

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on February 16, 2016. Present were William Denny, Chairman, John Williams, Board Member and Mozella Francis, Secretary.

On a motion by John Williams, the Board approved the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting as submitted. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2015-16 predicted budget to compare against the actual. The actual budget and predicted budget for January were the same. At the last meeting, Board Member John Williams asked why there was such a big difference between December's spending and that of November. Ms. Francis investigated and shared that December's expenses included three pay periods due to January 1st being a payday and holiday and that the third pay period was included in December.

Ms. Francis reviewed with the Board SB 417 Unauthorized Practice of Law and explained the potential financial implications for the local DSS, if passed. The Unauthorized Practice of Law allows designated non-attorney employees of a local department of social services to (i) initiate a case on behalf of the local department by appearing before an intake officer and (ii) complete, sign and file with the clerk of juvenile and domestic relations district court on forms approved by the Supreme Court of Virginia, petitions for foster care review, petitions for

permanency planning hearings, petitions to establish paternity, motions to establish or modify support, motions to amend or review an order and motions for a rule to show cause. The bill also directs directors of local departments of social services to designate non-attorney employees who are authorized to perform such tasks. Discussion ensued and Ms. Francis assured the Board that she would stay abreast of the outcome of this bill.

Board Member John Williams inquired as to the \$5,000.00 sick leave payout policy that is currently in place for DSS employees. Mr. Williams wanted to know why DSS employees are eligible to receive up to \$5,000.00 for sick leave payout and County employees are only able to receive up to \$2,500.00. Discussion ensued but was tabled again until board member Edith Johnson was present to provide input.

Ms. Francis informed the Board that she had received a call from Cassandra Lewis, Housing Program Manager from the Williamsburg area who will be heading the Weatherization Program here in Northampton County. Ms. Lewis wanted to know if she would be able to use the building on a monthly basis to host the outreach program. John Williams felt it was a great idea, but wanted to know how many community partners have access to the DSS building. Ms. Francis agreed to provide that information at the next meeting.

On a motion by Chairman William Denny, 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 Denny: yes: and Williams: yes.

Ms. Francis gave an overview to the Board concerning the VALHSO conference and Compensation Planning meeting she attended in Richmond on February 2-3, 2016.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Attested by _____
William Denny, Chairman
March 15, 2016
Mozella F. Francis
Secretary

