

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
February 4, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Mary Ann Radke, Galen Sturup Comeau, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lea Cifranick-McFadden,, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Fredricka Williamson, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Wanda Mayse, Beth Cody, Coe Keefer, Cherie Scoggins, Ava White, Deb Georgens

GUESTS PRESENT: Billy Keyserling, Dan Durbin

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Russo welcomed our guests, Mr. Keyserling and Mr. Durbin.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup> AND DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> AND DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2024 MEETINGS. A MOTION WAS MADE BY WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY GALEN STURUP-COMEAU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF BOTH MEETINGS. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY ANN RADKE AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo asked for a discussion about appointing a new chairman. Mr. Galen Sturup Comeau asked what the duties of the chairman are. Ms. Russo explained what the chairman does. Mr. Comeau agreed that he would become the new chairman. Ms. Russo volunteered to be Vice-Chairman. A vote was taken and everyone approved.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

Mr. Love introduced Mr. Keyserling and Mr. Durbin to the board. Mr. Keyserling gave a little of his background. He is a native of Beaufort County. He went away for 26 years; spent 20 years on Capitol Hill working as an aide or running the international Human Rights Group. He came back home and was elected to state legislature and served two terms. He was on the city council then served three terms as Mayor. All he knew about disabilities was it was a budget

item on the state budget and he knew Grace Dennis, who has a disabled daughter. That is what disabilities were for him. Mr. Keyserling said he was involved and was executive producer of a film about an incredible young man. At 31 he was an intellectual leader in Japan. He was American born and had every kind of disability you can imagine growing up. He became one of the most well-known people on the issues of disabilities, mostly mobility. Mr. Keyserling spent about an hour and a half on a Zoom with him and they made a film about it. Two months after the film was shot, but not edited, he died at 31. His sister had a similar disease, and she died two years after he did. Talking to him, I realized there is a whole class of people in this country who have been totally discarded, ignored, and taught that they have no worth. Mr. Keyserling is blind, and he shared some of the issues he has faced with his disability.

Mr. Durbin came to Beaufort as principal of Beaufort High School, he created a charter school in Indiana that was high school of the year. It was called Signature School; all you had to do was sign your name and you were in. Paul Bookman, father of Mark Bookman, who is the Dr. Bookman in the film, has created a foundation in his son's name and has named Mr. Durbin as the executive director. When Mark Bookman died, his father wanted there to be something that would continue the work he was doing. They had already started the Glide Fund. That was grants that young college students could get to go study abroad. Mr. Keyserling came up with the idea of changing the name to the Mark Bookman Foundation. The film that was produced is called Mark Bookman: A Call to Action. Fifth Third Bank will host a premier of the film and they would like you to collaborate with them to bring awareness to the community of the challenges people with disabilities face daily and make them aware of the services available to them.

- A. Department Updates – Budget – Beth Cody said we are 59% of the way through the fiscal year. Revenue is 49% and total expenditure is 55%. There is nothing unusual. The second sheet of paper is the FY25 vs FY26 proposed budget.

EI/Case Management – Ms. Scoggins said we have been providing Waiver Case Management services to clients outside of Beaufort County. We have decided to primarily serve Beaufort County and some Jasper County. We have mostly provided case management to individuals that utilize the Community Supports Waiver and the ID/RD Waiver. We have opened the service to provide case management for individuals on the HASCI Waiver. Over the next month we are looking to provide cases for about 34 new waiver clients.

Nursing – Ava White – Ms. White introduced Deb Georgens who is the new part time RN. She will be helping us with training in the houses for med audits and medication errors. Ms. White said falls stay around 5 – 7 per month. Med errors went down from 29 in December to 7 in January.

Day Program – Mr. Coe Keefer attended the meeting for Mr. Geitner. Mr. Keefer said he met with the director of Special Ed services for Beaufort County Schools, three of her Special Ed coordinators, and the gentleman responsible for all the HR activities on Parris Island. They are planning to come up with an activity where they get all the parents of people receiving services in Beaufort County Schools together. There are 2400 kids in the program. We are talking preliminary about getting an event together trying to get all the families, the kids, the providers, us, the state people and try to help get them eligible for our services and let them know what is available.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Frankie Middleton, Chair, Wendy Bukowski, Co-Chair

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair – N/A
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – N/A
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, Galen Sturup Comeau, Chair - NA

X. PUBLIC COMMENT


Mr. Sturup Comeau thanked everyone for trusting him with the chairman position.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on **April 15, 2025, at 4:00 PM:**

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:00 PM.

  
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Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

4/15/2025  
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Date

  
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Lynn Russo, Vice-Chairman

4/15/25  
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Date