

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met via Zoom on April 21, 2021. 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 March 16, 2021 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 noting that we are quickly approaching the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Francis mentioned that \$150K was given back to the State due to the Agency being understaffed and therefore not utilizing the .66% matching rate. As well, almost \$20K was returned for Adult Services. This is a testimony to the problem of companionship and the difficulties in obtaining companions. This is also a rarity to return funding as the Agency usually runs out of funds for Adult Services. Ms. Francis advised that the Agency is also working to obtain Federal dollars at the end of this month and will advise on the outcome.

Ms. Francis provided an update on Programs. Foster Care currently has seven children in care now, soon to be eight. Medicaid renewals are ongoing with approximately 700 renewals. We are diligently working through the renewals before they end up doubling and become a heavier load for the workers. Otherwise, all departments are operating as reported previously with no significant changes or developments. **Chairwoman Johnson inquired if our Agency had any issues with the pandemic EBT**

cases (SNAP). Ms. Francis reported that there were inquiries but no issues.

Ms. Francis stated that the Agency remains closed to the public during COVID however I am working on a re-opening plan collectively with the supervisors. **Mr. Murray inquired about the COVID requirements for office spaces, etc. and inquired if they have been completed. Ms. Francis responded that the intake office desk shields have been installed and the restrooms have been upgraded to automatic flushing/sink water dispersal and soap dispensing.**

Ms. Francis has had conversations with Charlie Kolakowski, Northampton County Administrator, regarding the possibility of the county investing in a Voice over IP (VOIP) phone infrastructure to eliminate having to use Agency cell phones as they are costly. **Mr. Murray inquired about the cost of converting the phone infrastructure to VOIP. Ms. Francis will talk further to the county and get back to the board on any updates.**

On a motion by Chairwoman Edith Johnson, 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.

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, May 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Edith Johnson, Chairman
April 21, 2021

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director