

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on January 23, 2024. The meeting was called to order under Virginia code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 am. Present were Chairman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, Ernest Smith, and Mozella Francis, Director.

Mr. Smith moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023. Ms. Langley abstained due to not being present for the December member. Mr. Murray seconded, and all were in favor. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board received a copy of the FY2024 budget, indicating no significant expenditures to report for December 2023. Ms. Francis pointed out that budget line 852, Medicaid Overtime, reflects the additional funding provided from the State specific to our locality for overtime purposes for Medicaid unwinding. We have a balance of \$7,275.37 left to utilize over the next few months to process as many applications as possible. Ms. Francis pointed out that the state gave a little over \$25,000 to support Medicaid Unwinding overtime. There being a balance isn't a reflection of the lack of need for overtime funding; but rather; this is tedious work, and some staff are tired, and have opted not to capitalize on additional overtime. While processing overdue Medicaid renewals, staff must keep up with timely processing of all new applications for all programs that include SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, and currently, crisis assistance. Many reports being drained at the end of the day and that they need the time to recoup for the following day to remain productive.

We have a zero balance on budget line 858, Staff and Operations Pass Thru. Ms. Francis has not needed to draw down on that budget line. This will change as we move towards becoming fully staffed. As mentioned, Budget line 858 carries a 66¢ local match and is always used after 855 funds have been depleted. State and Federal dollars are always drawn down before using local dollars.

On budget line 833, Adult Services (Companions), we have funding for companions when we have the companion resources available to the Agency. It continues to be a challenge to recruit companions. The rest of the budget lines are status quo.

Ms. Francis informed the Board of the pending house and senate bills that could potentially impact Social Services' programs. Ms. Francis will keep the Board apprised of any updates.

Ms. Francis advised the Board that no EPPEs (Agency Employee Evaluations) are required for signature this month.

Ms. Francis announced that we have until the end of the February 2024, DMAS deadline, initiate to the processing applications that were not touched during COVID.

On a motion by Mr. Smith 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.

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 Smith, yes.

There were no motions that were presented from closed session.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

On a motion by Mr. Smith the Northampton Social Services board meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Spencer Murray, Chairman
January 23, 2024,

Attested by

Mozella F. Francis
Director