

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on July 25, 2023. The meeting was called to order under code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 am. Present were Chairman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, Ernest Smith, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

Mr. Murray opened the floor for the selection of a Board Chair due to the ending of Ms. Edith Johnson's term. The floor was opened for nominations for the office of Chairman. Mr. Ernest Smith, Board Member, nominated Mr. Spencer Murray as the Chairman of the Board. Ms. Janice Langley seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, a motion was made by Ms. Langley, seconded by Mr. Smith, that the nominations be closed, and that Mr. Murray be elected Chairman. The motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Murray was elected Chairman and assumed the Chair.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the June 20, 2023, meeting were approved. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the June FY24 budget and the end of the FY23 Local Only Funding. Ms. Francis presented the Board with the final expenses of FY23, Local, and FY24, State, for June of which the expenditures are on target at this point. Ms. Francis reported that on budget line 830, Public Assistance, the Agency has engaged in a contract with Rural Health to enable the Agency to conduct substance abuse testing for immediate accessibility. There were no concerns identified about the budget.

Ms. Langley motioned to accept the financial budget. Mr. Smith seconded the motion.

Ms. Francis announced that the Sheriff's Department conducted active shooter training at the Agency for all NCDSS employees in mid-July. The training was a success focusing on all aspects of preparedness, and enhanced awareness of, and response to, an active shooter incident. The training will continue with the Sheriff's Department yearly.

Ms. Francis announced that Northampton County DSS participated, in conjunction with the Latter-Day Saints and the Baptist Administration led by Ms. Jane Cabarrus, with a successful distribution of 40,000 pounds of food on July 6, 2023, at the Exmore Town Park. The board provided accolades for the participation of the Agency and the employees on site. The board were particularly grateful for Aqua Farms, and Marshall's Tree Service for their equipment.

Ms. Francis updated the Board on a Fentanyl Awareness seminar that occurred on July 21, 2023, sponsored by Delegate Bloxom. The Agency established a presence at the event and left with an abundance of educational information. New policies and procedures will be put in place within the Family Services department to address the degree of Fentanyl danger and the impact it can present to our clients.

Ms. Francis reviewed the Governance Fraud Risk Form with the board. Each member reviewed and signed the document.

Ms. Francis introduced Agency Program updates by introducing the department heads for the respective areas of interest.

Ms. Kim Hudgins, Adult Programs Supervisor, is responsible in the areas of the following: Adult Benefit Program Benefits for households that do not have children under the age of 19, SNAP benefits for this age range, Medicaid benefits for adults over age 19, Auxiliary Grants, Energy Assistance Program, Crisis Assistance, and Cooling Assistance.

Ms. Cassandra Major, Family Services Specialist, manages Child Care and VIEW (Virginia Initiative Education and Work). Within the VIEW program the department receives referrals from the TANF program as well, assist clients with job searches and job placement, and other support services as the budget allows.

Ms. Selene Brown introduced herself as the Family and Children of Benefits Programs Supervisor for households with children under the age of 19. Ms. Brown is responsible for the following programs: Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF and SNAP benefits, Medicaid, Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility, and Fraud.

Mr. Will Adkins, Administrative Office Manager, supervises the Clerical staff with responsibility for planning and coordinating administrative office support activities for the Agency. Mr. Adkins also serves as the liaison between the Agency and County Human Resources.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith 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 Murray, yes, Board Member Langley, yes, and Board Member Smith, yes. There were no motions coming out of closed session.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

The director's schedule is to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Attested by	
_____ Spencer Murray, Chairman July 25, 2023	_____ Mozella F. Francis Director