

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on December 21, 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 Mr. Murray, the Minutes of the November 18, 2021 meeting were approved and Ms. Langley 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 State provides an opportunity for agencies to request additional funding as long as local match funds support the request. On budget line 858, \$125K has been placed on the budget as a placeholder. We have not requested any of this funding however, we have matching funds to utilize it. Ms. Francis stated that she will be requesting \$75K from line item 858 for staff and operations. Ms. Francis also informed the Board that Adult Services funding was cut and she would utilize budget line 896 which is allocated for COVID funding for as many allowable expenditures. **Mr. Murray inquired that if the Agency receives more money from the State will you need a local match? Ms. Francis responded, "no".** Ms. Francis also responded that we will have a cushion in the budget for Services because she will not be requesting all of the \$125K. Ms. Francis mentioned that if Adult Services funding is depleted and if she is not able to utilize any of the COVID funding to help with needed companions she

will utilize local match funding to get through the fiscal year. **Ms. Langley inquired if budget lines can be moved around? For example, the Assisted Living Grants, is funding able to be moved to another budget line to assist with funding the shortage in funding for companions? Ms. Francis responded that we cannot move allocations from one budget line to another. However, during midyear, certain budget lines allow for an increase in allocation but we will need to have matching funds to support it.** Ms. Francis continued that she can pull down American Rescue funds for support to homeless families while there is still funding available.

Ms. Francis reported that we are in the process of preparing for the FY 2023 budget. On budget line 847, Administration, the funds were allocated for the Families First Program specifically for the additional staffing required to support the program. Ms. Francis continued that the State did not require a local match during the first year of the program being launched. However, Ms. Francis anticipates that with the upcoming FY especially with budget items 847 and 849 anticipates the funding will require a local match. Ms. Francis has taken this into account and will include the necessary funding in the proposed budget. Ms. Francis will present the proposed budget to County Administrator and Finance Director on January 21, 2022.

Ms. Francis reviewed the services programs. There have been no significant outliers in Family Services, Child Care, and Foster Care. Family

Services, specifically in-home services, have continued to increase which is expected especially with prevention as a focus to keep children in their homes. In addition, the courts have been utilizing our services for the cases that are required, by the courts, to have supervised visitation Ms. Francis discussed the increase in applicants with the Benefits department and the impacts we are experiencing due to the continued unemployment crisis and the impending influx of renewals. As well, the staff is anticipating a potential increase in appeals and the time involved in processing those appeals. The fuel Program continues to benefit many vulnerable members of our community. CRISIS starts in January which can assist with repairs. Ms. Francis noted that many of our seniors live in homes that they do not own which limits what we can do to assist them with repairs. This creates a crisis.

Ms. Francis updated the board on the Salvation Army/Angel Tree program. Ms. Francis noted that the community went above and beyond with their contributions and we are extremely grateful. **Mr. Murray inquired if there is any publication of the outcome to include pictures of the event? Ms. Francis responded, “Yes, and thank you cards have been disbursed.” Also, there will be an article in the upcoming paper by Mr. Richard Sterrett.**

Ms. Francis and the Board discussed the local Board training. Ms. Francis ensured the board that she registered the board for the training. Ms. Francis will follow up with the board via email with their registration information.

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.

The Director informed the board that she would be attending the Virginia League of Social Services Executives Board meeting in Richmond on January 18- 20, 2022.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Attested by	
_____ Edith Johnson, Chairman December 21, 2021	_____ Mozella F. Francis Director