

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on April 19, 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 March 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 we are coming to the close of the fiscal year, May 31, 2022.

On budget line 829, Family Services, Ms. Francis noted that we are diligently working to utilize the remaining COVID funds. She also noted on line item 896, we have funds that we plan to utilize in the coming month therefore we will not be returning these funds to the State. Ms. Francis continued that we will use the leftover funding to support APS case seniors with minor repairs that are necessary to keep them in their homes and from becoming displaced. Ms. Francis noted that the Weatherization Program that used to exist within the ESAAA (Eastern Shore Area Agency on Aging) no longer exists. **Mr. Murray inquired if the funding on line item 896, COVID funding, is Federal money? Ms. Francis responded, “Yes, it is AARPA funding”.**

Ms. Francis reported on line items 884/885 for Fostering Futures Youth, we have expended all of the

funding and ability to provide support to our Fostering Futures Youth. Ms. Francis used the funding that was available to assist with housing for the Fostering Futures youth who aged out of care. Once the youth age out of care, they no longer will receive a maintenance payment and be eligible for support as they had in the past. This is a significant transition for our youth. We feel that we have supported our youth with the best opportunity for success by assisting with housing. Conversation on housing continued with the Board.

Under Adult Protective Services, budget line 833, Commissioner Hayfield is championing getting funding back for the budget line.

Mr. Murray moved to approve the budget information, and Ms. Langley seconded the motion.

Mr. Murray announced to the Board that Representative Elaine Luria presented \$11.2M to Accomack-Northampton Counties for Eastern Shore projects. Mr. Murray offered to be an advocate with the Board's assistance and lobby for funding for the housing crisis with the Board of Supervisors and how the lack of housing affects social services and the ability to keep seniors and children safe.

Ms. Francis explained the ramifications of pending legislation and how it would affect staffing should the legislation pass. At the State meeting in Charlottesville, Virginia our Social Services lobbyist was in attendance and provided information as to what is happening at the legislative level and what is probable to pass.

The Department of Social Services reached out to the Governor's office regarding Foster Care, and that children are spending nights in the agency due to not being able to find placements. The Governor is now aware of the issue and is committed to keeping it as a top priority until there is sufficient resolve.

Ms. Francis reviewed recommendations from the State for staff raises with two possible options:

1. Four percent (4%) raise effective July 1 with one percent (1%) bonus at the end of the year.
2. Two five percent (5%) raises. One this year and one five percent (5%) next fiscal year.

Ms. Francis notified the Board that the State Director of Probation informed Virginia Social Services Agencies that 4.5K inmates will be released in the coming year across Virginia. Ms. Francis will be talking to officials at the State level to find out what locations they are going back to and assist where possible in Northampton County.

Regarding Adult Services, Ms. Francis reports that financial exploitation continues to increase across the state and the shore alike. Pending legislation is slated to pass advising financial institutions that they must comply with providing the financial information requested when contacted by social services for possible financial exploitation.

Ms. Francis reviewed the Agency Compensation Plan with the Board intensively. All decisions were made between the Board and the director and processed accordingly.

Mr. Murray made a motion to approve the contents of the FY 2023 Compensation Plan for Northampton Social Services to be submitted to the state. Ms. Langley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

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.

Ms. Francis updated the Board of Directors as to her schedule for the upcoming month. Ms. Francis is scheduled to attend the VLSSE Board Conference on May 3-6, 2022 in Roanoke, Virginia.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, at 11:00 a.m.

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

Edith Johnson, Chairman
April 19, 2022

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director