

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on June 21, 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 Mr. Murray, the minutes of the May 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 used the majority of budgeted funds this year, but should still be able to reimburse the county some unused 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 spoke about the difficulties the Agency faces in the Foster Care program both in placing children in facilities or with foster parents. Vice Chair Williams asked if there are any public relations outlets we can use to talk about our foster care success stories and emphasize the joy a foster child can bring? Mrs. Francis agreed that was a good idea and said that our Foster Care Month would be the best time to do that.

Mrs. Francis updated the Board on the Northampton County homeless population. The county homeless count is done as a point in time snapshot, but because of the federal definition of homeless, it doesn't always capture those who surf from couch to couch and who sometimes sleep in their cars in the interim. We have a small food pantry at the Agency and Mrs. Francis has been counting the cases that come in. From May 14<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup>, 5 homeless cases were provided goods from our pantry – one was a family of five.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that we have hired a new Family Services worker and we are still advertising for another along with a vacancy for a Benefits case worker.

The Board was informed that the first Agency Dashboard was posted for the public. The Dashboard will be posted every quarter from now on. Overall the Agency scored very well. There were some areas that we could improve on though and there were some numbers that were skewed due to small sample size.

On a motion by Board Member Spencer Murray, 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 7/9 – 7/11 for the VLSSE Board Conference Meeting in Staunton. She will also be out of the office on 7/24 for Department of Rehab Training and 7/26 for the Healthy Communities Retreat in Norfolk.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

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

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Edith Johnson, Chairman  
July 16, 2019

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Mozella F. Francis  
Director

