

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Faye Alston, Wendy Bukowski, Lea Cifranick-McFadden, Frankie Middleton, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Galen Sturup Comeau, Justin Palmer, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Bailey Kalvar

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Vice-Chairman

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

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Russo welcomed Ms. Kalvar who is awaiting governor's approval to be a member of our Board.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2026, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2026 MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY ANN RADKE AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF JULY 21, 2026, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF JULY 21, 2026. 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, Vice-Chairman

Ms. Russo asked if anyone had any comments. Ms. Radke expressed how well the County Council meeting went when she was there to pick up the proclamation in March.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

A. Department Updates – Finance/Budget - Beth Cody – Ms. Cody said MCOs for our billing (Managed Care Organizations) is a difference in how our individuals are supported by Medicaid. As of now, DSN bills directly to Medicaid for Day Program service units. We bill \$41.63, we get paid directly by Medicaid \$41.63. What the state is moving towards is what other states in our area are doing. Individuals will be members of a healthcare organization and that healthcare plan will pay for their services. For instance, if Bill had Blue Cross as his healthcare provider, we would bill Blue Cross and be paid by Blue Cross. It will change how the individuals are on their waivers. We received a 1% pay raise across the County on July 1, which will be reflected in the first full pay period of this month for cost of living. After this, the county is implementing a

merit-based pay increase for an additional 2-4% depending on your performance evaluation score. Performance evaluations are based on the date you started your current position. Our end of the year budget shows revenue was 99% and expenses were 93%. The other paper compares 2026 vs 2027 budget. The bulk of the increase is that we are getting two minivans for residential and two transits for Day.

Nursing – Deb Georgens – Ms. Georgens said our clients are medically stable at this time. We had two wound care individuals who have healed. It is hot so we are keeping everyone hydrated. In July there were 3 falls (2 were the same client). There were 11 med errors. 10 were because of a missing drug that we were waiting for insurance approval.

Day Program – Terry Geitner – Mr. Geitner said they have a lot of outings and field trips. We are anticipating an audit in July/August. We are doing prep work for that. We have a lot of staff out. Staffing is always a challenge. We are in the final phases of the kitchen renovations. That will be a big change. It looks very good. We still have our usual activities ongoing - Pet Therapy, Veterans meeting every other week, Ms. Bander comes and reads to the clients. Project Lifesaver Training was held by the sheriff's office informing clients about transformers for tracking individuals.

EI/Case Management – Cherie Scoggins – Ms. Scoggins said everything is going well in Early Intervention and Case Management. Our interpreter resigned due to getting a new job and they don't allow her to do outside work. We have a new interpreter we are working with. Family Outcome Survey – out of the 70 surveys that were sent out, 43 were completed. Overall, we did very well with the survey.

- B. Too many changes can interfere with communications.
- C. New Employees – Mr. Love and Ms. Mayse have begun meeting with new staff every 2, 4, and 6 months after hire date just to see how things are going. Communication is always an issue. Overall, we have a good program.
- D. Project Lifesaver Training – Mr. Love said the sheriff's department came out and did training for clients and staff.
- E. Emerging Leaders Peer Performance Nominations – This was not discussed.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Census - Ms. Mayse said everything is going well in Residential. We are down two slots. We had one admission, but he had more psychiatric challenges than we could manage. He came to us from Bryan Psychiatric so that is where he went back. We have one pending admission, a local person that we previously served in the Day Program.
- B. Staffing – Staffing is the same. We are still working within a staffing shortage.
- C. Licensure of Homes – Compliance wise we are doing well. The last three licensing reviews we had 100% compliance. Chloe Way is having an issue with a neighbor involving encroachment of service workers who are going to the house to do work. The neighbor is not happy about it, and we are working to get the matter resolved.

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

Ms. Radke brought up the case that was discussed at one of our previous meetings about an individual who was tried for killing someone and found guilty and has been on death row for 16 years. The Supreme Court finally ruled he was not competent and is not guilty.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on October 20, 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
Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

10/15/2026

Date

Lynn Russo
Lynn Russo, Vice-Chairman

10/15/2026
Date