

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on January 25, 2022. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 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 December 21, 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 discussed the rescue funds and expenditures to date. There is \$25K left in contingency should it be needed. Mr. Murray mentioned the county has a special committee focused on searching for housing. Ms. Francis noted that she requested the additional \$75K from the state, as discussed at the last board meeting, and received the state's approval as indicated on budget line 858. Budget line 833 (Companions) is almost out of funding. Ms. Francis will be looking into some of the COVID funding to help with needed companions. Ms. Francis reported that she submitted her preliminary FY 2023 budget to the county and there were no concerns at this time. On budget lines 847 and 849, Ms. Francis indicated that many agencies have not been utilizing the funding because they have not been able to hire staff. She anticipates our funding will be depleted by the end of the fiscal year. **Mr. Murray inquired about the FY23 budget and if the local match is going up? Ms. Francis responded she did not need the match this year but did advise the county finance director and administrator are both aware that we will need the**

additional monies especially with the states' new legislation forthcoming. Discussion within the board ensued.

Ms. Francis briefed the board on program updates. In APS, new impending legislation regarding guardianship will have a potential fiscal impact on the agency in regards to staffing. Ms. Francis does not believe it will be implemented this year but planning has started to determine what this new legislation may look like for the local agency. The legislation intends to more align APS with CPS in regards to implementing a central registry. Care for the elderly is on the top of the General Assembly's agenda. Staffing and funding are the primary concerns with the impending legislation, once passed. Discussion with the board members ensued.

The child welfare program continues to grow. We have two children aging out of foster care in April and two children who may have goals of adoption. **Ms. Francis would like to document official motions from the board on foster care updates in future minutes.**

The child care program continues to receive more applicants while mid-income families are still eligible for the program. The Children's Harbor Program, opening in Accomack County, will hopefully provide another avenue for Northampton County parents working in Accomack County to participate in the program for their child care needs.

Ms. Francis provided the board an update of the \$50K ARPA funding and how the funds were allocated. There were no questions.

The staffing discussion was deferred to a closed session.

The TANF, one-time payment was discussed. It was noted that most clients received an additional payment of \$907.32 in January for those that fulfilled the requirement(s) to receive the funds.

Ms. Francis indicated that the last emergency SNAP allotment will be March 2022, unless otherwise noted by the State. She noted that clients receiving SNAP, who were not receiving their full maximum reimbursement, have also been receiving the emergency SNAP allotment. The allotment greatly assisted the elderly. **Mr. Murray inquired if our seniors utilize STAR transit. He mentioned that STAR transit has been working on implementing new on-demand rides. STAR transit has funding to provide for this program including bus shelters that have been implemented at Rayfield's pharmacy and the hospital. Mr. Murray believes in this system especially implementing long-distance rides to eliminate time constraints with the many stops in-between.**

Ms. Francis informed the board that the agency has been selected for an intensive Federal review. This Child Welfare review will include interviewing the community and the schools that are associated with the case as well, the families. One of the goals is to review the information the Agency captures and compare it

with the experiences of the family to determine if the agency followed best practice policy and procedure. This is a great opportunity to see where we may need to grow and make adjustments as an Agency.

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 Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

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

Edith Johnson, Chairman
December 21, 2021

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director