

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on October 18, 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 September 20, 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. Ms. Francis pointed out that the increased expenditure was due to September being a three-time pay period. Ms. Francis called the board's attention to budget line 849, funding granted by the State for Medicaid Expansion staffing. Ms. Francis reported that spending is on target to expend all funding by the close of the fiscal year. Ms. Francis reviewed budget line 866 noting that most of the funding was to support families with rent and sheltering either to prevent homelessness or to shelter families who were or who are currently homeless. **Mr. Murray asked if there were any additional ARPA funding that could help as the homeless situation continues to persist. Ms. Francis reported that she would reach out to the County Administrator to see if additional funding is available to assist with homelessness.**

**Mr. Murray motioned that the Board accepts the financial report as presented. Ms. Langley seconded the motion.**

Ms. Francis provided an update on the departments. On the Family Services side, there is an increase in crisis intakes. Currently, crisis intake is on Tuesdays and Thursdays however, due to the urgency of many of the needs that are presented, intake staff is providing crisis intervention four to five days per week.

There are currently no significant changes regarding CPS or APS however, the cases are growing in complexity, which requires more in-depth case management to support the families. Our prevention caseloads continue to increase which is what we want as we try to become a more proactive system versus a reactive system.

The Child Care Program continues to trend upward as the new regulations went into effect on October 1, 2022. We are in the process of training a new worker in anticipation of the increased caseloads as more people take advantage of the childcare benefit.

There has been no significant change in the VIEW caseload this past couple of months. We anticipate this to change once the Pandemic Health Emergency lifts.

The agency hosted an Adult Services Lunch and Learn in October with personal care providers and consumer-directed facilitators who provide services for Northampton County residents. A representative from the Department of Medical Services (DMAS) attended as well. They were able to provide valuable insight and answer questions concerning best practices and policy. The Lunch and Learn was well received by

all in attendance and are looking forward to the next event.

Residents applying for SNAP continue to increase and we anticipate these numbers to grow as the work season starts to end. We have noted an overall increase in SNAP applicants who are new to the system.

In the fraud unit, for October, we were able to disqualify \$5,016. As a result, Northampton DSS was able to save more than \$5K that would have been disbursed. Going forward, Ms. Francis will report this information to the board monthly.

Ms. Francis updated the board on the LIHWAP which provides low-income households with water assistance. Ms. Francis informed the board that this program would provide no additional manpower burden to the locality. The only action the locals would need to do is direct participants to the appropriate place to call and inquire.

There are currently four children in foster care. All have the goal of adoption at this time. Ms. Francis will discuss this further during the closed session.

On a motion by Mr. Murray 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.

Ms. Francis updated the Board as to her schedule for the upcoming month. She will be attending the Virginia League of Social Services Executives meeting being held November 1-4, 2022, in Staunton, Virginia.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

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

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Edith Johnson, Chairman		Mozella F. Francis
October 18, 2022		Director