

**8. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
FRANKLIN DOWLESS, MEMBER
SOUTHAMPTON DSS ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

I've received a request from the Administrative Board of the Southampton County Department of Social Services to address you regarding their interest in filling the DSS Executive Director position, which has been vacant since Mrs. Judy English retired on February 1. Mr. Franklin Dowless will represent the DSS Administrative Board.

They had deferred acting on the vacancy pending the outcome of the ongoing study evaluating a potential consolidation with the City of Franklin. Early indications from the study are that little to no economic savings are anticipated from a consolidation. That finding was primarily based on the results of the most recent Virginia consolidation experience in Rockingham County and Harrisonburg, and conclusions gleaned following a cursory evaluation of service delivery and case management in both respective communities.

It is my understanding that Mr. Dowless will be seeking your approval in proceeding to fill the vacant position, and to suspend further analysis of a potential consolidation based upon the early findings.

MOTION REQUIRED: If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required authorizing the Administrative Board to proceed in filling the vacant position and suspending further consolidation studies.