

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on February 21, 2017. The meeting was called to order at 9:05am. Present were William Denny, Chairman, Edith Johnson, Vice Chair, John Williams, Board Member and Mozella Francis, Secretary.

On a motion by Mr. Williams and the minutes of the January 17, 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 budget. The Board was given an actual copy and prediction of anticipated spending for the remainder of the fiscal year. Mrs. Francis reviewed the budget in its entirety. The Board of Directors reviewed the budget and there were no identified concerns.

The Board was informed of the new Fraud Investigator I, Fairy McPherson, who started her first day on February 6, 2017. It was explained that Mrs. McPherson would remain on probation for twelve months and that the Board would be kept apprised of her progress.

Mrs. Francis informed the Board of the declining caseloads for the Child Care and View Departments. The Board was given possible reasons for the decline and was informed of an agency plan if numbers continue to decline. The Board asked to be kept in the loop of the caseload trends.

Mrs. Francis proposed to the Board that full-time employees be allowed to have off on his/her birthday as is a practice by our neighboring sister agency. The Board agreed that this was good as long as it did not interfere with productivity or leave the agency understaffed while employees were taking off for their birthday. Mrs. Francis explained that she would write a policy that would cover all concerns discussed during the Board meeting. Mrs. Johnson made a motion to allow for full-time employees to have off for their birthday and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. All Board members were in agreement.

The Board was presented a plan to begin a pilot telecommute program at NCDSS. Mrs. Francis explained the benefits of telecommuting, highlighting that this is a practice used widely by the State. She further explained that telecommuting would be an incentive when recruiting to this area. Mr. Williams wanted to know if there is any other Department of Social Services using telecommuting within their agency. Mrs. Francis explained that telecommuting could help with the timely processing of applications which continues to be a statewide issue. She assured Mr. Williams that his questions would be addressed within the full presentation. The Board agreed to hear the proposal but to table any decision pending the complete presentation by Mrs. Francis.

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: QAA Review by the State on 2/23/2017, Federal Review Training here at NCDSS on 3/07/2017 & Regional Director's Meeting on 3/13/2017 in Virginia Beach.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Attested by _____
William Denny, Chairman
March 21, 2017
Mozella F. Francis
Secretary

