

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on May 17, 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.

The minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting were approved with a change/addition from Mr. Murray. **Mr. Murray moved to approve 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 that the FY is quickly coming to an end this month. On budget line 847, Families First, used to contribute towards additional workers, Ms. Francis noted that will be utilizing all remaining funds to finish out this budget year. On budget line 858, Staff and Operations, which has a higher local match, Ms. Francis will be sending all remaining funding back to the State due to being understaffed. **On budget line 858, Mr. Murray inquired about the remaining local allotment. Ms. Francis responded that we have some senior needs that will utilize the unused portion of the local match for budget line 858.** Ms. Francis noted that on each program line, the total local that we have used is calculated. Ms. Francis will provide a total breakdown of all state expenditures in June. The county's FY begins July 1st, the local agency fiscal year starts June 1st so what the county provides to the Agency at the beginning of their fiscal year carries us through that interim month of June.

Ms. Francis went over some of the program highlights that came out of attending a conference earlier this month. The board was provided copies of surveys that focused on youth in foster care and issues that this special population face. The data itself was tumultuous. Some of the key areas included the lack of staffing, background check delays, lack of resources, and training to cover the high needs and acuity of referrals, lack of bed availability, and discharge plans.

Some of the surveys covered how well agencies partner with other agencies on varying subjects such as:

- DSS and CSU (Child Service Unit)/DJJ partner to prevent youth from entering foster care due to criminal behavior.
- DSS and Juvenile Domestic Relations Judge partnership to prevent youth from entering foster care based on CHINS (Child in Need of Services).
- DSS and CSB (Community Services Board) partnership to prevent youth from entering foster care based on mental health.
- Available State partnership assistance with difficult youth placement with mental health.
- Community-based services.
- Available evidence bases services.
- Available acute psychiatric hospital beds for youth in a crisis known to your system.

Ms. Francis emphasized Social Services' commitment to working with partner agencies and increasing those working relationships.

Moving on to other programs, Ms. Francis indicated that VIEW and child care are increasing. We have several of our VIEW clients in activities working toward sustainable employment.

In the benefits programs, we are preparing for Medicaid unwinding. The Health Emergency was supposed to end on June 30th however, it has been extended. Currently, we have almost 1,600 cases of Medicaid renewals that will need to be processed. We submitted our Pre-Medicaid Unwinding Plan to the State on how the department will proceed with working on the renewals.

APS and CPS continue to be consistent at this time.

Ms. Francis reported she was approached by Sheriff Doughty in regards to donating a vehicle. If we do have an older vehicle, Ms. Francis would like to move forward. **Mr. Murray moved to approve the director to donate a vehicle to the Sheriff's department and Ms. Langley seconded the motion.**

Ms. Francis provided an update from the State meeting in regards to the House and Senate vote on employee raises. The outcome was to provide the two five percent 5% raises over the next two years. Ms. Francis requested to amend the agency COMP plan that was submitted on April 30 to reflect the bi-annual 5% raise. **Ms. Langley moved to amend the compensation plan to reflect the bi-annual 5% raise. Mr. Murray seconded the motion.**

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, June 21, at 11:00 a.m.

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

Edith Johnson, Chairman
May 17, 2022

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director