

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on September 20, 2022. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the minutes of the August 16, 2022 meeting were approved. Ms. Langley seconded the motion. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided with a copy of the FY 2023 budget. On line 872, VIEW Purchase Service, there is a significant increase due to the \$16,624 spent in June which is a tremendous amount however, it has a direct correlation with sheltering. One of the benefits of those participating in the VIEW program and having active job searches is that they are eligible for “supportive services,” which can assist with emergency and gas pending available funding. **Mr. Murray inquired about the State allotment of \$45,376 and the local being \$7K but in June we spent \$16,624 which went down in July by a couple of thousand but went back up in August. Mozella responded that in May we were at the end of the fiscal year. The significant expenditures for the month of June reflect supportive services for clients who were and are currently on the VIEW program but who are homeless. Therefore, the balance for June reflects increased spending.** Ms. Francis indicated that she might need to request additional funding. At the rate of normal expenditures and the remaining balance, there will not be enough funds to

carry through the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Francis also noted that the Agency provides gas vouchers to the clients in the VIEW program. Gas prices have significantly affected the increase in expenses.

Mr. Murray noted that we have a combination of state and local funding of \$52K of which we have spent half. Ms. Francis responded the \$52K is not the full amount because the state and local are what make up the \$45K allotment. The local contribution is already part of the allotment. Ms. Francis indicated that she would need to put in more local money to receive any additional funding from the State.

The board continued discussing the homeless situation and inquired about potential funding sources to support the growing need in the county. **Mr. Murray will look into the projects and find out if any of the projects will be an alternative to DSS providing hotel stays to combat the chronic housing for vulnerable members of the community.**

Additionally, Ms. Francis updated the board on budget line 896, APS COVID, which has been tremendously helpful. We are working on spending as much as we can by the end of September because all monies not spent will have to be returned. Ms. Francis noted that the Department of Rehab Services requested an extension which was approved. This will allow additional time to use the funding to support more seniors within the community.

Ms. Francis updated the board on the child welfare status. We have four children in Foster Care

that are moving forward in the adoption process. Adoption has several steps that must be taken and there is often a 30 to 45-day wait period between steps. Still, we are excited that things are moving forward in the right direction.

The CPS in-home and out-of-home cases are growing. In-home provides a great opportunity to provide prevention and support to vulnerable children and their families. We have been putting a lot of effort into getting the fathers involved as well.

In APS, the Department of Rehabilitation Services has been working on the APS dashboard, which is scheduled to be launched in October. It was noted the dashboards already online have been up for criticism because the data is not real-time. For example, online benefits are delayed and can skew the metrics being reported.

Ms. Francis reported that the Benefits program continues processing applications and ensuring clients are getting their benefits on time. As well, those that do not need or are not eligible to receive benefits are being managed and reported. Ms. Francis noted that she would report to the board monthly on the metrics for clients that are not eligible however, it will be reported quarterly due to the amount of time being put into the effort.

Ms. Francis reported on the status of the Backpack Program. The Agency disbursed 97 backpacks filled with school supplies. A cart of over 300 FREE books was placed in front of the Agency

and students and parents picking up their backpacks picked up most of them.

The Toys for Tots/Angel Tree Program has begun and we have received 34 angels to date. The gifts will be disbursed on December 13, 2022.

Ms. Francis provided an update on her review of the Department of Housing's grant to determine the infrastructure needed. Ms. Francis requested to discuss the review in Closed Session.

On a motion by Janice Langley and seconded by 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 next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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| _____ Attested by | |
| Edith Johnson, Chairman September 20, 2022 | Mozella F. Francis |