

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
1804 OLD SHELL ROAD
PORT ROYAL, SC 29935
February 15, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Grace Dennis, Algredda Ford, Margaret Gatch, Helene Gruber, Nancy Pinkerton, Ann Wirz, and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Brown, Jim Mathews, Marion McCoy, Elizabeth Santagati and Gardenia Simmons-White

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: Alicia Holland, Beaufort County Finance

I. CALL TO ORDER – Ann Wirz, Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Wirz welcomed Ms. Holland.

III. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2011 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 18, 2011 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY HELENE GRUBER AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011 AGENDA AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Ann Wirz, Vice-Chair

Ms. Wirz reminded Board Members that March is Disabilities Awareness Month and asked for volunteers to pick up the 2011 proclamations. Volunteers are as follows:

City of Beaufort	March 8 th at 6:00 p.m.	Grace Dennis
Town of Bluffton	March 8 th 6:00 p.m.	Nancy Pinkerton
Town of Port Royal	March 9 th 6:30 p.m.	Margaret Ann Gatch, Ann Wirz and Mikel Swinton
Hilton Head Town Council	March 1 st at 4:00 p.m.	Harold Watson (PEP)
Beaufort County Council	March 14 th at 4:00 p.m.	Gardenia Simmons-White and Algredda Ford

Mr. Campbell distributed copies of the bylaws revisions and asked board members to review. Ms. Wagner said Ms. Santagati was not present and the bylaws would be added to the March Agenda for review and approval.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner introduced Ms. Holland who will talk about the budget. Ms. Holland distributed copies of the DSN budget and mentioned that it covers the period July 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010. She said each year the Finance Department prepares a comprehensive annual financial report, which is audited by external auditors. She reviewed and explained each of the sections of the budget and line items and answered questions. She said she would provide board members with quarterly updates. Board members thanked her for the presentation.

Ms. Wagner provided color swatches and a general color pallet of floor coverings, furniture, chairs and tabletops for the offices and day program area. The offices would have wood flooring and the day program will have vinyl flooring with bright colorful offices. Ms. Wagner said she spends several hours with the contractors several times weekly to change things that can be changed to make it function better for us and are hopeful they can make them happen. The training room needs to be enlarged to hold up to 50 people and we are looking at other smaller changes. A wall needs to be removed in the changing room to provide adequate space for the lift. A sink needs to be put in the pottery room and hoses need to be added in the car wash area. We have moved some offices around to enable us to have a meeting room large enough eight people.

Ms Wagner mentioned that we want to have an open house after everything is moved in the new facility and asked for help from board members in two separate areas. Both things are very exciting but your help is needed. We want to involve everyone possible for the open house; it is a community building and the community should have the opportunity to see it. She asked if the board would appoint a committee to take the lead on it. ABLE is willing to join in the Human Rights Committee will be asked to get involved. We need transportation, drivers to pick up people from a staging area and shuttle them to the facility and back. Ms. Gruber said she would chair the committee and Ann Wirz, Grace Dennis, Nancy Pinkerton and Margaret Gatch volunteered to serve on the committee.

The second project was suggested by Bill Love, Day Program Director, to form a committee to get community support for the development of the courtyard between the day program and the administration wing. Suggestions are bricks with names on them for the walkway that could be purchased in honor or in memory of whomever. We want to have plants and will put in plaques stating who donated them. The Advocacy group wants to donate some shrubbery and is working on money to purchase them. There will also be a water feature in the middle of the courtyard that is round with rocks attached so you can sit on the edge. The water will only be a couple of inches deep. Many of the shrubs will be fragrant. We would like to have one or two representatives from each board to participate. ABLE Chairman, Reverend Cushingberry, agreed to be on the committee. We would like participation from the Advisory board and get representation from the Human Rights committee. Helene Gruber and Ann Wirz volunteered to represent the Advisory Board.

Ms. Wagner distributed copies of the SCDDSN budget. She said there would be a number of budget cuts and it is hard to try to focus on what it will look like. She reviewed the handouts and explained the services, what is mandated and what will probably be cut and answered questions. She said there are a lot of discussions going on and gets many emails daily from advocacy groups.

Mr. Campbell said now is the time to start emailing the legislators to remind them that what we are hearing is not appropriate for services for people with disabilities. Our consumers are not able to speak for themselves and we need to advocate for them. It is something we need to speak of early on.

Ms. Wagner said there have been some staff issues at our Port Royal facility. We have responded in a positive way with corrective plans. She said some things happened and we have responded quickly to correct them. As a result, we had to dismiss several staff and are very fortunate that we have put the surveillance equipment in place, addressed the problem quickly and done everything to prevent those kinds of things happening again. No one was hurt or injured seriously and we are fortunate to have found the problem; the county responded quickly, supported us in addressing the problem and feel we did a great job. Mr. Campbell said the surveillance equipment we have in place was well worth the cost and will help us to better serve and respond. It will hold everyone accountable and will be a great teaching tool for staff in the future. It is good to know that they are being monitored and reviewed regularly.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

~Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair

- Nothing to report

~Policy/Directives Committee, Gardenia Simmons-White, Chair

- No directives presented for review.

~Public Relations Committee, Ann Wirz, Chair

Ms. Wirz said there seems to be a lack of interest in the informal coffee meeting.

She asked if DSN was qualified to make application to the United Way. Ms. Wagner said we were too late to make application this year for the grant.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

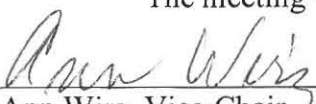
Ms. Wagner said she met with Jim and Ellen Mathews last week. She said Mr. Mathews is turning in his resignation from the board and Ms. Mathews is resigning from ABLE as well. They feel it is best to resign at this time due to health reasons.

The next board meeting will be held in the DSN Conference Room on March 15 at 4:00 p.m.

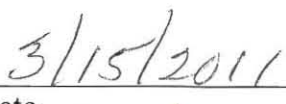
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANN WIRZ TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

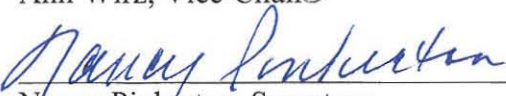
The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.




Ann Wirz, Vice-Chair



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary



Date