

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on December 17, 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 Chairman Williams, the minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2019-2020 budget. The budget is right in line as predicted, with no notable outliers. We are at the mid-year point of the fiscal year and at this time, we may either request additional funds or return funds. Usually we have been able to return Adult Protective Services funds, but we were not able to do that this year due to the growing number of homeless cases. Instead we had to request additional funds for the In Home Companion program. We will not know if the request was approved until January 2020.

Olivia Collins, Family Services Supervisor, gave the Board an update on Family Services. Mrs. Collins is retiring in January 2020, but informed the Board that Family Services is in good hands with the experienced case workers and their wealth of knowledge that can help train and guide the new employees. The Board was informed that NCDSS now only has four foster care children under our supervision – custody of one foster care child was able to go back to the parent, which is a big win for

everyone involved. Child Protective Services had eight referrals in November, which is more than the average of 4-6. Half of all referrals are screened out typically, because they do not meet state guidelines. In regards to Adult Protective Services, the biggest issue they face currently is adult homelessness. APS averages two homeless adult referrals a week. Board Member Murray asked “What is the most offered cause of homelessness?” Mrs. Collins responded with “loss of employment, mental health, loss of relationship and generational families living together then their situation changes due to death.” Mrs. Francis informed the Board that she is in discussions with an intern to come in during the week to solely cover referral intake.

The Board was given an update on the Agency Dashboard for the first quarter of FY 19-20. Medicaid expansion cases are now at approximately 905 new cases. Medicaid case stats have been removed from the Dashboard, however due to numerous errors in the calculations by the state.

On a motion by Board Member Murray, and seconded by Vice Chairman 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 in Norfolk on 1/10 for a Workforce Meeting and on 1/28 through 1/30 for the State Board Meeting in Richmond.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Attested by	
_____ Edith Johnson, Chairman January 15, 2020	_____ Mozella F. Francis Director