

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at 9:30 A.M. Present were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Robert D. Crockett; Mrs. Elsie B. Mackie; Mrs. Nicolette Hickman; and Mrs. Vicki J. Weakley, Secretary.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order and stated Mr. John Sparkman and Ms. Laura B. Gordy were unable to attend. Mrs. Mackie gave the Invocation,

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of October 17, 2017**. On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Hickman, the Minutes of October 17, 2017 were approved as written.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 4 – Fraud Report – October – Emergency Fraud Investigator Alfonso Montalvo**. Mr. Crockett stated the Board certainly missed Jack Thomas. Mrs. Mackie inquired whether Mrs. Weakley was going to advertise the fraud position or had she already advertised. Mrs. Weakley stated she had the second round interview that afternoon. Mrs. Mackie stated it appeared Mr. Montalvo was not getting referrals. Mrs. Weakley stated they are down at the moment because Mr. Thomas is retired. Mrs. Mackie stated Mr. Crockett had brought up at a previous meeting that when we hired a new Fraud Investigator, it would be a good idea for him/her to randomly check a few cases. Mrs. Weakley stated that was correct.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Director’s Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated she had attended the following meetings: Opioid Forum; Eastern Shore Disaster Preparedness Coalition; Director’s Conference at Wintergreen; Members Helping Members Board; VEC Veteran’s Representative. Mrs. Weakley further stated we have had three reviews since our last meeting. The first one was with Child Care on October 20, 2017 and it went very well; the second one was TANF/VIEW caseload on November 8, 2017 and we had some issues with that due to workers not properly entering the clocks with reference to sanctions. She stated in case anyone on the Board was not familiar with the way TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and VIEW. When a client gets money they are required to participate in the VIEW program, which is the employment program. They can be on it for twenty-four months and then off for twelve. They can then come back for a second twenty-four months and then they have to be off for another twelve months again. They can then come back for a final twelve months.

A person gets sanctioned if they are not complying with the program or deliberately do not do what they agreed to do, their check is cut off until they comply. Previous policy included all of the months they were sanctioned in the sixty month total benefits they were allowed to leave, current policy has changed that and the sixty months only counts months you actually got a check. We have had a lot of new staff and something in the translation has gotten messed up. There will be staff training on that issue and we are going to go back and get all of those clocks corrected.

Ms. Major inquired whether we have to do any type of corrective action form. Mrs. Weakley stated the Regional Specialist who did the review stated she felt strongly that it was a training issue and was planning to come and do the training.

Mrs. Weakley stated we also had a QAA – Child Welfare Review – which includes IV-E, the financial portion of the foster care children. That occurred on November 14, 2017 and as typical it went well with a few minor errors; i.e., we did not give a copy of it to the CSA representative which we don’t have. From here on we have to put N/A in the blank.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 6 – Leave Without Pay Requirements**. Mrs. Weakley stated the Board had asked her to check into this at the last Board meeting. She checked policy and spoke with our HR representative. We do not have to review leave without pay unless we ever had a situation where we had someone on leave without pay and we wanted to pay a portion of their medical insurance for some reason.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the Board requested ACDSS change its policy to review Leave Without Pay unless Director Vicki Weakley deems it necessary for the Board to approve same. The motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 7 – Mandated Training Completion Date Extended to 6/30/18**. Mrs. Weakley stated the Board was aware of everything that had previously happened at Rockbridge DSS. Due to the issues there was a massive review of training requirements for both child welfare and the adult services programs. They had expected and laid down the law that all of that training would be completed by the end of December 2017. This will not occur as they did not do enough training sessions. Therefore, the deadline has been extended until the end of June, 2018. She further stated the consequences of not being trained were workers could no longer remain employed. Ms. Major Inquired how training was going for our workers. Mrs. Weakley stated our workers were doing well. There are a few workers who are missing a couple of trainings; however, it is mostly because they have been put on the waiting lists and their names had not reached the top. The State is offering extra trainings so the most any of our workers have to do is two trainings. She stated there were approximately 24 trainings the workers had to complete. The new trainings will be released by the State in January 2018.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 8 – New Resident Statement**. Mrs. Weakley stated this was the form the Board had previously asked her to update. She further stated they would notice the lines at the bottom stating that whoever executes it understands they may be contacted by someone from this agency – our new fraud worker – to verify the information on the form. They will also be aware they may be held responsible due to their signature on the form.

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Hickman, the Board approved the new Resident Statement as written. The motion carried. Mrs. Weakley stated we also have the form in Spanish.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 9 – CHIPS/FAMIS**. Mrs. Weakley stated she had inserted this item as she wanted to make the Board aware that if something doesn't change, then December 1, 2017 a massive amount of mailings will be sent to let people know their children will no longer have medical insurance unless the Federal Government decides to give us some money. Unfortunately, the biggest issue is a lot of people are not aware this covers their children. It is being referred to in the press and other areas as CHIPS – Childrens Health Insurance Programs – and people are not aware this includes FAMIS and FAMIS PLUS. Mr. Crockett inquired when this would become effective. Mrs. Weakley stated the notices will go out December 1st because they have to give a 60 day notice which makes it effective February 1, 2018.

Ms. Major inquired if Mrs. Weakley had any idea how this would affect us. Mrs. Weakley stated she thought it would cause a lot of panic. There is a lot of talk the Federal Government will not allow this to happen but with this administration I do not feel real good that this is true. She is hoping where this is deals with

children this is something both political sides will rally around but she thought she would know something by now. She thinks this would hit our community hard.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 10 – Family Partnership Incentive**. Mrs. Weakley stated the Board had spoken about this before that if we hold family partnership meetings which are meetings with entire families when children are in care or coming into care. We have to create a new plan for them and they give us an incentive so on October 20, 2017 they informed us for the seven family partnership meetings we held they gave us \$2100.00 for our budget. Unfortunately, the only way we can use the funds is to have more family partnership meetings.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 11 – Rockbridge “update.”** Mrs. Weakley stated with reference to the Rockbridge situation she had tried to keep the Board up-to-date. Although they were very concerned about the situation, they did not charge anyone at the local agency and now they are investigating the board. The Board had been refusing to meet and even when the Director made attempts to get in touch with them, they did not respond to her so the investigation has now turned on their Board.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 12 – Holiday Schedule**. Mrs. Weakley stated because we are not a deviating agency we are supposed to be following the Holiday Schedule the State follows. However, we have not been doing things quite the way we were supposed to be doing them as we have been mostly following what Accomack County does. We can either continue to follow what the County does and she would have to go to the Board of Social Services and get permission or we could from this point forward start following the State calendar. Ms. Major stated Mr. Crockett could correct her if she was wrong; however, she believes the County follows what the State does. Mrs. Weakley stated we would be fine either way. Mr. Crockett inquired whether we follow other County policies. Mrs. Weakley stated we have followed County policies relative to weather closings but she found out she was supposed to get special permission from the State Board in order to do it. She is now trying to gather up all of the things that are different.

Mr. Crockett stated it was discussed at the meeting held at Northampton DSS about being partially deviating. Mrs. Weakley stated she needed to go through the list and see what items the State will not allow to be considered as “partially deviating.” She went through the list and the only two things that were issues were the holidays and inclement weather policies. She stated she had to complete a form and get it before the State Board of Social Services.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 13 – Financial Statement – Administrative Office Manager Shirley Harmon**. Ms. Harmon stated for the month of October our Total Expenditures were \$319,552.88. Our Year-To-Date Total Local Adjustment was \$214,409.46 and our Total Local Balance to Date is \$565,089.54.

On motion by Mrs. Mackie, seconded by Mr. Crockett, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing Evaluations, Director’s Evaluation and Director Consult, as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3712.

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

On motion by Mr. Crockett, seconded by Mrs. Mackie, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

APPROVED: C. Reneta Major

ATTEST: Vicki J. Weakley