

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
December 16, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Robert Collar, Grace Dennis, DeWayne Frederick, Margaret Ann Gatch, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, George Marshall, Jill Striebinger, Ann Wirz, Morris Campbell (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gardenia Simmons-White

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner, Bill Love, Beth Cody, Monica Spells, Janice Beach

GUESTS PRESENT: John and Trey Gatch

I. CALL TO ORDER – Robert Collar, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Collar called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS
Mr. Collar welcomed Mr. Gatch and Trey Gatch and asked Mr. Campbell to introduce Monica Spells.

Mr. Campbell introduced Monica Spells as the new Assistant County Administrator for the County's Civic Engagement and Outreach area. She will be working with the Board and Mitzi as he transitions to a new career.

Ms. Spells gave a little of her background. Ms. Spells said she has been with the county for four years as the County Compliance Officer. For the past three years she has worked closely with Administration on how we can reorganize certain areas of the county and most recently the Civic Engagement and Outreach area and part of that being the Community Services function which has been excellently led by Morris Campbell for many years. She said we are looking to bring more attention to what the Board does, more support. Like Morris, she will function as the liason for the Board and Mitzi and she looks forward to continuing all the great work the board has been doing.

The board members went around the room and introduced themselves to Ms. Spells and told her how long they have served on the board and what their backgrounds are.

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

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

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2014 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE TO ADOPT THE DECEMBER 16, 2014 AGENDAWITH NO ADDITIONS.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jonathan Brown, Chairman
Jonathan said that everyone has a copy of the "Conflict of Interest" form that Mitzi needs to have you sign and turn in.

Jonathan said everyone should have received a legislative letter by email. It was drawn up by the committee (Jill, David, Mitzi and myself) that met last week, from the Board to the Beaufort County Legislative Delegation. The resolution is requesting a proviso be written to retain the total amount of proceeds from the sale of the Port Royal CRCF to be applied to the purchase, construction and/or renovation of new DSN residential facilities. Jonathan explained that if Port Royal were to be sold that as it stands now, all proceeds would go to the State. Nancy Pinkerton supported the resolution. The resolution was passed around for signatures.

MOTION WAS MADE BY ANN WIRZ AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION AS WRITTEN.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner introduced Beth Cody, Fiscal Operations Manager for DSN, to give our quarterly report on finances. Ms. Cody gave everyone a copy of the DSN budget year to date up to December 2nd. She said we should be at 42% of the budget as of December 2nd. We are at 41% in personnel, 33% in purchased services, 25% in supplies, and 817% in capital outlay. That is high because we bought two houses. Overall we are at 46%. Revenue is at 49%.

Nancy Pinkerton asked if the vehicle purchase was for one or two vehicles. Ms. Cody stated that the budget was for one vehicle for potential Day Program in Bluffton.

Ms. Wagner added that we will be purchasing new vehicles. We are retiring the Goshen bus because it has been very expensive to operate. It needs a new motor and the repairs have been unbelievable over the last couple of years. It is going to need to be replaced. We have been borrowing vehicles from residences and doubling up on routes to get by. Beth does a reconciliation at the end of the year and it has to show that we spent state money first and then from the fund balance. As it currently is any money we have not spent from the state will go back as a back payment to South Carolina. All those rules will be going away in the future. We are starting to see the benefits of the controversy between Health and Human Services and SCDDSN and the more appropriate allocation funding. We will receive back payments as far back as 2010. We don't know when or how much.

Ms. Wagner stated that we completed our ALLIANT review about a month ago. We got our score last week which was 97.8% compliant. Last year we were 98.1% so we are only a few points different. We are very proud of staff. The average score in the state last year was 70% compliance and we were 98.1%. You can't get much better than that. They found several small things, but not about the care of the clients. It was in the paperwork. Many thanks go out to Webby Dyches, our Quality Assurance Coordinator. The yearly survey results are in and they are very positive overall. We will have a copy for you at the next meeting.

We are moving forward with the Bluffton houses. We don't have the architect drawings yet. They are working on them and we should have something soon. We have gone to SCDDSN and presented nine possible candidates who wanted to move in. Out of those they found eight to be critical that could move in. We have designated 4 women and 4 men to move in the houses. One young lady was living with her mother who is in her 90's in a retirement center. The young lady fell and broke her hip while she was in the retirement center with her mother. She is now in a rehab center and has completed her rehab but has no place to go. The retirement center won't take her back. The rehab center wants her out. The mom is in her 90's and there is no one else to care for her. She is coming to our Day Program. She is a delightful middle aged lady.

Another lady is living with her mother who is in her 80's and has some severe health problems. She will be moving in the ladies home. Another one is a young lady who has had a lot of difficulty with her home situation. There are some mental health issues as well as disability issues following a stroke. Up until that point she was able to function very well but following the stroke it has affected some of her functioning and there are some targeted behaviors toward her family. Last, there is a young lady who attends PEP. Her parents are in their 70's and have health issues and have requested placement. They are one of the families we first talked to when we started planning the house in Bluffton in 2008.

One of the gentlemen is in a nursing home living with his father. While living there he began to mimic the older people who live there. He also comes to the Day Program. Another young man lives with his family and has aggressive behaviors towards his mother which relates to his Fragile X disability. He will be moving in as his family cannot continue to care for him. For mom's protection he needs to get away from that relationship. Another young man is autistic. He has been bounced back and forth between his parents. Another young man is critical. Both parents have health issues. Dad has cancer and it is very possible he is not going to make it. The fourth one wasn't critical when we started with him but now his situation is becoming more critical. Dad has Parkinson's as well as diabetes and other issues. Mom had cancer and is in recovery. She has had cancer three times. Last week I got a call and mom has massive cancer and probably has six months to live.

The reason I described the situations is because I want you to understand how critical it is for people to have residential services and what that purchase means to those families. It means life or death and for the individuals we serve it means quality of life.

In terms of residential, we have some sad news as well. At Port Royal there are two individuals who are having health issues. One has been in and out of the hospital about four times in the last 90 days. The hospital has said that basically her brain functioning is shutting down and she is not able to control her body heating and cooling. She is not going to get better and she needs to be kept where the temperature can be kept in the 80's. She is going to be living at the Coastal Center where there is a doctor on staff and RNs on staff where they have the capability of that intensive care. We also have a gentleman at our Port Royal facility that has been in a lot of our facilities. He has dementia and Alzheimer's. He has been with us a long time. He is at the point that we have kept him as long as we can. We can't continue to care for him so he will be going to a special care facility. We are looking at one in Walterboro for people with Alzheimers as they are nearing the end of their functioning.

Ms. Wagner mentioned we have had several celebrations that some of you have been able to attend. We had a potluck lunch for staff where we gave out incentives that the incentive committee had suggested to recognize staff. Our pins for years of service had not come in so we are going to each program's meeting over the next month and give them to staff. Day Program had their Christmas celebration for consumers last Friday. It was great and I am sure they will be talking about it. Thank you, those of you who were here, for your support. We really appreciate that. You got to see us at our best which is with the consumers. We just found out today that a consumer who was with us for quite a while died in the nursing home.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love stated we have had a 25% increase in our population since last December. People are relocating here because of services. Families are calling here from all over the country saying they

are going to relocate to Hilton Head or the coast and they have loved ones with disabilities and they want to see what the services are. Families are coming better educated and wanting more. They are interviewing us. I am impressed with the kind of questions they are asking. They are saying they want to make sure where they put their loved ones has the kind of skills and services that will make sure they have a better quality of life.

As we grow, we have to travel a lot more because we have to provide transportation. We go to Hilton Head and Fripp Island and everywhere else in between. Because of that we are using our vehicles a lot. We have a relationship with Palmetto Breeze. They have two of our routes. We put in for a grant hopefully that will continue. Transportation is a real issue. A large percentage of our vehicles have over 100,000 miles on them. That is a real challenge.

I talked with Mark Roseneau about our sign. Our sign should be here by the end of the month. We are excited about that. It has been a long time coming. We have a special relationship with Heroes on Horseback. We have started a seven to eight week trial program with them and it is working out really well. For individuals with autism it is making a real difference. We are also developing a relationship with Special Olympics. We are doing some bowling. They came and did physicals for some of our consumers. They developed a relationship with our local bowling alley so twice a month some of our consumers can go over and bowl.

The state told us there was \$600,000 for grants and we have applied for some of it. They are putting the emphasis on Autism. There were four areas we had to focus on. We have artists from out of state coming to set this up for local artists to come and use this building as a canvas. We are confident we will get some of that \$600,000.

A lot is going on in the Day Program. We have 24 – 30 people participating in our Breakers program. That is very positive. There are only three boards in the state that got the grants to do the Breakers program. There is a commitment from the state that when we get to Bluffton that we do a Breakers II. So they have confidence in what we do. Thank you guys for your continued support.

Mitzi said Bill was responsible for the gifts to County Council and he did a presentation for those gifts to County Council a couple of weeks ago. He did a fantastic job and all I have heard is how appreciative they were. The consumers that were there did a good job too.

VIII. POLICY COMMITTEE, Grace Dennis

Ms. Dennis said the Policy Committee reviewed the two directives listed on the agenda. She said it amazes her how detailed these procedures are, especially the Financial Management of Consumers Funds. She recommended Board approve these. They are submitted for your information.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee
~Position is still open
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
~Nothing to report
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
~Mr. Green said the main thing was the resolution that we signed today. Someone needs to write a cover letter to go with it. Mitzi will write one on behalf of the Board.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments

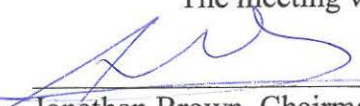
At this point Mr. Brown asked Mitzi and Morris to leave the room so that the Board could discuss something privately. When they returned Mr. Campbell said the last month has been a very interesting month here for us at DSN and the county. Thank you all for your support. Monica is going to be a big asset. She is a hard worker. Please keep advocating for DSN.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 20, 2015** at 4:00 p.m. at:
Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way, Beaufort, SC 29906

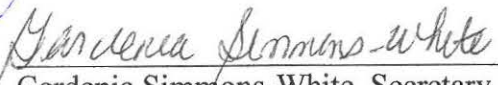
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY JILL STRIEBINGER TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 16TH MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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


Jonathan Brown, Chairman

1-20-15
Date


Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

1-20-15
Date