

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on February 21, 2023. 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 Ms. Langley, and second by Mr. Murray the minutes of the January 24, 2023, Board of Directors meeting were approved. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided with a copy of the FY 2023 budget. Ms. Francis brought attention to budget line 855, Staff and Operations. Ms. Francis noted that the balance will allow for some overage due to staffing shortage. Ms. Francis pointed out that the last couple of months of the fiscal year is when office supplies are purchased to help with reducing operating cost for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Francis pointed out that office supplies and electronic system(s) maintenance agreements are extremely costly and are a tremendous hit to the budget. Therefore, when the budget allows, she tries to get ahead and purchase anticipated supplies that will be needed for the next fiscal year.

On budget line 872, VIEW Purchases, we received the additional \$10K from the State which will carry us to the end of the fiscal year. There were no other significant outliers.

The budget for FY 2024 was submitted to the County Financial Director for final review and any necessary revisions, if needed.

Ms. Francis requested to amend the agenda to include a review from a recent audit. The audit revealed that DSS had been paying approximately \$3.50 more than the lease agreement. Further, it was determined that the cost allocation amount that DSS was paying for maintenance was incorrect resulting in an underpayment by DSS. The error was determined to be a clerical error with the accounting firm that composes the Central Services Cost Allocation Plan. Ms. Francis is in close communication with the County Finance Director, and they are working closely together to bring a quick resolution. **Mr. Murray wanted to know the monetary value of the overage to the County from DSS. Ms. Francis advised that she'd provide the numbers at the next board meeting.**

Ms. Francis advised that APS cases that have mental health components continues to be a challenge. There is fine line when determining competency and the need for APS services when there are mental health challenges. A senior with a mental health history, in and of itself, does not allow for Social Services to get involved. There are other factors that must exist. Of course, when mental health is a component; staffing is highly impacted as cases become more complicated and require additional time and/or manpower to work those types of cases, in many instances.

With CPS, we are status quo currently. We are working diligently to increase a presence with prevention. We want to provide more opportunities for education especially in areas such as gun safety and the recreational use of marijuana. We are trying to get

the message out about how to best protect children from the unintended consequences when safety protocols are not put in place.

Ms. Francis advised that in the Child Care program, there are still shortages in providers. DSS will be attending the Job Fair at the Eastern Shore Community College in April and will be recruiting foster parents and childcare providers.

The VIEW program continues to grow. Effective January 1, 2023, VIEW is no longer a voluntary program. Any participant, who is not receiving a waiver, must participate to continue receiving his TANF benefit. Failure to participate could result in being sanctioned.

Ms. Johnson inquired if the Agency has had an influx of comments or concerns from our clients as the additional SNAP benefits end? Ms. Francis responded that there are clients that come with their concerns and/or questions and their concerns are addressed as well, the State continues to utilize various forms of media and the agency works closely with community partners as well.

Ms. Francis discussed the most recent IV-E audit. The overall audit was good but identified a gap in processes to prevent any reoccurrence in the findings. The Agency currently has a check and balance process in place to ensure that the findings do not re-occur, moving forward. Discussion ensued amongst the board members.

On a motion by Ms. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Langley, 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, March 21, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

_____ Attested by_____	
Edith Johnson, Chairman February 21, 2023,	Mozella F. Francis Director