

The Northampton County Board of Social Services met via Zoom on November 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Present were Edith Johnson, Chairwoman, Spencer Murray, Board Member, and Mozella Francis, Director.

On a motion by Mr. Murray, the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were approved with no noted changes. There was no public comment or correspondence presented during this meeting.

The Board was provided a copy of the FY 2021 budget. The program expenditures are consistent with what was planned at this time. There were no concerns identified about the budget.

The Agency is continuing with “status quo” in regards to the COVID Pandemic especially over the holiday season. Ms. Francis will be holding a staff meeting to go over new CDC guidelines as they pertain to the Agency. A new policy will be put into effect regarding voluntary staff travel during the holiday season. The CDC advises not to travel therefore if the travel is a personal preference, Ms. Francis will require them to quarantine (per CDC guidelines) before returning to the building. Employee must take personal leave if they are not able to work remote due to their position. As CDC guidelines indicate - if one is going out of the states, you **MUST** quarantine for two weeks when you return. **Mr. Spencer advised, “If the employee is advised in advance what the rules are then I am comfortable with what Ms. Francis develops as long it is understood by the employee”.** Ms. Johnson agreed. The Agency will continue to keep the doors closed to

the public and provide services as they are available to the public. The drop box is available for anyone 24 hours a day, however, anything left after hours will be processed the following day.

Ms. Francis provided an update on Programs (Childcare, APS/AS/CPS/Foster Care and Benefit Programs). Reviews are rampant even with the State working remotely. The Agency is under review for Childcare. The Finance department was recently audited (by the county auditor) and the outcome review will follow at a later date. The Foster Care (IV-E review) was conducted last month with no results as of this review however, Ms. Francis will advise when she receives the results. Child Protective Services will be having a review in the near future. CPS calls are on the rise. There has been an increase in calls of substance exposed infants. APS is also increasing, with seniors requesting UAI's and reports of financial exploitation.

In the SNAP/TANF and Medicaid/Medicare area, applications are coming in at a fast pace; Supervisors and Workers are conducting overtime hour to keep up. As of November 16, 2020 there are 1,145 individuals ages 19 to 64 receiving Medicaid under expansion. Northampton is providing TANF assistance for 56 including children and adults.

The Board discussed the CARES Act Funding and what of that funding could be provided to vulnerable members of the community impacted by COVID-19. As of the end of October the funding spent under the Cares Act was \$31,767.90. As of November the amount spent is close to \$38,000. It looks like we

are on track of spending the allocated \$70,000. An update will be provided at the next Board Meeting in December **The Board thanked Ms. Francis for a great report.**

Ms. Francis reported on the Agency holiday closing schedule which included Thanksgiving Eve, Thanksgiving Day and the day after; Christmas Eve and Christmas day; and New Year's Day.

On a motion by Chair, 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.

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 Chairwoman Johnson: and Board Member Murray: yes.

Mr. Murray motioned and seconded by Chairwoman, Johnson to approve a one-time compensation bonus to the staff of Northampton County Department of Social Services. Both Mr. Murray and Ms. Johnson agreed that staff were deserving and thanked them for their hard-work and dedication to the community.

The next Board of Director's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Attested by

Edith Johnson, Chairman
November 17, 2020

Mozella F. Francis
Director