

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on July 16, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairman, John Williams, Vice Chair, H. Spencer Murray, Board Member & Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Vice Chair Williams, the minutes of the June 21, 2019 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2018-19 budget. The budget is right in line as predicted, with no notable outliers. The Agency should be able to return between \$40,000.00 to \$50,000.00 to Northampton County this year. The reason for the unused funds mainly come from the Agency not being fully staffed for the majority of the year. Board Member Murray asked the Board if he could ask the Northampton County Board of Supervisors to allow the Agency to carry over funds in a discretionary account to bolster our Agency food pantry and to use in other areas to combat homelessness. Vice Chair Williams motioned in favor of the idea and Chairman Johnson seconded. Mrs. Francis will present the issue before the Board of Supervisors at the next scheduled work session to secure the funds.

The Board was given an update on the Benefits programs. All departments are operating at status quo

with no significant changes or developments, other than the Benefits department which continues to see a steady influx of new Medicaid applications. Mrs. Francis told the Board that Stephanie Jackson from the Eastern Shore Post has contacted her about a story to highlight our foster care successes and the challenges that we face.

Mrs. Francis updated the Board on a couple new legislative changes that will be affecting the Agency. Starting July 1st, there will be a new protocol for each agency for suspected sex trafficking instances. Also the agency will be responsible for returning the child back to their home/state. A Foster Parent Bill of Rights has also been accepted. This allows a foster parent to question and appeal an agency decision.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that we are scheduled for a Social Security Administrative Review on July 17th. They will be handpicking cases to review all documents and ledgers for clients receiving SSI and/or SSA.

The Board was updated on agency staffing. A new Benefits Program Specialist, Michelle Moore, was hired and began work yesterday July 15th. Administrative Assistant and another Benefits Program Specialist advertisement will be posted soon.

On a motion by Vice Chair Williams, 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 Johnson: yes, Vice Chair Williams: yes, Board Member Murray: yes.

Mrs. Francis will be out of the office 7/18 for Communication Training in Norfolk and 7/24 for Recruitment Training and Healthy Communities Retreat in Norfolk.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Edith Johnson, Chairman
August 20, 2019

Attested by _____
Mozella F. Francis
Director

