

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Monday, October 24, 2016, at 9 A.M. Present were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Ms. Laura B. Gordy, Vice-Chairman; Robert Crockett; John Sparkman; Nicolette Hickman; Mrs. Elsie B. Mackie; Mrs. Mary E. Parker, Secretary; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Assistant Director.

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

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of September 20, 2016**. On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, the Minutes of September 20, 2016 were approved as written. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 – Fraud Update**. Mr. Crockett stated the report looked good. Mrs. Parker stated Fraud Investigator Jack Thomas pays for himself. We get back some of this money through the Fraud Free program based on the collections made by Mr. Thomas.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Update**. Mrs. Parker stated she did not have one for the Board as Mrs. Weakley attended all of the meetings.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Assistant Director Notes – Vicki J. Weakley – Assistant Director**. Ms. Weakley stated she wanted to share a little education with the new members of the Board about **#1 – Unfunded Mandates**. Broadcast 10026 is in reference to changes in child welfare. The biggest one is the change in how we deal with substance infected infants. In the past policies have required when hospitals call us and say a baby was born with some type of illegal substance in his/her system we go out and talk with the mother about services; i.e., give her some options and talk with her about changing her lifestyle. If she does not want our services or treatment, our hands are tied. This is going to change and they will start putting more requirements in place. It would probably be a founded CPS complaint and require services to the family which we were unable to enforce previously. We currently do not know exactly what that will do for our numbers. However, we do know it will increase the workload significantly. Mrs. Weakley stated she would keep the Board informed.

Mrs. Weakley further stated she was not sure how the local hospital moving to this area would impact us. Most of the time the hospital calls Northampton County DSS if the mother is from Northampton County and calls us if the mother is from Accomack. Mrs. Weakley stated she is aware there have been times when that has not happened and they have just contacted Accomack. She is not sure how that will change our numbers or how it will affect us but we will keep the Board posted. This will definitely affect our workload and financially as well.

Mr. Crockett inquired if we handle it presently by sending a worker to the hospital. Mrs. Weakley stated that is correct and if the mother has already left the hospital, the worker goes to the home and lets the parents know our concerns. We let them know they have options and let them know they can get treatment but right now they have the right to refuse and say they don't want our help or want us in their lives.

Mrs. Weakley proceeded to **#2 – Rockbridge Related Changes – Broadcast 9999**. We discussed the Rockbridge situation at last month's meeting. The State is going to start scrutinizing us and looking at our cases a lot more frequently. They have combined two groups that were coming out to review us and they are looking at coming out every time we get a child in foster care. Previously they came out every time we had a child eligible for IV-E, which is Federal funding. These were children who came out of some type of deprivation; i.e.,

one or both parents were absent. They have only looked at those particular foster kids; however, they are now looking at coming out to review every new foster child. Our foster care caseload is small, so it will not make it a lot worse for us but eventually their plan is to descend on an agency and look at every program probably for a week at the time. Mrs. Parker stated it will probably be like an administrative review where everything gets touched.

Mrs. Weakley stated the IV-E reviews have gone very well. The items they identified we missed have been very minor and it is something like a worker missed checking a box and they generally have allowed us to make that correction while they were still here or within the next 24 hours, which means it did not count against us. The Federal review that was just completed found one error across the State; however, that was compared to the previous review when the State was facing a \$20 million payback because of the number of errors. The system worked and we caught all of the little things we were able to correct so when we had the large Federal review, it went really well. They allowed us four errors. It will be good; however, it will increase some people's anxiety and stress.

Mrs. Weakley continued to **#3 – Child Welfare FPM Monetary Incentive Funds**. We received a letter informing us they have added \$2400 to our budget line 855 as a result of our family partnership meetings. Those are meetings that the child welfare unit holds with an entire family to try and figure out what is best to happen for a child. We get some money back each time they do that so she wanted the Board to be aware we are working hard. We got credit for eight family partnership meetings that occurred from April 1, 2016 to June 30, 2016. They previously missed two of ours from January through March 2016 so they gave us credit for those as well. They did ten family partnership meetings. We are doing very well.

Mrs. Weakley proceeded to **#4 – 61 Days Until Christmas**. Mrs. Weakley stated to keep everyone updated there are 61 days until Christmas. We are starting to get calls from the community offering to help the Christmas projects and they will be up and running really soon. She further stated they had a meeting that week about possibly changing the way we are handling it this year as it is growing and we have had two different units working on it so we are planning to have a coordinated effort this year. She will continue to keep the Board informed.

Mr. Sparkman inquired how many kids we helped last year at the Toy Closet. Mrs. Parker stated she believed it was around 900. We have it for two days – the first day you have to be receiving benefits from the agency; i.e., TANF or SNAP and the second day it is open to the community. We have had a few who have tried to double dip and come back the second day but the workers do an excellent job of screening. Staff goes out, buys toys and then arranges the toys in age appropriate sections for boys and girls. It is a huge effort; however, the workers feel gratified and exhausted. Mrs. Parker stated we also have projects for the adults; however, that is not done through the Toy Closet.

Mrs. Weakley continued to **#5 – Meetings: CPMT, Healthy Communities (Executive Board), Local Board Training**. Mrs. Weakley stated she attended the following meetings:

- 1) The regular CPMT meeting and Mrs. Parker did attend this meeting as it was held at our agency.
- 2) The Healthy Communities (Executive Board) meeting.

- 3) The Local Board Training with Mrs. Mackie at the Eastern Regional Office in Virginia Beach.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Mrs. Harmon stated for the month of September, the fourth month of our Fiscal Year, our Total Expenditures were \$295,197.59. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$168,344.76 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$587,502.24.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Hickman, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel (Retirement); Left Foster Care (Case #21049843) and Mrs. Parker stated they also needed to review Assistant Director Vicki Weakley's six month evaluation, as permitted by the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3712.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Ms. Gordy, the Board returned to Open Session. On motion by Ms. Gordy, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board confirmed the following Personnel matters discussed in Closed Session (Mrs. Hickman – yes; Mrs. Mackie – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes):

- I. Personnel:
 1. Retirement:
 - A. Madonna Wessells, Benefit Program Specialist II, Effective 9/30/16
 - B. Wayman Trent, Adult Protective Services Supervisor, Effective 10/17/16
 2. Assistant Director Vicki J. Weakley – 6 Month Evaluation

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Hickman, the Board confirmed the following Left Foster Care matter discussed in Closed Session (Mrs. Hickman – yes; Mrs. Mackie – yes; Ms. Gordy – yes; Mr. Crockett – yes; Mr. Sparkman – yes):

- II. Left Foster Care:
 - A. Foster Care Case #21049843

Mrs. Parker stated Eastern Regional Director JoAnn Wilson-Harfst was at the agency to meet with the Board Members to discuss the process of hiring a new Director to fill the vacancy being created by the retirement of Mrs. Parker.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 2016, at 9:30 A.M.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mr. Sparkman, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

APPROVED: Reneta Major

ATTEST: Mary E. Parker

