

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on October 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Janice Langley, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Ms. Langley, the Minutes of the September 21, 2021 meeting were approved with one small change which was noted. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the FY 2022 budget. Ms. Francis reviewed budget line expenditures to date and explained any significant variances in monthly spending. There were no discrepancies identified. There were no questions from the Board Members.

Ms. Francis reviewed the services programs. In the child care program, we are still at 85% of the state's medium income guidelines to be eligible for Child Care which has significantly increased the incoming applications. We are still under the regulations of the state taking note that the client does not have to be working to be eligible for the Child Care Program; the client just has to be looking. The VIEW (Virginia Initiative Employment Work) Program has been encouraging the clients to get into a training program, as appropriate, or pursue their GED. We have contracted with an expert in job support services who has been actively engaging with the clients once a week. As part of the service, Sherry Pearson,

owner and instructor conduct comprehensive assessments that include the TABE test and other assessments to determine barriers to employment. The challenging factor is we can't mandate the clients to engage in a program but we are doing everything possible to introduce the programs available and guide our clients to participate in a work activity. In Family/Child Protective Services we have some very complex and challenging cases that we are actively working to engage the family to prevent children from coming into care. Conversation amongst the board members ensued. **Ms. Langley inquired how the referrals come to the Agency and if they are primarily from the school system? Ms. Francis responded that we receive referrals not only from the school system but the overall community.** In summary, the complexity of these cases requires more attention and support than normal. Currently, we have six children in care. In the Adult Protective Services Program, we are receiving a lot of calls and the complexity of the calls takes more time to review and engage in. We continue to receive a steady number of calls for seniors who request UAI's. In the Benefits Program, we initially received an influx of applications. Applications decreased for a while however, we anticipate an influx with the ending of the Government Surplus effective September 2021.

Ms. Francis briefed the Board on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of which came into Act on March 2021. Ms. Francis advised that the amount she proposed to the County was approved for the full \$75K.

Ms. Francis briefed the board on the Salvation Army/Toys for Tots program. We are receiving applications until October 29, 2021, and we have approximately 175 applications to date. We will participate in the drive-up distributions as we did last year.

There will be another Board training as advised by Jen Cooper, Administrative Office Manager of the Regional Office. Ms. Francis will send the information to the Board Members. The second training is a wrap-up session to the first training and is scheduled for November 18, December 15, 2021, and January 25, 2022.

On a motion by Board Member Janice Langley, 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. No motions came out of the Closed Session.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Edith Johnson, Chairman
October 19, 2021

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director