

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

December 15, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Grace Dennis, Beverly Smith-Dore, Margaret Gatch, Helene Gruber, Jim Mathews, Carol Myers, Nancy Pinkerton, Ann Wirz, Elizabeth Santagati and Gardenia Simmons-White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner, Bill Love and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: Ellen Mathews

I. CALL TO ORDER – Liz Santagati, Chair

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Santagati welcomed Bill Love and Ellen Mathews.

III. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY CAROL MYERS TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2009 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE DECEMBER 15, 2009 AGENDA AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, Liz Santagati, Chair

Ms. Santagati mentioned that at the last meeting it was stated that we should move on with plans to meet to review and discuss topics to be discussed with Representative Shannon Erickson. A committee was appointed and will meet prior to scheduling a meeting with Ms. Erickson.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms Wagner introduced Bill Love, Day Program Director.

Ms. Love greeted board members with a “Happy Holiday” and said he appreciated being invited back to talk about the day program. He said he wanted to give an update on what is happening in the day program. He said they had a very successful poinsettia sale. We contacted the garden manager at Lowe’s who gave us the plants at their cost and ordered 100 plus for us. He was impressed by the response from staff at Lowe’s and was surprised to hear that many of them had

someone or knew of someone with disabilities. We made over \$700.00 from the sale of plants and from the sale of pottery and plants grown in our garden along with the money from the sale of the poinsettias will go to the consumers. They would be given a choice of how they wanted to use the money, i.e., give to charity, have a party or divide it up between themselves. He said they are also working on ways to separate consumers that are disruptive. A facility has been located where two staff will be working with the individuals that need special attention where each individual will have their own individual space to work on their objectives and not disrupt the other consumers in the day program. Mr. Love told board members that he is rotating staff and groups every four months. He said staff was over identifying with consumers on their work crew where it became "their" group. Some thought consumers would not do well with change; however they have done really well. He also said he met with his staff to find out why they do what they do; what are some of the challenges they face and what would make them better in what they do and asked what they wanted their future to look like. He said the responses were very good. Most said they like what they do and feel like they have value. He said staff has a tough job and often we do not have the resources we need. He said he is working hard to motivate them and bring their performance up from a "c" to a "b" or a "b" to an "a" and we will continue to be proactive to do our jobs better. Ms. Gruber asked that he keep board members updated on the results. Mr. Love thanked board members for their support and said he would welcome any suggestions.

Ms. Wagner passed out suggestions from staff that would be good issues to talk to the legislatures about. She reviewed the topics, said they were not in any priority order, and are based on concerns in the different program areas. The Legislative Committee and Public Relations Committee will work together to plan what topics will be discussed and set up a time to meet with Representative Erickson.

The Port Royal Holiday dinners will be held at the Methodist Church in Port Royal. Plans are to have two servings for dinner this year; the first one from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and the second one from 3:00 until 5:00 p.m. All board members should have received invitations and were asked to call the receptionist with the time they plan to attend and how many will be attending.

Ms. Wagner said the County Tree Lighting ceremony was held last night. Mr. Anderson from Broad River CTH II lit the tree and another consumer from Ivy Lane CTH II joined the four ladies singing Christmas Carols. The day program prepared gift bags and a very large card signed by all consumers for council members thanking them for our new building.

Ms. Wagner said we have been approved for a new early intervention position and are in the process on interviewing for the vacant positions and the new position. Ms. Wagner said we have three very good applicants. Hopefully they will be able to start the first part of January. We are also interviewing for the vacant Admin. Tech position that has been vacant since July.

Ms. Wagner met with the funding committee and passed out the information to board members. She said there is an additional 5% cut and she is not sure how that will affect SCDDSN. She said suggestions were made that this cut would not reflect on the services to consumers.

VII. FOUNDATION REPORT – Grace Dennis

Ms. Dennis said the meeting continues monthly, although attendance is down. The sale of the ornaments is going well. She said altogether they have been an easy sell. She said we need to continue to encourage additional membership to ABLE and selling ornaments and note cards.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

~Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair

- Nothing to report

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

- No new directives presented for review.

~Public Relations Committee, Ann Wirz, Chair

- Ms. Wirz said she is putting out information on the note cards and has distributed the bookmarks to doctor's offices. The Public Relations committee will meet to talk about continued distribution of ornaments and note cards and work on getting some grants. The foundation will have their retreat the early part of January.

~Legislative Committee, Beverly Dore, Chair

- Ms. Dore said a meeting would be scheduled to review the topics of discussion with Representative Erickson and then schedule a time that she can meet with our group. She asked that the group meet with her after the meeting to schedule a time.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

The next Board Meeting will be held on January 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. at PEP on Hilton Head.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 15, 2009 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Santagati, Chair

Date

Beverly Smith-Dore, Secretary

Date