

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met via Zoom on January 19, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the minutes of the December 15, 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 2021 budget. It was noted that the spending in December was significantly higher due to the Local Cares Act of which the Agency paid in advance but were reimbursed by the county afterwards. As well, the Board had approved a staff bonus of which was paid out on the last pay period of December, 2020. In the months where there are three pay periods, it was noted that the budget line is higher.

It was noted that the Adult Services budget expenditures are lower than the past but consistent with the COVID-19 trend. Companion workers are reluctant to go into homes for fear of contracting COVID-19. However, the Social Services has plans to reach out to Home Health Agencies to contract for companion services. Otherwise, the program expenditures are consistent with what was planned at this time. There were no concerns identified about the budget.

Ms. Francis announced that she has prepared the FY22 budget and will be presenting it to the County's Finance Director and County Administrator this week.

Ms. Francis is requesting an increase in the local match. The local match for FY 2021 was decreased due to COVID-19. The increase will be needed to hire needed for implementation of Families First.

Ms. Francis presented an update on the Families First program. At one point the program was delayed due to new policy being put in place and now the delay is due to the COVID pandemic. The program will be implemented July 1, 2021. Social Services will have access to Federal, IV-E monies to support youth who have been determined as “reasonable candidates.” Ms. Francis mentioned that the Family First program training and the assessments that a social worker is required to prepare creates an increase of time and paperwork for the worker but we are diligently moving forward.

Ms. Francis updated the board with the Cares Act Funding. In summary, the Agency helped 10 people living in hotel housing secure permanent housing, 18 families with their electric bills, and assist other families with quarantine issues, refilled the Agency food pantry, as well assisted an elderly woman from becoming displaced. **Mr. Spencer added, “Hopefully there will be some additional funding in the near future. Has there been any funding turned back in?” Ms. Francis responded that the funds were all dispersed and therefore nothing was returned.**

Ms. Francis provided an update on the Agency’s programs and noted that the Child Care Program is growing. The family’s that are still working during COVID depend on the child care program and cannot

afford to be hindered from working due to lack of child care programs.

Adult Protective Services and Adult Services is also growing. The Adult workers conducted (9) UAI's this past week. Workers are recognizing that calls for UAI's are coming in from members of the community who are not seniors but require the assessment to determine their long-term care needs.

Child protective services is on the rise with an increase in substance exposed infants' cases. The Agency currently has (5) children in Foster Care.

The Benefits Program has received an abundance of Medicaid renewals of which there was a lot of overtime required to stay within compliance. Ms. Francis indicated she will approve future overtime as well. Other Agencies have reached out for any available assistance to help with the overload. **The Board commended Ms. Francis with the extended effort she has provided to the mission.**

Ms. Francis updated the board with staffing and has upcoming interviews for 4 new positions. It has been a challenge to recruit and find candidates who meet the requirements.

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 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: and Board Member Murray: yes.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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Edith Johnson, Chairman  
January 19, 2021

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Mozella F. Francis  
Director