

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met via Zoom on July 23, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, John Williams, Vice Chair, Spencer Murray, Board and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, the minutes of the June 16, 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 2020 and 2021 FY budget. Ms. Francis presented the Board with the final expenses of FY 2020 and the amount given back to the County due to being under staffed. FY 2021 administrative expenditures were low as they reflected a staffing shortage of several key positions for the first month of the new fiscal year. The program expenditures are on target at this time. The plan is once positions are filled that the monthly expenditures will more accurately reflect consistent agency spending. There were no concerns identified about the budget.

Mrs. Francis provided an update as to the agency plan to remain closed. The plan included coordinating with Social Ministries and Salvation Army, partner agencies, to ensure continuity of services and support to the community while taking precautions and remaining closed to the public. The plan is to keep the doors of the agency closed and continue to provide services as they are to the public.

Ms. Francis reports there is monitoring of weekly updates by the Governor to ensure that agency is complying with mandates and CDC guidelines. Ms. Francis informed the Board that when necessary, clients are being seen face to face at the agency and family service workers continue conduct both face to face and virtual home visits, as appropriate. The Board agreed to continue assessing on a month-by-month basis. Mr. Murray wanted to know if the State was providing guidance to local agencies at this time. Ms. Francis informed the Board that the State's position has not changed and they are leaving the decision-making capacity to the locality to remain open or close the doors to the public.

The Board discussed the CARES Act Funding and if that funding could bring direct relief to vulnerable members of the community. Ms. Francis informed the Board that she had researched the criteria on how the funding could be expended and was confident that it could have a significant impact on the Agencies ability to provide additional support to the community. Board requested that Ms. Francis keep them abreast of the funding allocation from the County to Social Services.

On a motion by Vice Chair John Williams, 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: yes, Vice Chair Williams: yes and Director Murray: yes.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:49 a.m.

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Edith Johnson, Chairman		Mozella F. Francis
July 23, 2020		Director