

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met via Zoom on December 15, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence presented during this meeting.

The Board was provided a copy of the FY 2021 budget. The program expenditures are consistent with what was planned at this time. There were no concerns identified about the budget.

The Agency is continuing with “status quo” in regards to the COVID pandemic. There is an increase in cases both in Northampton and Accomack County. The State will stay closed until mid-July of 2021. **Chairwoman Johnson inquired, “How many do you have in the Agency every day?” Ms. Francis responded that we have five (5) in the office daily; however, workers come in and out based on their client visits.** Ms. Francis also responded to Chairwoman Johnson that there were no issues over Thanksgiving as all employees understand the travel policy. The Agency will continue to keep the doors closed to the public.

The Board discussed the CARES Act and remaining funding. Ms. Francis advised that we were allotted \$70K and have expended all of the funding. We have an overage of \$5K that we are actively working to receive additional funding. Ms. Francis

reported that she has reached out to County Administrator to see if they have any extra CARES Act funding available. Mr. Spencer stressed the need to communicate with the County before the end of December when the funding becomes no longer available. At the January Board Meeting, Ms. Francis will provide a CARES Act spreadsheet detailing all received funding and what was expended to each line item.

Ms. Francis thanked the Board, on behalf of the Agency employees, for the generous bonus and especially at Christmas.

Ms. Francis provided a child welfare update to the Board. Workers are very busy responding to children who are in care and the increased number of substance exposed infant's referrals. Even though workers are not doing face-to-face training, they are bombarded with a barrage of virtual trainings that are extremely time consuming. Adult Services and Adult Protective Services have seen an increase in referrals. Workers have approximately four to five UAI's to conduct weekly. This along with the other visits and paper work is keeping them extremely busy.

Benefit Programs continue to process the back-log of Medicaid Renewals because of COVID. Workers are working over-time to keep up with the renewals and increase of new applications coming into the agency.

Ms. Francis advised the Board of the newly hired Adult Services Supervisor and she is settling into the

position very well. Ms. Francis also advised of the open positions that are posted to the public.

On a motion by Chair, Spencer Murray, the Board went into Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.1-344 of the Code of Virginia, as amended, for the purpose of discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining appointees or employees of any public body.

The Board returned to Open Session.

On a roll call vote certifying to the best of each member's knowledge, only public matters exempted from the public meeting and in the original motion were discussed. The vote was Chairwoman Johnson: and Board Member Murray: yes.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Edith Johnson, Chairman
December 15, 2020

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director