

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

March 18, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White, Jill Striebinger, Ann Wirz and Morris Campbell (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Ann Gatch and Jill Striebinger

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Jonathan Brown, Chairman
Mr. Collar, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS
There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 18, 2014 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE MARCH 18, 2014 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jonathan Brown, Chairman
Ms. Wagner said Ms. Alston, February Employee of the Month, was on leave and will be recognized during the April meeting. She said Ms. Alston is an excellent employee. She has been with DSN for many years and is a Training Specialist in the Day Program.

The following board members were present at the council meetings listed below. All were recognized by the council members and received the Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamations. Proclamations will be on display in the DSN Conference Room.

City of Beaufort	March 11 @ 7:00	Grace Dennis
Town of Port Royal	March 12 @ 6:30	Ann Wirz, Mikel Swinton and the Gatch family
Town of Bluffton	March 11 @ 6:00	Bobby Collar and David Green
Hilton Head	March 04 @ 4:00	Nancy Pinkerton
County Council	March 10 @ 5:00	Gardenia Simmons-White

Mr. Brown said he received letters from County Council reappointing Ms. Gatch and Ms. Dennis to another term on the Advisory Board. He mentioned that the Advisory Board still has two vacancies and said we have one prospect in mind. Ms. Striebinger mentioned that she spoke with George Marshall who expressed interest in board membership. Ms. Wagner invited him to our meeting. She said she met him when he went with us to do the presentation for some of the legislators. He

has a son with Down syndrome and has been a former CEO in several places in Georgia. She said he would be a great addition to the Advisory Board. Mr. Wagner suggested we submit a letter to County Council recommending Mr. Marshall for appointment to the Advisory Board.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner asked Mr. Green to share the comments from Ms. Michelle Knight at the Bluffton Council meeting. He said he stayed after receiving the proclamation from the Bluffton Council when they started talking about the Block Grant budget for the town of Bluffton and the various uses of that funding was to be basically put toward roadways, transportation, sewer, water, etc. and there were questions between the council and Michelle Knight to the County Administrator of that program. One of the examples Ms. Knight used was "if Beaufort County DSN was going to extend services to an area that didn't have either roadway access or sewer and water when they needed it if the funding could be used to fund that type of access, sewer and water for economic development and affordable type housing and that type of thing". He said that was one of her three examples and felt it was significant with what is going on with DSN right now in Bluffton.

Ms. Wagner said the four gentlemen moved into the Cottage Walk facility on Monday, March 10. She said it was an exciting day, a little chaotic with boxes everywhere. They are all very happy and excited. Staff has told us how happy and pleased the gentlemen are. There was one mishap. Staff had an accident in the vehicle the Sunday before they moved in. They were taking some boxes over to the house and staff was making a left hand turn onto Sam's Point Road and was hit by an oncoming car. There were no injuries.

Ms. Wagner said we are planning to have an open house on April 24 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. Ms. Striebinger will work with our internal Social Committee to help plan for the open house. Parking will be at Beaufort Academy with a shuttle to take visitors to the home as there is very little parking on Cottage Walk Circle. Please put the date on your calendar and plan to come. She said it would mean a lot to us and would mean a lot to the gentlemen who live there.

Ms. Wagner said April 9 will be our volunteer appreciation day from 2:00 until 3:00 pm. We will be inviting about 100 people who have volunteered over the year and we are excited about that.

Ms. Wagner said we are moving forward with the Bluffton development and are making plans to know exactly where we are headed and will let board members know as we have more information.

Ms. Wagner said we are still working on the 2015 budget. We do not have the exact personnel cost entered and employment services have put staff in and we do not have the monthly costs. The operational costs are entered and anticipate we need about \$429,000 additional money to be able to address these issues. Most of this is salaries and anticipating the possibilities in Bluffton as well as additional staff in our day program due to the growth. She said from 2005 to 2009 day program slots increased from 73 to 97 (33% growth) From 2009 to 2014 increased from 97 to 131 (35% growth) Overall from 2005 to 2014 day program slots increased 79% with finances being cut all at the same time. She said we are also asking for family support coordinators to do more of social work services now that services coordination is doing direct billing. We are hoping those positions will be approved. She asked Ms. Cody to update members with the quarterly report. Ms. Cody handed out copies of the budget as of yesterday (3/17/2014) when she ran the current report. She reviewed each line item on the report and responded to questions.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said he was excited about the changes. There are a lot of things happening around the state and the challenges have allowed us to be creative and look at things differently. He said we are feeling the increase as we are getting more waivers that require us to adjust to that and that is positive. He said he attended a conference last week with administrators and supervisors that caused us to get better as an administrator or supervisor and talk about the best way to protect the business of the individual and the program. It was good to have those discussions that were thoughtful, meaningful, consumer directed, staff directed and professional. He said when you see 89 people get together and try to orchestrate it so that people know that their loved ones are in a program where people are thoughtful and mindful and take care of them. When you see all the changes that are happening things are really in good hands from the common level to the administrative level. He said if he had a child, grandchild or loved one this is the place for them to be.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE REPORT, Grace Dennis, Chair

Ms. Dennis said the Policy Committee reviewed the directives listed on the agenda and asked for board approval of the directives as written

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA-SIMMONS WHITE TO ADOPT THE DIRECTIVES LISTED AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Jill Striebinger, Chair
Ms. Striebinger was not present. No report given.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
A letter of recommendation will be submitted to County Council requesting consideration for board membership. If appointed we would still have one additional vacancy
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
Nothing to report
- 2014 Goals
 1. Informing Parents, Communication with transitions, Bobby Collar, Chair
Mr. Collar said the transitions are from 5th – 6th, 6th – 7th and 8th – 9th in the southern division. He said they are doing away with transition meetings this year other than seniors exiting. He said he spoke with Brenda and she will try to come up with things we can try creatively to get you where you want to be with mainstream public meetings.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown said he tried on several occasions to get in touch with Ms. Gatch but only received a voice mail with no response. He asked board members to continue to pray for the family.

Mr. Campbell said county council is asking for a tax increase this year and will be on the ballot in November. Plans are to upgrade the IT technology and maintain the quality of services in the organization. He also mentioned that council is positive regarding the Bluffton issue and are moving in that direction. He thanked board members for their service and support.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 15, 2014** at 4:00 p.m. at:
Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way, Beaufort, SC 29906

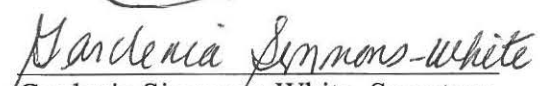
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY BOBBY COLLAR TO ADJOURN
THE MARCH 18, 2014 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.


Jonathan Brown, Chairman

4-15-14
Date


Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

4/15/2014
Date