

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on August 15, 2023. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 am. Present were Chairman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, Ernest Smith, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the July 25, 2023, meeting were approved. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided with a copy of the FY2024 budget. Ms. Francis reviewed the budget sheet pointing out an adjustment on a single line item for Adult Services/Public Assistance. On budget line 866, Ms. Francis noted that the last COVID funding will be spent. On budget line 855, Staff and Operations, the expenditures are on target at this point. Ms. Langley motioned to accept the financial budget. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Ms. Francis updated the Board on all Agency programs:

- Effective October 2023, the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work (VIEW) program specifically the Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) population will be responsible to work at least 20 hours per week to continue to receive SNAP benefits unless they are under the work program or qualify for another type of waiver, for example, disability.

- Within the Child Care program, our numbers have increased by approximately 34%, which is significant for this program. While the case load continues to increase there are no standards to determine caseload capacity.
- In the SNAP program, the numbers are increasing, especially considering the children returning to school. The Agency has been restocking our internal food pantry, and Ms. Francis noted that inflation has significantly impacted the cost of food, which affects the quantity we have been able to sustain in the past.
- In the Foster Care program, we are pleased to announce that we have three formal adoption applications in process, and we hope, by the first of the year, to have them finalized.
- In Adult Services and APS, we will be recruiting for a Family Services Specialist due to the continual growth and perplexity of cases in our senior population which factors in the need for additional manpower.
- The CPS program is status quo however case complexity continues to increase. The out-of-home investigations is becoming more cumbersome and time-consuming as we are receiving more out of home investigations involving multiple interviews.
- We are proud to announce that the State has reached out to our Agency to engage with our Compass Mobile Super-user, Charlene Gholson, to assist with the production of a promotional video on the many beneficial uses

of Compass Mobile.

Ms. Francis presented the staff evaluations that needed to be reviewed and signed by the Board chair. There were no questions or concerns.

Ms. Francis updated the Board on the Medicaid Unwinding program. Adult Services has had steady renewals with fewer in the Family and Children division compared to the influx we expected. However, we expect a significant increase in October.

Ms. Francis provided the latest update on the EBT/SNAP scams that occurred during the COVID period. The State has agreed to replace the EBT benefits that were stolen during the scam. Ms. Francis will provide an update at the next board meeting.

Ms. Francis noted that the ability to recruit new employees has been challenging due to the new financial system, but we are working through the kinks and expect the recruitment process to commence in the near future.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith 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 board returned to Open Session.

On a roll call vote certifying to the best of each member's knowledge, only public matters exempted from the public meeting and in the original motion were discussed. The vote was Chairman Murray, yes, Board Member Langley, yes, and Board Member Smith, yes. There were no motions coming out of closed session.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Francis advised that she will be attending the Virginia Court Improvement Conference at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott over the period September 21-22, 2023.

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

Attested by	
_____ Spencer Murray, Chairman August 15, 2023	_____ Mozella F. Francis Director