

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on June 20, 2023. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Langley, the minutes of the May 16, 2023, meeting were approved. There was no public comment or correspondence.

Ms. Francis provided the Board a copy of the FY 2023 budget noting that we have concluded the end of another fiscal year. Ms. Francis advised that on budget line 855, Staff/Operations, May expenditures were significantly higher than in previous months because we were at the end of the budget year and all purchases that were deferred until end of the year was processed for the month of May. Ms. Francis noted that end of year maintenance agreements for technical support of electronic record systems are paid in May.

Ms. Francis brought attention to the local-only admin section of the budget which is used for emergency cases that are not able to be supported through any of the state budget line funding. Ms. Francis emphasized that extra local only funding is vital when working with homeless families who are trying to find permanent housing but are unable to pay for sheltering, without assistance, in the interim. Social Services does not receive funding to assist with homelessness from the state, though this is becoming

a need that greatly impacts the safety and wellbeing of children.

On budget line 872, Public Assistance, VIEW program, all monies were spent except for seven-thousand dollars. The fifty-five thousand allotted to this budget line, assisted clients in finding employment, education, uniforms, fees for certifications, and emergency situations. On budget line 835, Prevention Services, Ms. Francis announced that Northampton County was number one in the State for pulling down federal dollars allotted to evidence-based prevention services. Ms. Francis reviewed budget line 895, Adult Services, indicating that we were not able to spend all the funding on that budget line. Budget line 895 is used to fund Adult Services as well as companion care. Since COVID, it has been a challenge to maintain individuals willing to perform companion work. Ms. Francis reported that this continues to be a priority.

The 2024 budget award letter has been received and we are operating on the approval letter although the budget has not been officially signed by the Governor. As an agency, we are mindful not to encumber any services that are different from services offered from the previous fiscal year until signed and all amendments have been approved.

Agency program updates were presented and within Adult and Child Protective Services there have been some legislative changes that will have the greatest impact on the agency standard operations procedures. There are a lot of layers of law that encompass Child Protective Services and the protocols

associated with them. The implications surrounding our legal advisement and staff involvement in these cases will be reviewed. At the next board meeting in July, the supervisors of our programs will update the board on the individual program activities.

Ms. Francis advised the board that the EPPEs (Agency Employee Evaluations) must be recorded in the minutes for any employee that she conducts as their direct report. **Mr. Murray motioned to accept the employee evaluations conducted by Ms. Francis for this period. Ms. Langley seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Ms. Francis announced that the State provided funding for Medicaid Unwinding. This will provide compensatory time for employees both non-exempt and exempt for the additional work required to process the agency back log of more than 1600 Medicaid Renewal applications.

Ms. Francis advised the Board that Northampton County DSS is participating, in conjunction with the Latter-Day Saints and the Baptist Administration, with a 40,000-pound food giveaway on July 6, 2023, at the Exmore Town Park. This effort is being coordinated by Ms. Jane Cabarrus.

On a motion by Mr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Johnson, 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.

There were no motions to come out of closed session.

All Board members voted yes that only those items allowed under code Section 2.1-344 were discussed.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

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

_____ Attested by_____	
Edith Johnson, Chairman June 20, 2023,	Mozella F. Francis Director