

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

April 19, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, David Green, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Priscilla Drake

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Wanda Mayse, Beth Cody, Cherie Scoggins

GUESTS PRESENT: Danielle Quat, York Glover

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Russo welcomed our guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2021 AND FEBRUARY 15, 2022 BOARD MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2021. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDY THACKER AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 19, 2022 AGENDA

THE AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022 WAS APPROVED WITH A COUPLE OF CHANGES BY MR. LOVE.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo welcomed our newest member, Mary Ann Radke, to the Board.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

Mr. Love welcomed Mr. York Glover to the meeting and said that Danielle Quat and Galen Sturup Comeau have been approved as members by County Council. We are waiting now on Governor McMaster's approval.

- A. Staff Reports – Budget - Beth Cody said we are 77% of the way through this fiscal year. We have brought in 60% of our revenue and we have 72% of our expenditures. Everything is pretty much in order. Revenue does come in a little bit slowly as we are waiting for some things to transition, including the money that Bill mentioned. DHHS has sent us \$186,000 to do the transition to direct billing. We have just started our new billing process this month. I am super pleased with how our staff has responded to the new challenges. Our first week of billing, April 1st – April 8th, our total billing submission for one week was \$119,580. I went back to 2019 when we were totally full, and we received \$113,599 per week in day and residential. I am confident everything is going to work out. We have also billed our first week of case management and they did well too.

Mr. Love said that Beth and her staff has put a lot of work into this to make it work. Every direct care worker had to be trained and Beth did a great job of getting people online to be able to do that. Another thing I wanted to let you all know is that we will begin to increase the number of consumers in the day program by 10. We had held off because of staffing issues but we are doing a little better with that.

Early Intervention - Cherie Scoggins said that Early Intervention has been doing well. The past two months we have had an influx in referrals. We had 17 referrals in February and 14 in March. We are providing 189 children with early intervention services. All the early intervention staff participated in a two-day virtual training which was very heavy on ADHD and autism. We feel confident that we got a wealth of knowledge from that training. We have just hired a new early interventionist that is going to be working out of the Bluffton office. She just started to see kids over the past week. Two areas we are working on in early intervention that is causing some issues with children in the community are providers for speech, OT, and PT. There are just not enough providers to go around for all of the kids. The majority of Baby Net pays for services that are in natural environments and there are no providers to go into the home. The other area we are having a problem with is our early interventionists have to provide services in the natural environment. They need to go into the home and into childcare centers. A number of the childcare centers do not want us going into their facilities because of Covid. We are still fighting that battle. They will allow us in the facility, but we have to do family training in hallways or offices and unfortunately, we cannot bill for those settings. They will not allow us in the classrooms.

Day Program – Mr. Love said that Terry Geitner is not on the meeting today because of a reduced workday schedule. He added that the day program is doing well. We are increasing the number of consumers coming to the day program by 10. What they are working on now is where. They have set up stations (technology stations, grocery store, financial stations, etc.) and consumers will be at one station for 40 minutes and then go to another station. This will give staff an opportunity to meet different consumers that have different responsibilities. I think it is going to enhance the services we provide. It should work out well.

- B. Earth Day – Mr. Love said tomorrow is Earth Day. We have about 19 individuals going out to help pick up trash along the highways. We have all the equipment and the resources to go out to work in the community. The areas we are to clean and pick up trash has been identified. I am pleased that a number of administrators are going to go out and help, as well as some of our consumers.

- C. FMAP Money and Transition Payment – Mr. Love said we encouraged to apply for some federal money and to use some of the money to go out and try to recruit and retain and do some public relations work for ways of retaining and recruiting individuals. I contacted a public relations firm, and they wrote up a plan for us. I submitted that to the state, and they approved it. They sent us \$62,298 to go ahead and start moving forward. The agency we are going to be working with is going to get about \$7,000 a month to do some of the retention things. She will be working with some of our staff here and with the personnel office and informing them of some of the things we are doing. Beth talked a little about the transition money to help us transition to direct billing. We got \$186,000.
- D. Nurse – Mr. Love said our nurse resigned a couple of weeks ago. She did say she is willing to come back and do some training for us if needed.
- E. News of Note – Mr. Love said he sent you an email that we get from the county called “News of Note”. Do you want to continue to get it? It is just interesting articles about what is going on in and around the county.
- F. Speaking Engagement – Mr. Love said he will be speaking Thursday at the Northern Beaufort County Democratic Club. They called me and wrote to me and wanted to know what kind of services we’re providing to individuals with disabilities. They wanted me to come down and talk about some of the services we’re providing. It is not a political situation at all. They are just concerned that we are meeting the needs of individuals with disabilities. I appreciate the opportunity they are going to give us and that they think it is worthy to discuss.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Health/Safety/Staffing - Census - Ms. Mayse said we are continuing to be challenged with staffing shortage, though it is not evident in the quality of services that we continue to provide. The compliance review team has been out of the facility so long because of the pandemic we are getting desktop reviews. Now they are coming back and doing partial face to face and partial desktop reviews. It seems like they are here a couple of times a month. So far, we are doing well. We’re compliant. So much so that they are coming up with things that are not affecting the health and safety of the consumers. We have increased our community activities. The consumers are getting out more, but we are still being cautious. We had an Easter social for the consumers this weekend and they really enjoyed that. In addition to Beth and how she manages the money, she supports across the agency. She worked with us on Saturday to help us with the social. That is outside the direct scope of what she should be doing. We were short in our management staff and that position is key. We have rehired one staff member that will be a supervisor and a new staff member. To be in a supervisor’s position it is important to help the staff keep on top of what’s going on. Though a lot of the things we would like to be doing, because some of the supervisors are working a lot of direct care, we really want to push efforts as much as we can. That is why I think this FMAP money will assist us that way. Our supervisors and managers can get back into the business or working on programming. But things are going well. We are preparing for Alliant. We’re not sure exactly when they are coming but we expect the soon enough for the agency review.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Lynn Russo, Chair, Wendy Bukowski, Co-Chair

There were no policies or directives listed for review.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair –Nothing to report
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing to report
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair – Mr. Green said he did not have anything to report, other than a number of people locally participated in the advocacy day at the state house. From what I heard, there was more getting to the legislators and talking to them about the real issues that are out there than in previous years. Hopefully some good things will come out of that.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

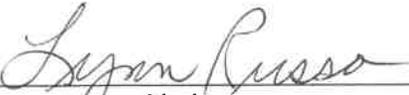
Ms. Russo said our June meeting will be in person at the DSN building.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on **June 28, 2022**:

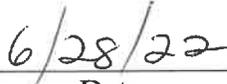
**100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:32 PM.



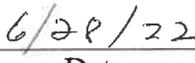
Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date