

The Accomack County Board of Social Services met at its facility on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. Present in person were Ms. Reneta Major, Chairman; Mr. David Whalen, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Martin; Mr. Jackie Phillips; Mrs. Minnie White; Mrs. Vicki Weakley, Secretary, and Mrs. Nadine Greenley, Assistant Director.

Ms. Major called the meeting to order and welcomed the Board Members. Mr. Phillips gave the Invocation.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 3 – Approve Minutes of December 17, 2024**. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Martin, to approve the Minutes as written. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 4 - Fraud Report**. Mrs. Weakley stated that Mr. Gary Kellam, Supervisor to Mr. Parks, is here to present for Item 5 and can answer any questions. Mr. Kellam stated that Mr. Parks is doing a great job. He has really learned the programs. He's built a great rapport with the state level fraud personnel, he's doing a great job, learning a lot, which there is plenty to learn, and he's doing everything he's been asked and we're happy to have him.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 5 – Presentation from Gary Kellam, Benefit Programs Supervisor**. Mr. Kellam stated that Mrs. Weakley thought it would be a good idea to start off the New Year with each month having a supervisor present to the Board what their unit does and what each unit focuses on. Mr. Kellam introduced himself as the Benefit Programs Supervisor for the adult benefits unit, the population that does not have children in their home. He has been with the agency for twenty-two years. Their focus is on the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program), which previously was referred to as food stamps, and Medicaid. There is an intake unit of three workers that take the initial applications and process them. If the applicant is approved, then the case is transferred to the ongoing side of the unit. There are four ongoing workers with two vacancies that we are advertising for in the next couple of months. The ongoing workers are responsible for an annual renewal for all benefits to ensure the clients continue to be eligible. They are also responsible for making changes in the system such as an address change, income change, and things of that nature. Mr. Kellam proceeded to give an overview of the SNAP program. The income level is very low for one person which is \$1,255.00 a month. With an income like that and the way the grocery store prices are, we have a lot of folks applying that need help because they're on a fixed income or aren't being paid enough in their job. The influx of applications seen in the past couple of years has been significant. Since Covid, he believes the caseloads have increased about 40%. Mr. Kellam complimented his unit stating that they work well together, they rarely complain, and he appreciates them. The volume is so great, he is anxious to get some new faces in the unit to fill the vacancies and be able to spread out the caseloads. Mr. Kellam handed out the manual for Medicaid to members and stated that he receives many questions about the Medicaid program, and this will give members an idea what it is about. He continued to say that with income levels are about \$1,700.00 for one person and a number of residents within the County fall into that level and the applications are steadily rolling in. When someone loses employment and they're not eligible for unemployment because the max amount is around \$383.00 a week, then they're right in the income level for both programs even receiving unemployment. In the adult unit, there are approximately six thousand cases. That could be a husband and wife on one case, so it is quite a bit more than six thousand recipients. Mr. Kellam asked the Board if they had any questions. Ms. Major inquired how many clients, on average, workers have in their caseloads. Mr. Kellam replied that each worker has approximately fifteen hundred in their caseload. To put that number in perspective, he stated that an annual renewal is done every year for SNAP and Medicaid. To maximize time, workers will try to match up the renewal dates, but sometimes that is not possible. Between the two programs a worker may have eighty to ninety renewals per month. Then there is foot traffic, clients walking in with questions or changes, plus the call volume. Mr. Kellam stated that workers have a lot on their plate. Ms. Major inquired about the long-term care and if there are workers who just specialize with that. Mr. Kellam stated that everyone is doing long-term care. Years ago, he did long-term care, and he stated it was his favorite thing to do. It's the most complex Medicaid workers have to deal with. Long-term care is when someone either needs personal care at home or they go to a facility for care. We look at resources and run into property transfers and things of that nature that really affect the eligibility, but over the years, looking the inevitable, a Medicaid recipient will most likely need that care

at some point. With the volume of long-term care, it was necessary to have everyone carry long term care cases. Ms. Major asked if members had any questions. Hearing none, Ms. Major thanked Mr. Kellam for coming in and Mr. Kellam thanked the Board for having him.

Mrs. Weakley stated that she thought it was a good idea that every month a supervisor will report on the work of their unit, the Board can have a better understanding of everything that is done within the agency. It has been a while since that has been done. The Board in unison stated that it was a great idea.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 6 – Director’s Notes**. Mrs. Weakley stated that since the last meeting she attended a Members Helping Members (ANEC) Board Meeting, Supervisor’s meeting, two MSW (Masters in Social Work) intern consultations, and a number of personnel meetings. Ms. Major inquired if the interns were local and may look to come on as a full-time worker. Mrs. Weakley stated that they both are current employees, and she does not anticipate them leaving. Mr. Phillips inquired if they were local. Mrs. Weakley stated, yes, they are both local. Mrs. Greenley added that there are also three other interns who are working on receiving their bachelor’s degree. Two are working on a Human Services degree and one is working on a Criminal Justice degree. There is an opportunity that we may be able to glean some for the Child Welfare Unit and the Adult Services Unit. The gentleman intern has expressed an interest in working with the adults. That was exciting news for the for the adult side and the other interns are deciding which way they’d like to go, whether they want to work with children or adults. They have all said they’re interested in working for social services.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 7 – Medicaid Unwinding Update**. Mrs. Weakley stated that the December deadline was met even a little bit early. All cases have been completed and we are finally done with pandemic issues!

Ms. Major continued to **Item 8 – Purge Vehicle Records and CSA Case Information**. Mrs. Weakley stated that there are automotive files consisting of Operation Summary Sheets, Usage Logs, Record sheets, and Gas Allocations dated July 2021 through December 2021 and CSA (Children’s Services Act) Monthly LEDRS, Check Lists, Check Reassignments, Expenditure LEDRS, Purchase of Service Orders and Vendors dated January 8, 2014, through January 31, 2020, that are ready to be purged according to State guidelines. Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mrs. White, that the mentioned records be purged. Hearing no discussion, Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

Ms. Major proceeded to **Item 9 – Reminder: Statement of Economic Interest Due 02/01/2025**. Ms. Major stated that as a reminder from previous conversations that the Statement of Economic Interest is due February 1, 2025. She stated that she does not know what the penalty is for getting it in late, so please make sure to get this information in.

Ms. Major continued to **Item 9 – Financial Statement**. Ms. Linton was absent from the meeting. The local budget was \$944,084.00. The Year-To-Date Local Expenditures were \$433,674.76, and the Total Local Balance-To-Date is \$510,409.24. Mrs. Weakley asked if the Board had any questions. Hearing none, Mrs. Weakley added that the budget is still tight, but we haven’t needed to go through Pass-Through, yet.

**Closed Session** – On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, the Board went into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing items stated only on the Agenda (Director’s Consult, EPPE approval – Nadine Greenley, and EPPE – Vicki Weakley) as permitted by the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2.3712. The motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Whalen, the Board returned from Closed Session and confirmed that the only items discussed were the ones listed on the Board Members’ Agenda. Ms. Major called a vote (Mr. Phillips – yes; Mr. Whalen – yes; Mr. Martin – yes; Mrs. White – yes; Ms. Major - yes). The motion carried.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mrs. White, that the Board accept the EPPE for Nadine Greenley. Ms. Major called a vote for all in favor to signify by Aye. The motion carried.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 9:30 A.M.

Mr. Phillips made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whalen, to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 A.M.

APPROVED: **Cassandra Reneta Major** \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: **Vicki Weakley** \_\_\_\_\_