

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS  
1804 OLD SHELL ROAD  
PORT ROYAL, SC 29935

November 17, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Grace Dennis, Margaret Gatch, Helene Gruber, Carol Myers, Nancy Pinkerton, Elizabeth Santagati Ann Wirz, and Gardenia Simmons-White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Brown, Beverly Smith-Dore, Jim Mathews, and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner, Wanda Mayse and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: No guests present

I. CALL TO ORDER – Elizabeth Santagati, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Santagati welcomed Wanda Mayse, Residential Director.

III. MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2009 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 20, 2009 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 AGENDA

- Ms. Santagati requested discussion of the meeting with Representative Shannon Erickson under the Chairman's report. This item will be added under Item A. For Information.

MOTION WAS MADE BY HELENE GRUBER AND SECONDED BY CAROL MYERS TO ADOPT THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Elizabeth Santagati, Chair

Ms. Santagati said a meeting to discuss the issues with Representative Erickson needs to be scheduled to put together the information needed on funding and programs affected by budget cuts. She said even though we look at the programs, we still would not know what to present to make the changes.

Ms. Wagner said the funding workshop was a request from some members that did not understand the funding and that in the workshop she could explain where the money comes from in each program and where some of the difficulties are in managing the programs. She said she believes Ms. Erickson picked up on the comment made about meeting guidelines with less funding and took that as DHEC guidelines. Ms. Wagner said we would not be able to change the DHEC Health and Safety guidelines for those we serve. She said changes could be made within the SCDDSN Policy

requirements. We could look at each program and determine which regulations could be changed. She said we could probably come up with a good list of recommendations for each program. Ms. Santagati said she feels the workshop would be beneficial and we would be better prepared to discuss them with Ms. Erickson. Ms. Wagner said it is a concern that public policy is that budget cuts have not affected services for people where in reality every budget cut affects services. Service Coordination caseloads have gone up to 40. You cannot do the same with a caseload of 40 that you could with a caseload of 30. Physically you cannot respond and the public is not aware of that. In addition, residential programs are to be cut a million dollars effective January 1. Ms. Wagner talked about the effect budget cuts has on our population. Legislators need to look at what is most important and things like a new road could be cut and be able to keep services to individuals, not necessarily DSN individuals but services in general. When the economy is as it is now those organizations that serves people are much more in need than anyone else. That's DSN, Alcohol and Drugs, Mental Health, etc.

Ms. Santagati said when we get this information together we should meet prior to meeting with Ms. Erickson to discuss what we are going to talk about and who will attend the meeting.

#### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms Wagner introduced Wanda Mayse, Residential Director, who does a fantastic job and is always an advocate for the people she serves in residential. She did not have an opportunity to speak at the retreat and asked Joe White to represent her and done a terrific job. Ms. Wagner said Ms. Mayse would give an overview of the residential needs and activities.

Ms. Mayse thanked board members for the opportunity to speak and share some of the challenges we have in residential. She said we are having a struggle to keep things going the way they are. We have great staff with excellent attitudes and are expected to do much with little. She said we have some very creative people that think out of the box. She said we are working hard to keep individuals involved in the community. Currently we are having difficulties getting the services and support our individuals need to remain stable. With budget cuts there is no money to contract outside services. We have been working hard to get a psychiatrist into the area and Ms. Wagner has done an excellent job of trying to locate someone that is familiar with the requirements and standards and one that knows our individuals. She set up a meeting with Beaufort Memorial, Mental Health and the police department; however, they did not show up. Beaufort Memorial has not been able to work with us. We were told they do not have staff with qualifications to work with our people; even to do testing however as a community agency they have a responsibility to obtain the ability to do that. Ms. Wagner said Mr. Kubic is very aware of our problem and has told Beaufort Memorial that they must find a way to serve "Mitzi's people." He said to find out what it would take to serve these individuals and he would find the money to get what you need. Another meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Santagati suggested that the Advisory Board attend along with Beaufort Memorial., Mental Health and Human Rights. Ms. Wirz asked if there was a list of things needed for Christmas. Ms. Mayse said they are planning a luncheon this year. More people will likely attend being earlier in the day. She said at present they are working on a menu and a free location. She said she should have some information by the end of the week and would pass it on. She asked for questions and thanked the board for letting her speak.

Ms. Wagner asked for comments and thoughts about the board retreat. What was good and what we should not do again. Ms. Pinkerton said it was one of the best we have had. It was informative and not boring. Ms. Wirz commented that those who talked about budget and money should have been last on the agenda so they could have heard the issues from each program. They could have utilized the information themselves. Everyone done a great job, all speakers were well informed and it was refreshing to hear the young people. They were impressed with Brian Hill, Rufus Britt and Ladson Howell. Ms. Wagner asked Ms. Wirz, Vice-Chairman, to write a thank you letter to the speakers. She said she personally thanked them but thought it would also be nice to hear it from board members.

Ms. Wagner said we have had two resignations in Early Intervention. She said she had verbal confirmation that we could hire an additional early intervention coordinator. She said we have great people but they do get burnt out if we cannot give them some relief. She said it is also true in residential, day program and service coordination.

Ms. Wagner said our budget was submitted in April and many things have changed. The revenue is different in July than we anticipated in April. She felt she was not 100% confident in this latest budget and indicated it would probably change several times again before the end of the year. She proposed a Funding Workshop if the board is interested. She said it would take about an hour to go through and explain it. She feels once you understand it you would get a better feel on issues and why more staff would be needed. If interested, we can plan a date after Christmas. Please call if interested.

Ms. Wagner distributed copies of the budget for review. She said the first page is revenue and where it comes from. The next item is residential fees, which is the amount residential consumers pay. She said every year we have to review and recalculate what the going rate for room and board is for Beaufort County. There is also Contract Revenue, which is what we receive from those contracted services like Goodwill where they pay us for the consumer's job and we in turn pay the consumer. Following the revenue portion is the cost, which is personnel; the most being in adult services that has 26 staff working and residential has 24 at Port Royal Community Residence. She said the next page is expenses which she reviewed and explained each item and answered questions. Ms. Wagner also distributed copies of information on the MRRD Waiver and answered questions.

## VII. FOUNDATION REPORT – Grace Dennis

Ms. Dennis said the foundation is having a difficult time getting a core of people and asked for suggestions from board members for people who may be interested in serving. Ms. Pinkerton said she and Ms. Dennis were the only ones at the last meeting along with one staff. She thanked all those who attended the festivals to sell the ornaments. The response was amazing and the amount of money that was taken in was good. She said we now have Shrimp boat note cards. The cards were made from drawings made by Ms. Wagner's husband, Roger. There are six note cards in the package, two of each design, and will sell for \$10.00. It also states on the back that all proceeds go to the ABLE Foundation to support Camp Treasure Chest and disabled children in Beaufort County. Miss Wagner said the first 100 packages are sold and an additional 100 has been ordered. Ms. Wagner and Ms. Dennis encouraged board members to locate establishments that may be interested in displaying the ornaments and note cards.

## VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

~Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair

- Nothing to report

~Policy/Directives Committee, Gardenia Simmons-White, Chair

- No directives presented for review.

~Public Relations Committee, Ann Wirz, Chair

- Ms. Wirz said when Ms. Wagner gave her presentation at the retreat she mentioned that the Advisory Board, ABLE Foundation and the Human Rights Committee members should schedule a time to meet to get to know each other and become more familiar with the concerns and issues of the DSN programs. She said we are all working toward the same goals. Ms. Santagati asked the Public Relations Committee to work on the suggestion and come up with a plan suitable for all.

~Legislative Committee, Beverly Dore, Chair

- Nothing to report

## IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wagner said Jim and Ellen Mathews were in Columbia today attending the get acquainted meeting with the new State Director, Beverly Buscemi. She also said the Day Program is selling poinsettias this Christmas and if interested they will be taking orders through December 1, 2009. Pink and red and will be available and will sell for \$9.50 each. The plants will be available for pickup on December 9<sup>th</sup> in the Day Program. A copy of the order form will be emailed to all tomorrow. Please make your checks out to Old Shell Plants.

Ms. Gruber asked for an update on the building. Ms. Wagner said everything we asked for was approved. The contract is to be signed tomorrow and contractors must start before the end of December. A ground breaking ceremony will probably be scheduled for sometime after the first of the year. She said we won't have furniture for the large conference room and some of the offices.

Ms. Gruber asked about training requirements if board members wanted to volunteer. Ms. Wagner said any board member interested in any of our five-day training sessions are welcome to attend. If interested in taking consumers on and outing, more training would be required. If assisting in day program or other activities we would only require you to attend a condensed version of our training as qualified staff is available if needed.

The next Board Meeting will be held on December 15, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. at Beaufort County Disabilities and Special Needs.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANN WIRZ TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

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Elizabeth Santagati, Chair

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Date

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Beverly Smith-Dore, Secretary

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Date