

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met in the Board Room of the Social Services Building on November 21, 2023. The meeting was called to order under Virginia code §2.2-3708.2 at 11:00 am. Present were Chairman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, Janice Langley, Board Member, Ernest Smith, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith, the minutes of the October 17, 2023, meeting were approved. There was no public comment or correspondence.

The Board was provided with a copy of the FY2024 budget. Ms. Francis reviewed budget line 855 of which we are operating under, apart from Family Services which resides under its own budget line. Ms. Francis pointed out that the variances fell under the three pay periods received in September as well a retirement payout. All other budget lines are status quo. Mr. Smith moved to approve the budget as presented. Ms. Langley seconded the motion.

The Board was presented with the Agency Program Updates. Ms. Francis updated that there are no significant changes however the TANF grant is in jeopardy of a budget cut effective FY2025. This could impact partner agencies that receive funding through the TANF grant. Ms. Francis will keep the board abreast of any updates.

Ms. Francis advised that within APS/AS, the UAI screenings continue to increase. The Agency is actively working to hire a new Family Services Specialist.

Ms. Francis advised the board that there were no EPPEs (Agency Employee Evaluations) requiring signature. However, Ms. Francis reported that her EPPE is due on December 15, 2023, and she will forward a copy of her EPPE to the board chairman.

Ms. Francis discussed the newly proposed DSS Budget Ms. Francis announced that at the last State Board meeting in October 2023 they are discussing the some of the new components that make up that allocation, i.e., case complexity. Ms. Francis will keep the board apprised as new information is received.

Ms. Francis asked that board consider amending the 2024 Compensation Plan and details will be discussed in Closed Session.

Ms. Francis reviewed Agency Holiday closings. Following is the holiday schedule for November:

- November 22 – ½ day at Noon/Thanksgiving
- November 23 – Closed for Thanksgiving
- November 24 – Closed for Thanksgiving

Ms. Francis updated the Board on the new Agency Business model that became effective on Fridays commencing October 20, 2023. The outcome of this pilot and the processing of applications has been positive. We will continue moving forward with the pilot and continue updating the board at future meetings.

Ms. Francis requested to discuss the Staffing Update in Closed Session.

On a motion by Ms. Langley and seconded by Mr. Smith 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, Ms. Langley motioned that the social services director be allowed to give a 1.5% increase to all DSS employees that were employed by the date of the motion to align with the county. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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 Murray, yes, Board Member Langley, yes, and Board Member Smith, yes.

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Attested by

Spencer Murray, Chairman
November 21, 2023,

Mozella F. Francis
Director