

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on May 16, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 9:00am. Present were William Denny, Chairman, Edith Johnson, Vice Chair, John Williams, Board Member and Mozella Francis, Secretary.

On a motion by Mrs. Johnson, the minutes of the April 18, 2017 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided a copy of the 2016-17 actual budget along with a copy of the prediction for the remainder of the year. Mrs. Francis informed the Board that the plan for the surplus funds is to purchase some new vehicles for the agency. With the increased trainings in Virginia Beach, there is a desperate need for new vehicles as very few that the agency currently owns are reliable enough to make that trip. The Board of Directors reviewed the budget and there were no identified concerns.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that the agency is working on a Social Media/Mobile Device Policy. It has been stressed in recent Director's meetings that social media posts from DSS employees have had a negative impact on other agencies and we as an agency need to be out in front of this issue.

The Board was informed that on June 22nd a Family Services Review Team will come to

Northampton to evaluate the Family Services Unit. This is in direct response to the incidents at the Rock Bridge, VA DSS. The DSS Eastern Regional Director will also visit us on May 23rd and State Consultants will pay us a visit June 8th. In an effort to support front line family services workers, the Family Services Unit is now able to access Oasis remotely to make entering notes in the field or at home an option. Family Services workers also received new cell phones to record all in-home client interviews.

The Rock Bridge DSS Grand Jury Report has been in the news lately and has heavily influenced recent trainings and Director's Meetings. One DSS policy change in the wake of this case is a 24 hour interview response time for any reported substance exposed child. Mrs. Francis informed the Board that she has stepped up this policy for Northampton DSS and the response time for this agency is set at a maximum of 6 hours after the report is received. Mr. Williams asked how the Board would know if a similar Rock Bridge incident was occurring and what steps they could take to investigate any reports they receive? Mrs. Francis encouraged the Board to investigate any calls/reports they might receive. She is always available to answer any questions and agency case workers are as well. Mr. Williams asked to have an example of a typical monthly case load of a DSS case worker made available to the Board so they could evaluate the workload of an individual. Mrs. Francis offered to

provide a copy of the State Consultants Review as it would provide an impartial and more thorough overview and would serve as a better overall monitoring tool.

The Board was provided with an overview of the budget for 2017/18. The budget was reduced from 2016/17, but the \$15,000 requested to cover the increase in agency health care was included. Mrs. Francis will request additional funds as needed.

The Board was provided with a list of Mrs. Francis' community affiliations and memberships as well as a description of her role in each organization. There were no noted concerns or additional recommended organizations to join at this time.

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 Chairman Denny: yes, Vice Chair Johnson: yes and Williams: yes.

There were no action items at this time.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board that all of her meetings for the month on June would be local.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Attested by _____
William Denny, Chairman
June 20, 2017
Mozella F. Francis
Secretary