

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on December 18, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairman, John Williams, Vice Chair, H. Spencer Murray, Board Member & Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Williams, the minutes of the November 20, 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.

The Board was given an update on the Benefits programs. The Adult Benefits Department has begun to see an escalation in Medicaid paper applications, but still very manageable thus far. The Family & Children Benefits Department is anticipating an increase in applications in the weeks and months ahead. All other departments are operating at status quo with no significant changes or developments. Family Services expects that to change as we move closer to Family First. This will allow usage of funds to be used on prevention.

Mrs. Francis provided the Board with an Angel Tree/Toy Closet. It was our largest to date with over 190 families participating and over 400 children receiving Christmas gifts. This event could not

happen with the generous donations of WBOC News, Kohl's and Walmart as well as the time and effort donated by the numerous volunteers.

The Board was informed of the hiring of a CSA Coordinator. The position will be bi-county, working with both Accomack and Northampton DSS to monitor the CSA program and to ensure overall compliance.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board about the recent JLARC – Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission – focused on improving Virginia's Foster Care system. Unfortunately, the study found Virginia's standards and practices to be lacking. However, this study is cumulative of all the agencies in Virginia and all it takes is some issues with larger agencies in the state, to paint all Virginia DSS in a bad light. Mrs. Francis has a meeting scheduled on December 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the JLARC Study and its implications on the local agency. The Commissioner will take back suggestions to the general assembly along with a plan for moving forward.

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.

Coming out of Closed Session, Vice Chairman Williams motioned and Board Member Murray seconded, the proposal to accept the resignation of S.W. Family Services Worker II.

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 Regional Director's Meeting December 10<sup>th</sup> in Norfolk and the JLARC Discussion in Richmond on December 20<sup>th</sup>.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Edith Johnson, Chairman  
January 15, 2019

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Mozella F. Francis  
Director

