

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on November 18, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Ms. Langley, the Minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting were approved and 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 noted that the expenditures under staffing and operations were significantly higher in October because there are three pay periods twice a year and October was one of them. Ms. Francis brought to the Boards attention that we are in the process of preparing for the FY 2023 budget which includes staffing and operations. The state gave us additional funding for staffing with no local match when Medicaid Expansion & Families First was launched. Ms. Francis anticipates that the State will soon require the locality to provide a local match to pull down those funds. Ms. Francis is considering this while compiling the FY 2023 budget for Social Services. **Mr. Murray inquired about the \$75K received from the County (ARPA funding discussed at the October board meeting) and where that funding is carried in the budget? Ms. Francis responded that she utilizes local funding and is reimbursed by the County.** Ms. Francis will be reaching out to the State to request additional funding for budget line 833 (Adult Services) which also pays

for the Companions Program. **Mr. Murray inquired about budget line 833 and if there is a certain calculation used to determine the local match? Ms. Francis responded, “yes”, each budget line that carries a local match has a specific formula to determine the local percentage match. Mr. Murray also inquired if there is any flexibility to move these monies across budget lines? Ms. Francis responded that there is no ability to move the monies as they are dedicated to the specific program and can only be used for those purposes.**

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 and we continue to receive more applications. Ms. Francis indicated that the State has moved the date back in regards to the Child Care copay. The copay was intended to end at the end of 2021 however it has been moved to the end of May 2022. Any applicants for Child Care, who qualify, regardless of the families’ income, will not pay a copay until the end of May 2022.

Adult Protective Services has no outliers at this time. Ms. Francis noted that there is pending legislation that came out of the Directors meeting in Hampton, Virginia. We were advised that the legislation will impact rehabilitation services regarding the guardian of the family or the individual. The legislation will require home visits which will impact the current staffing. There is support for this legislation in regards to its concept but there is concern about manpower and if funding will follow the

mandate should this legislation be approved. Discussion regarding funding and staffing ensued between the board members and Ms. Francis. Ms. Francis reported that one of our Fostering Futures youth has successfully aged out of the program. We feel confident that this youth will be successful as this youth has a great support system in place.

Ms. Francis informed the board that she plans to request that the County allow the funds requested to be used towards electricity. Many of our clients who are in jeopardy of their utilities being disconnected reside in subsidized housing. This jeopardizes their housing since maintaining electricity is often a component of maintaining the housing. The Agency has had an influx of utility requests in the past month. **Mr. Murray inquired if the majority of the cases are electric, fuel, or wood? Ms. Francis responded the cases are all of the above. She noted that the most challenging cases are "wood". Mr. Murray continued to inquire, "Does the Agency have any flexibility to pay for wood?" Ms. Francis responded that the Agency can provide monies for wood.**

Ms. Francis updated the board on the Salvation Army/Angel Tree program. Northampton County has almost 300 participants this year. The Agency will be distributing gifts on December 14th and 15th.

Ms. Francis indicated that the local Board training, part 2, will be offered virtually. Ms. Francis will provide the board with the training dates for registration purposes.

The director's annual evaluation is normally due in December however since the evaluation was done at the end of November last year, it changed the due date in the State System. Ms. Johnson indicated that she will have the review prepared and will correspond with the board members.

Ms. Francis provided a briefing of the Agency profile in detail. Discussion ensued between the board members and Ms. Francis. **Ms. Langley inquired if the Agency anticipates an increase of SNAP and TANF applicants especially with the recent shortage and increase in food prices? Ms. Francis responded, "yes". Ms. Francis reviewed the latest Agency profile with the board and will email each of them a digital copy after the meeting.**

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. Coming out of the closed session, Mr. Murray made a motion that if the County were to give Christmas bonuses to County staff that Social Services would also provide a bonus equal to the County. Ms. Langley seconded the motion.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

_____ Attested by _____	
Edith Johnson, Chairman November 18, 2021	Mozella F. Francis Director