

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on March 19, 2023. The meeting was called to order under Virginia 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.

Ms. Langley moved to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024, meeting and Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board received a copy of the FY2024 budget and Ms. Francis reviewed some of the budget lines specifically, budget line 855, Administrative/Staff and Operations indicating that as in the past years, you will notice an increase in expenditures to reflect the purchase of additional supplies for fiscal year 2025. Also noted were vehicle repair costs which have increased, specifically for the older vehicles. Ms. Francis advised that staff and operations was sufficient to cover the cost for the remaining fiscal year which ends on May 31, 2024.

Ms. Francis noted that she has requested an additional thirteen- thousand dollars for the Auxiliary Grant to get through the remainder of fiscal year 2024. The Auxiliary grant assist adults who need assisted living to prevent nursing home placement. The additional request for funding was approved and has been reflected on this budget sheet.

On budget line 811, Ms. Francis noted that most of the funds were sent back to the state because there

is currently only one child in foster care who does not receive IV-E funding. We can only use IV-E funds if when a child enters care, he meets all the prequalifying conditions. If not, we must use Child Services Act funding.

We are now utilizing budget line 812, Adoption Subsidy, because of the three newly adopted youths. They will receive this benefit until they reach their eighteenth birthday.

Ms. Francis introduced Agency Program departments heads to provide updates and to answer any questions by the board specific to their program area.

- Ms. Kim Hudgins, Adult Programs Supervisor, is responsible for the Adult Benefit Program Benefits for households that do not have children under the age of 19, SNAP benefits for this age range, as well, Medicaid benefits for adults over age 19, Auxiliary Grants, Energy Assistance Program, Crisis Assistance, and Cooling Assistance.
- Ms. Selene Brown, Family and Children of Benefits Programs Supervisor, is responsible for households with children under the age of 19 as well, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF, and SNAP benefits, Medicaid, Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility, and Fraud.
- Ms. Cassandra Major, Family Services Specialist, manages VIEW (Virginia Initiative Education and Work) and

Childcare. Within the VIEW program the department receives referrals from the TANF program as well, assist clients with job searches and job placement, and other support services as the budget allows.

- Ms. Sheryl Savage-Kellam, Family Services Unit Supervisor, is responsible for Foster Care, Adoption, CPS/Prevention & In-Home Services.
- All supervisors provided updates on the programs and high lighted any issues that may be impacting the programs at this time.
- Board members asked questions that included additional funding for childcare and impact of unwinding on residents of Northampton continuing to be insured. Board will be updated during April's meeting on status of unwinding and completing the processing of all back Medicaid applications during COVID.

Ms. Francis advised the board that she will present the staff evaluations (EPPE's) for signature by the Board Chairman, Mr. Spencer Murray after closed session.

Ms. Francis indicated that the Coordinated Enrollment Event that Northampton County DSS hosted on February 10, 2024, went well and was a wonderful networking event. There was not an outpouring of attendees from the community however, the networking was phenomenal.

On a motion by Mr. Smith 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.

Coming out of closed session, Ms. Langley made a motion to amend the 2024 compensation plan to reflect local funding only for the 2% COLA from July 1, 2023, to November 30, 2023. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

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 Smith, yes and Board Member, Janice Langley, yes.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Francis advised that she will be attending the VLSSE State Board Meeting in Harrisonburg, VA over the period April 9-11, 2024.

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

Spencer Murray, Chairman
March 19, 2024,

Attested by _____

Mozella F. Francis
Director