

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on January 15, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairman, John Williams, Vice Chair, H. Spencer Murray, Board Member & Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2018-19 budget. The budget is right in line as predicted, with no notable outliers. There was a slight increase in January spending due to routine agency vehicle upkeep.

The Board was given an update on the Benefits programs. The Benefits Department has begun to see an escalation in Medicaid applications. To date we have received 506 new applicants. 301 of these applicants were adult Medicaid applications and 205 went to the Family & Children Benefits Department. All other departments are operating at status quo with no significant changes or developments.

Mrs. Francis has submitted a proposed FY 19/20 budget to the County Administrator and Finance Director and she is waiting on their response.

The Board was given a rundown on the difficulties faced by the Agency due to the government shutdown. The Agency was informed on Thursday January 10<sup>th</sup> that all SNAP applications must be in by January 17<sup>th</sup>. On Friday January 11<sup>th</sup>, that date was rolled back to January 14<sup>th</sup>. Agency employees stayed late on January 14<sup>th</sup> to ensure all applications would be processed in order for February SNAP benefits to be issued early on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that there will be a Point in Time homeless count scheduled for January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mr. Murray asked what defines homelessness, are there degrees? Mrs. Francis responded that many of these people have family members that live in subsidized housing and can stay with them only a certain number of times per month. When they have exhausted the times they can stay, they often become homeless. To answer your question, yes. There are varying degrees of homelessness but the federal government is very specific with their definition. This makes it very difficult for those who do not meet that strict definition to receive help.

The Board was provided with a fiscal year 2018 agency profile. SNAP and TANF recipients have declined since 2016. Medicaid has been steady since 2013, but should increase this year.

On a motion by Board Member 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 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 Johnson: yes, Vice Chair Williams: yes, Board Member Murray: yes.

Mrs. Francis will be in the office until the next scheduled Board Meeting except for the Fatality Review Team on January 16<sup>th</sup> and the VLSSE Board Meeting in Richmond January 30-31<sup>st</sup>.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

_____ Attested by _____	
Edith Johnson, Chairman	Mozella F. Francis
February 19, 2019	Director

