**Beaufort County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
Media Kit: Fact Sheet**

**Overview:** The **Beaufort County Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (BCDSN)** advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities and special needs to live more productively and inclusively within the community. The BCDSN offers various resources and programs, including Camp Treasure Chest, the Bright Beginnings Early Intervention Program, Case Management Services, Residential Services, and the Great Expectations Day Program. Additionally, the BCDSN provides individuals with access to benefits funded by the ABLE Foundation. The main office is located at 100 Clear Water Way, Beaufort, S.C. The department currently serves over 950 individuals and families.

**Founded:** Each county in the state of South Carolina has a Disabilities and Special Needs department. Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs became a part of Beaufort County in 1987. Out of 46 counties, the BCDSN is the only disabilities agency in the state that is a part of the county government.

**Areas Served:** BCDSN provides services to the entirety of Beaufort County from Hilton Head to Fripp Island to Sheldon.

**Services Provided:** The department offers various resources and services including early intervention, residential services with 24-hour staff support, job placement and training, and case management. Many additional services and benefits are provided to individuals through the ABLE Foundation.

**Programs Offered:**

* **Camp Treasure Chest** is one of the summer camps in Beaufort County for children with severe development and related disabilities. It is funded by the [ABLE Foundation](https://ablefoundationbc.org/) and serves children and young adults in Beaufort County.
* **The Bright Beginnings Early Intervention Program** is an early intervention program offered within the home or in a day care setting to families with children from birth to five years who are developmentally delayed.
* **Case Management Services** ensure that eligible individuals have access to a full array of offerings that enable them to live in a community setting.Through assessment, case managers learn about an individual’s specific needs and wants to provide them with effective and appropriate resources.
* **Residential Services** support fifty individuals in a number of different living situations that accommodate their needs.
* **The Great Expectations Day Program** helps individuals with disabilities learn basic daily living skills and provides these individuals with support to find jobs suitable for them according to their abilities and desires. The five main areas of training are Day, Community, Career Prep, Employment, and Support Services. In addition to learning about daily life skills, the modules they are trained in also include Earth Science, Shopping, Banking, Technology, and Creative Arts.

**Eligibility for services:**  To be eligible for BCDSN waiver-funded services and support, an individual must live in South Carolina and must meet established criteria. There are seven categories of eligibility, including

* Intellectual Disability (ID)
* Related to Intellectual Disability (RD)
* High Risk Infant
* Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
* Head Injury (i.e. Traumatic Brain Injury or TBI)
* Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)
* Similar Disability (SD)

**Applying for services:** Individuals can call the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs at 1-800-289-7012, Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Those applying for Early Intervention Services for children at risk can call BabyNet at 1-866-512-8881.

**Team members:**

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* Terry Geitner, Adult Services Director
* Cherie Scoggins, Human Services Director
* Beth Cody, Finance Director
* Janice Beach, Administration Manager
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