

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
April 21, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Faye Alston, Wendy Bukowski, Galen Sturup Comeau, Frankie Middleton, Justin Palmer, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lea Cifranick-McFadden, Mary Ann Radke, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Beth Cody, Terry Geitner, Cherie Scoggins, Wanda Mayse, Ava White

GUESTS PRESENT: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER – Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

Mr. Comeau called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2026, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2026 MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY LYNN RUSSO AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF APRIL 21, 2026, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2026. A MOTION WAS MADE WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY LYNN RUSSO TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

Mr. Sturup Comeau asked the members present who attended council meetings to receive the proclamations for Disabilities Awareness Month about how the meetings went. Everyone said they received positive feedback. It was a great way to get the clients out to be seen and show people what we do. All municipalities were happy with the individuals attending the meetings.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

A. Department Updates – Finance/Budget - Beth Cody – Ms. Cody said we are 77% of the way through this fiscal year. Revenue is showing at 69%, but we are a month behind in billing, so it looks like revenue is down. Once billing is posted, this number will come up. Expenses are 74%. Everything looks really good. Mr. Comeau asked what vehicle was bought. Ms. Cody said we purchased a minivan for Cottage Walk.

Nursing – Ava White – Ms. White said during the months of February and March the agency encountered a spread of RSV and various other upper respiratory infections. All

clients received appropriate medical evaluation and care. Medical orders were followed as prescribed and all clients are at their baseline. There were a few hospitalizations in March:

- One client with ongoing gastrointestinal issues, currently at baseline.
- One client with ongoing syncopal episodes and altered behavior, which we now believe to be possible “absence” seizures. Client is currently stable on an antiepileptic drug.
- One client with diagnosis of RSV with hypoxia, currently stable.

All clients received appropriate medical care, all medical orders were followed, and each client has recovered well and remains stable.

Psychotropic Drug Review (PDR) clinics continue under the direction of Dr. Gonzalez. PDR clinic on March 19, 2026, there was one medication adjustment indicated at the time. Evan D. medication decreased from 20 mg to 10 mg at the request of his mother. Due to increased maladaptive behaviors, this was increased back to 20 mg on 3/19/26. Our most recent PDR clinic was held on 4/16/26 with no medication adjustments. Clients are closely monitored.

Day Program – Terry Geitner – Mr. Geitner said they are very busy. They have a lot of activities going on. Staffing is short but they are keeping the clients active and involved in the community. They have gone crabbing and are doing cooking classes with Kelly’s Kitchen. The literary person just came back and started up again. We have one staff transferring to Residential and there is a residential staff transferring to the Day Program.

EI/Case Management – Cherie Scoggins – Ms. Scoggins said they just completed the National Core Indicators survey. They take a random number of clients and ask them questions. The survey is 32 pages long. USC comes out and meets with the clients and makes sure they are satisfied with services. We had 36-38 clients participate. All my staff, and maybe some others, attended a one-day training on Autism in Columbia. It was very good and they got a lot of good information. I was contacted by Coastal Empire mobile unit to set up a meeting to collaborate with us.

- B. State Meeting – Mr. Love attended the state meeting last week. There are many issues – retention, recruitment, etc. All have the same issues but without county support. DSN homes are in excellent condition. There are concerns about the governor leaving. They are concerned about how disruptive or supportive that will be. DSN has not been happy with the state. The state is providing more training opportunities. Mr. Comeau asked who the top-level person is at DSN in Columbia. It is Constance Holloway.
- C. Community Meeting – Mr. Love said it is time to do the Community Review of the Bluffton homes. He will get that set up.
- D. Kibu Training – Mr. Love said Kibu is a program on how to help run programs. It is for staff and clients. A couple of providers at the state meeting are using it and they say it is very effective.

- E. Concerns – Mr. Thacker asked what all the digging in front of our home on Little Capers Road was all about. Ms. Cody said it is BJWSA.
- F. Mr. Love passed out a report he just received from the state about the National Core Indicators (NCI) State of the Workforce Survey. It talks about salaries, turnover and tenure and demographics. This is an annual survey as well. This was the report for 2024. 2025 will be due by June 30, 2025.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

Ms. Mayse said we have two vacancies. We had three but one has been filled. R. Young's death left a vacancy at Bostick Circle CTH. We moved K. Reese to Bostick because her sister thought she needed more supervision than what she got at Waddell. That left a vacancy at Waddell which was filled with a lady from Hilton Head. We had another death, W. Rooks, which leaves a vacancy at Deanne CTH. We had a client at Center CTH who was moved to another facility because his care became more than we could manage, so we have a vacancy there. We are being cautious of who we fill those vacancies with because of staff shortage. Staffing is better than it has been, but we are still short. We have had three house manager resignations – one due to family situation (he stepped down to direct care), one due to caregiver issues, and one is going to school full-time. Everything is going well. There are viruses going around. Licensing is going well. We remain in the high 90's with our license compliance reviews.

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 – N/A

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

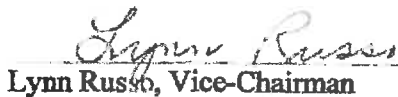
- XI. The next board meeting will be held on July 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM:

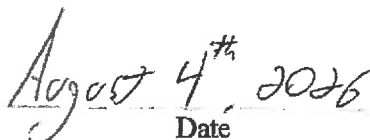
**100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:00 PM.


Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman


Lynn Russo, Vice-Chairman


Date


Date