

D. Paul Sommerville, Vice Chairman  
February 24, 2010  
DSN Groundbreaking

Good morning. I'm Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman. On behalf of Chairman Weston Newton it is my pleasure to welcome you this morning. Chairman Newton had a personal emergency and could not be with us this morning.

I am pleased to introduce my fellow councilmen and Deputy County Administrator Bryan Hill, County Administrator Gary Kubic sends his best wishes. He had a previous commitment made several months ago. I would also like to introduce Mr. Rufus Britt, District 2 Director of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, Ms. Liz Santagati, Chairman of our Beaufort County DSN Advisory Board, Port Royal Mayor Sam Murray, who is Vice Chairman of the ABLE Foundation, Architect Dinos Liollo, Contractor Emory Infinger, Port Royal Town Manager Van Willis, Mr. Morris Campbell, Director of Beaufort County Human Services and Mitzi Wagner, Director of Beaufort County DSN, Mr. Michael Swenton, Chairman of the consumer advocacy group, members of the Love House Ministry choir, the Reverend Cushingberry and the Reverend Steve Keeler. Reverend Keeler would you please lead us in the invocation?

It is my pleasure to present a musical selection from the Love House Ministry Choir.

Thank you, Choir. Today, we mark a new era in service to a special population of Beaufort County citizens.

The Beaufort County Adult Day Services Center includes 25,600 square feet in a one-story design intended to serve approximately 100 adults, ages 19 to 99, with both mental and physical disabilities.

The project consists of three separate structures with a Lowcountry aesthetic, which forms a campus on this 10-acre site. The Administration Building also serves as the public reception area for the center. It will contain offices, meeting rooms, a kitchen, and a large, versatile conference and training room that can also be used for community events.

The Day Program Building has a welcoming, private-entry canopy and locker area, a 5,000 plus square-foot, multi-purpose activity room with training rooms, a dining facility and nursing care, as well as offices directly related to those services.

The third building is a pottery room and greenhouse. Each building is connected through covered walkways and secure courtyards, providing outdoor areas for gardening, dining, and recreation.

The design embraces concepts found in “Designing a Better Day” by Keith Diaz Moore, which emphasizes inspiring spaces for both the consumer and caregiver, giving concern to both spatial and social ideas that affect the comfort of the users, while also using some of the principles of LEED to create a sustainable design.

The facility carries a price tag of slightly more than six million dollars. We are grateful for a generous grant from the South Carolina Disabilities and Special Needs in the amount of \$800,000 and for a federal Community Development Block Grant for \$445,490. The rest of the funding came from Beaufort County Capital Improvement Project (CIP) accounts.

In short; this is a beautiful, efficient facility and your county council is more than pleased to serve our special citizens through the development of this campus and its many offerings. Thank you.

Now, I would like to invite Councilman Brian Flewelling, who represents this district – district 9 – to say a few words. He will be followed by Mr. Rufus Britt ... then Ms. Liz Santagati, Mayor Sam Murray, and Ms. Mitzi Wagner.

(MR. FLEWELLING SPEAKS)

We are privileged – once again – to enjoy another selection from the choir of Love House Ministries

Thank you, Choir. We want to mark this moment with a lasting, living monument. This is a special day and we have a special tree to plant. It is a Cyprus tree that will grow quickly into a big beautiful tree that our consumers can decorate for the holidays. I am asking our consumers to help us with the planting. Our CIP Manager Mr. David Hughes, who has worked hard on this project, will lead the way to the site selected for the tree and I am asking Ms. Wagner, Mr. Campbell and our consumers to help him lower the tree into the ground. Mr. Hughes?

Thank you. We hope your tree will be something you enjoy more and more each year. Would Reverend Cushingberry please come up and lead us in the benediction?

(BENEDICTION - REV. CUSHINGBERRY)

Thank you, Reverend Cushingberry. Would Mitzi Wagner, Morris Campbell, Michael Swinton, Mayor Samuel Murray, Elizabeth Santagati, Rufus Britt, Paul Sommerville and Bryan Flewelling please grab and shovel and a hard hat and join me on that nice area of fresh dirt.

(GROUNDBREAKING)