the most part CSA is not all local as some kids are in facilities not on the Shore. A good portion of the Medicaid benefits is local. The majority of SNAP (Food Stamps) is spent locally at either Wal-Mart or Food Lion. Energy Assistance is spent here and is over \$1,000,000. TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is spent here and is over \$405,000). FAMIS, which is another component of Medicaid, is almost \$2,000,000 and a lot is spent on the Shore. Child care funds totalled \$117,971.

Ms. Lewis inquired about the indigent population in Accomack County. Mrs. Parker stated we have a 19.3% poverty rate in Accomack County.

Ms. Major inquired how Accomack County DSS felt about the local ECC cards. Mrs. Parker stated several months ago the State sent us a Point of Service device – a swipe device for EBT cards or credit cards. When it came Mrs. Parker thought "this is not good." Mrs. Parker stated nothing is going to stop people from losing their childcare cards unless a fee is charged for replacing them. The main thing we have with childcare is "we lost our card." There is a lapse of time between when the application is approved and the card is received by client. We notify the provider immediately when the case is approved so they can provide services; however, they cannot use the swipe card until it is received. The provider must document attendance on paper until the card is received and they can put it through the system.

Mrs. Parker stated she responded to the survey regarding we were sent a survey and she was not too nice when she responded. She told them we figured when we got the service device this was coming. This was one more thing we are expected to absorb.

A brief discussion followed relative to the possibility of fraud with the childcare cards.

Mr. Sparkman asked about the poverty rate for Accomack County. Mrs. Parker stated she would have the information for the Board at its December meeting.

Mr. Obenshain stated there were no Closed Session items to be discussed. He further stated the next regular meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 16, 2014, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Ms. Major, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

APPROVED: **R. Dodd Obenshain**

ATTEST: **Mary E. Parker**