

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on September 13, 2016. Present were William Denny, Chairman, Edith Johnson, Vice Chair, John Williams, Board Member and Mozella Francis, Secretary.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, the minutes of the August 16, 2016 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2016-17 budget. Mrs. Francis reviewed the budget in its entirety. Mrs. Francis explained the significant administrative cost differences for July and August noting an additional pay period. The Board of Directors reviewed the budget and there were no identified concerns.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that three additional staff members had been hired to fill the open staff positions. The new hires were: Sheila White – Benefit Programs Specialist II, Irasema Muniz – Benefit Program Specialist II and Charlene Gholson, Family Services II worker. All new hires are placed on a twelve month probation period. Mr. Williams asked about the Fraud Investigator Position and was informed that the position was being reopened with the intent to attract new candidates. Mr. Williams questioned Mrs. Francis as to the process in place to protect the citizens of the county

against welfare fraud, while waiting to secure a fraud investigator. Mrs. Francis informed Mr. Williams and the Board of Directors of the process in place to recoup overpayments. This will allow for those who have been identified as receiving overcompensation to begin paying back the State. We are receiving repayments at this time. Mrs. Francis informed the Board that all efforts are in place to secure the right person for this position as it has had numerous turnovers in the past.

Mrs. Francis reviewed with the Board the details of the Director's Regional Meeting, held on September 12, at the home office. She informed the Board that the State was very concerned with CPS Units and APS Units in particular. This concern came to light after the incident involving the Rockbridge Department of Social Services. The State informed the Directors that there were two deaths and incidents of sexual abuse as a result of CPS workers not following policy and procedure. Discussion ensued and the Board wanted to know what was in place for Northampton County Department of Social Services to ensure compliance with local and state policy across all venues. Mrs. Francis informed the Board that she was working to review processes and to establish internal auditing to access in-house policy and procedure with all programs. Mr. Williams verbalized how serious a matter this is and that as a Board they want to be certain that matters are being handled appropriately and according to policy. Mr.

Williams asked that the Board continue to be kept abreast of internal changes to policy and updated on the Rockbridge DSS case.

Mrs. Francis reminded the Board of Directors of the scheduled training in Virginia Beach on Wednesday, October 19. All Board Members agreed to participate.

Mrs. Francis reviewed Northampton Department of Social Service's 2015 Profile Report with the Board. She pointed out the updates, noting that the State had made a few corrections to the report. Mrs. Francis pointed out to the Board that there were 5,120 residents of Northampton County who received benefits (SNAP, TANF or Medicaid in 2015). This number represents approximately 40% of the population in Northampton County, at large.

On a motion by Chairman William Denny, 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 Denny: yes; Johnson: yes and Williams: yes.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board of her upcoming schedule: Migration Phase II Meeting in Norfolk on September 20; Community Meeting – Smart Beginnings on September 29; DMAS Meeting in Newport News on October 18; Board Training Meeting in Virginia Beach on October 19 and BIPRO Conference in Richmond, VA on October 24-26. Mrs. Francis will attend a Safe and Stable Families Meeting in Newport News on October 28.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Attested by _____
William Denny, Chairman
October 11, 2016
Mozella F. Francis
Secretary

