

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

August 19, 2014

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: George Marshall

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

GUESTS PRESENT: John and Trey Gatch

I. CALL TO ORDER – Jonathan Brown, Chairman  
Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS  
Mr. Brown welcomed Mr. Gatch and Trey Gatch.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 17, 2014 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 17, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 19, 2014 AGENDA  
Ms. Wagner said she would like to add to her report the following items:  
~Budget update – Beth Cody  
~Brain Advantage  
~Bluffton residential  
~Shrimp Festival  
~Health and Human Services

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY BOBBY COLLAR TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 19, 2014 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Ms. Wagner said prior to the meeting board retreat options were discussed. Mr. Collar said the group decided to have the meeting at DSN and agreed on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> with basically the same agenda as last year. Mr. Collar said he was expecting their first child in October and may not be available. Ms. Wagner will contact the speakers and will work with Mr. Collar and Mr. Brown on the details in the meantime. The menu was also discussed and decided to go with the same menu as last year. Further details will be addressed in the October meeting.

Mr. Brown said we also need to begin looking at our goals for 2015. He said he felt we done a great job this past year and asked members to think about the goals for the coming year.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY BOBBY COLLAR TO HAVE THE ANNUAL BOARD RETREAT ON OCTOBER 24, 2014. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Cody distributed copies of the budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year. She reported that we should be at 14% and we are at 14%. Expenditures are at 7% and the revenue is at 9% so we are under budget at the moment. She reviewed each line item and answered questions. Ms. Pinkerton mentioned that she appreciated Ms. Cody's presentation. She puts in it a way that we can understand.

Ms. Wagner distributed copies of the new waiver requests and a draft of what has been presented to CMS. She said the draft also covers the compliance requirements. She explained the requirements and services and specific options that are all geared towards what the consumer wants. She mentioned that there is a great deal of information and would not take the time to go over all of it. Ms. Wagner said HHS is developing two assessments, one for day program and one for residential. Once they have the tools they will let us self-assess our programs and then will make site visits to see what we have and then we will be required to do a compliance plan if we are not in compliance. She asked for questions and responded to those asked. She mentioned that comments and suggestions could be made online. She said HHS will hold their meeting here in October and she will forward further information when received.

Ms. Wagner said we have had a lot of turnover recently with direct care staff and has met with most of our direct staff. She distributed copies of the suggestions she has received from those meetings. She said from those suggestions we put together an action plan of things we are going to address. She said some of the trainers give examples of consumer behavior issues and our newly hired staff are getting the misconception that all consumers have behavior issues. This is one example of why we had training for supervisors. We have put requirements in place for new people to include things we should address on the first day before they start their new job addressing misconceptions. We will follow up on a regular basis to see how they like their job with plans to carry on with regular assessments. She said we have a committee that will work for ways we can provide incentives for staff. She said we are also going to have a TV monitor placed in the reception area that will continuously run different things that are going on at DSN. Mr. Love said we will recognize consumers and staff quarterly and that will also be placed on the TV monitor.

Ms. Wagner said we are working on a grant to help fund a project that will provide equipment, assessment and treatment here in our facility for individuals with ADHD and early stages of Alzheimer's and other behavior issues. We think it will make a difference with some of our consumers as it assesses the amount of activity in the brain, where that activity is and helps through computerized programming and will help target those behaviors so you can focus and control your emotions better. The grant is called Brain Advantage. Our psychiatrist will recommend those he feels may benefit from the program, an assessment will be done and an appropriate program will be developed for that individual. The treatments will last about an hour and is something we can do here in our facility. She said we are excited about the opportunity to try something new and different.

Ms. Wagner said the ABLE Foundation will be at the Shrimp Festival on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and is asking for help to cover some of the time frames. If anyone can help out from 11:00 until 2:30 on Saturday and one person from 2:30 until 6:00 p.m. If anyone is willing to help they would certainly appreciate it.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Striebinger reminded members that Fat Paddies is donating a portion of their proceeds tonight to the ABLE Foundation so please stop by after the meeting for dinner.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 21, 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 NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO  
ADJOURN THE AUGUST 19, 2014 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

  
Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Robert Collar, Vice Chairman

9-16-14  
Date

Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

Date