

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on March 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 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 seconded by Mr. Murray the minutes of the February 21, 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 reviewed the administrative budget lines and current balances. Ms. Francis reminded the Board that the balance is a result of being understaffed and that when we have the needed staff to operate, funds from 858 Pass Thru will be required to operate for a full fiscal year. Mr. Murray inquired as to the ability of Ms. Francis to request additional funds from 855 which only carries a 15.5% match versus 858 which carries more than .66% match. Ms. Francis informed the Board that she is not able to request from 855 only 858. Mr. Murry motioned that the budget be accepted as presented and Ms. Langley seconded the motion.

Ms. Francis updated the Board on Agency Family Services Programs that included Adult Protective Services, Adult Services, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Virginia for Education and Work. There are currently no significant changes. Ms. Francis reported that there is pending legislation and

that she will update the Board of legislative changes that may have a fiscal impact on the Agency.

Medicaid Unwinding is quickly approaching. There have been lots of changes with policy which requires adjusting processes and procedures. The supervisors are staying abreast of changes, requiring all Benefit Programs Staff to taking trainings as offered to prepare. Northampton had a virtual meeting with the Director of Continuous Quality Improvement for the state and who is also playing a lead role with Medicaid Unwinding. The meeting was very productive, and we have a good estimate as to the number of cases that we will have to process monthly. This information has helped significantly with planning.

Health insurance with the County is slated to increase by approximately 10%. With continued inflation this becomes another barrier to retain and recruit staff. Ms. Francis is in close communication with County Finance Director as the County looks at ways to defray cost to the employee. Ms. Francis will address again at next month's Board of Director's meeting.

The County held a training conducted by VACORP, which is the Counties insurer. The training was on Drug and Alcohol awareness. There was a lot of items covered that pointed out areas which need to have policy in place. As a result of the training, Ms. Francis asked that the Board of Directors adopt a No Drug in the Workplace Declaration. This declaration is to be effective immediately. After discussion, Mr. Murray made a motion, that Northampton County

Department of Social Services adopt a No Drug in the Workplace Declaration. Ms. Langley seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

On a motion by Mr. Murray 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.

Director is scheduled to be out of the office commencing April 4-6 to attend the State Board meeting in Winchester, Virginia.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

_____ Edith Johnson, Chairman March 21, 2023		Attested by _____ Mozella F. Francis Director
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