

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on March 15, 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, Janice Langley, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the Minutes of the February 15, 2022 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 advised the Board that she applied for a \$10K grant which was approved and is being carried on line 866 for Safe and Stable Families. This grant will allow social services to support families with children to prevent families from being evicted and assist with other expenses. On line item 833 for Adult Services, the budget is close to being expended. Ms. Francis reports that since she is not using all of the local funding in other program areas, she will tap into local funding to support seniors who may be in need of a companion once all of the funding has been exhausted in budget line 833. This will allow the Agency the ability to help until the new fiscal year starts and funds are reinstated. Ms. Francis noted on line 814 for Fostering Futures that she has requested funding to be returned to the State due to children aging out of Foster Care on 1 April 2022. Ms. Francis noted that the Agency has expended approximately \$50K and will submit expenditures to the county for reimbursement through ARPA funding.

Ms. Francis reviewed several proposed legislation that would impact family services. In child welfare, there were several proposed pieces of legislation-many of which have already passed. Ms. Francis reviewed the Safe Haven Defense HB, HB 413 (Services for Minor Trafficking Victims), and HB 349 (Foster care; housing support for persons between ages 18 and 21). Ms. Francis expounded upon the legislation that has passed, adding that there are several other bills expected to pass as well with minimum changes. Ms. Francis explained the ramifications of pending legislation and staffing needs should other bills pass. A conversation ensued among the Board. Ms. Francis will keep the Board apprised of the outcome along with Agency needs as she becomes aware of the additional bill passing.

Ms. Francis reviewed all of the Family Services and Benefit Programs from the previous month. There were no significant changes. The Agency continues to put strategies in place to address the upcoming renewals that have been placed on pause since the onset of the Pandemic. Family Services, specifically in-home services, and Adult Services have continued to increase. The Agency continues to project needs and make adjustments to respond to legislative and community needs as they arise. The child care program continues to receive more applicants which is a reflection of the eligibility income threshold being raised.

Ms. Francis provided an update to the board on staffing. Currently, four positions are being advertised in the Post. Interviews have been scheduled for two of the positions for the coming week. The recruitment for

the Family Services Specialist II and the Family Services Supervisor will remain open until filled.

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 next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Edith Johnson, Chairman  
March 15, 2022

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