

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Grace Dennis, Margaret Gatch, Marion McCoy, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White, Ann Wirz, and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Brown, Algredda Ford and Helene Gruber

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: None Present

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

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

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 15, 2011 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 15, 2011 AGENDA

Ms. Wirz asked to add two items to the agenda as follows:

- Replacement candidate for Board Chairman
- DSN Board vacancies

These items will be discussed under the Chairman's Report

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO ADOPT THE MARCH 15, 2011 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Ms. Wirz said with the resignation of Mr. Mathews and Ms. Santagati, board members need to appoint a replacement for Ms. Santagati as the Board Chairman and replacement of the two vacant positions.

Ms. Wagner read the resignation letter from Ms. Santagati and suggested that board members may want to appoint Ms. Wirz as Board Chair to fill the vacant position and function without a vice-chairman until new officers are selected in June for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE TO APPOINT MS. WIRZ AS THE DSN BOARD CHAIRMAN UNTIL THE NEW OFFICERS ARE APPOINTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Wagner said the Personnel Committee is made up of three board members, Jonathan Brown, Grace Dennis and Beverly Dore. Since Ms. Dore resigned another member is needed for the committee to review the current applications for replacement of the two vacant positions. Ms. Simmons-White volunteered to serve on the committee with Mr. Brown and Ms. Dennis. The resumes' received from County Council were given to Ms. Dennis and Ms. Simmons-White and will be mailed to Mr. Brown for review. She said there is also one other candidate, David Green, who is one of the founders of Osprey and is interested. Mr. Brown has been unable to reach him. Ms. Cramer, who is the special education teacher at the middle school, is interested in board membership. Ms. Wagner asked that she submit her application to County Council and give Ms. Dennis her address and phone number. Mr. Campbell said geography needs to be taken into consideration in appointing new members.

Ms. Gatch said the Port Royal Town Meeting was rescheduled for March 16th due to the death of Mayor Sam Murray's wife. She and Ms. Wirz along with Mikel will attend the meeting. It was suggested that a sympathy card be sent to Mr. Murray from the Advisory Board.

Ms. Simmons-White attended the Beaufort County Council meeting to accept the March Disabilities Awareness Proclamation.

Ms. Wirz asked if there were any changes needed in the proposed changes to the DSN Bylaws. None were reported. She asked for a motion to adopt the changes as submitted.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINTERTON AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO ADOPT THE DSN BYLAWS AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner asked if board members would be interested in touring the new building while it is under construction. If we can come up with a day and time she will work it out where there will be enough hard hats to go around. Board members decided on Monday, March 28, 2011 at 3:00 pm. Ms. Wagner said she would email everyone directions and if needed she would arrange a second tour.

Ms. Wagner said Delmarva sent a follow-up for items that were out of compliance and requested a paper review. They are very detailed on how it is to be presented. She said Ms. Dykes was very instrumental in orchestrating the details and has put together a notebook detailing all our corrections for submission.

Ms. Wagner said we sent our proposed budget to Beaufort County, however are not sure it will be the final budget. She reminded board members that we will be in the new building and will not have any background on the operational cost. Ms. Wagner reviewed the status of the current SCDDSN budget and the controversy throughout the state. The advocacy groups have been very vocal and feel the department is not being responsive to the needs of the people in the community and have

withdrawn from the committee that Ms. Buscemi appointed them to. She said all the negativity needs to die down and we need to think in terms of what we need to do for those we serve.

Ms. Wagner said it has been a very difficult month. She said we become very attached to the people we serve and it is very hard when we can no longer serve them. Due to the medical needs of two of our individuals they will be relocated to other facilities. We are moving one of our CTH II consumers into the Port Royal facility and moving an individual, now in foster care, into the CTH II and will be filling the other vacancy in the CTH II from a state facility.

The committee that is working on the open house tours of the new building will meet on April 11, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. The courtyard landscaping plans are coming along and that committee will meet at 3:00 pm on March 30, 2011. It was suggested that this committee meet at 1:30 p.m. on the same day as the board members tours, March 28, and leave from here to go directly to the building site. She said there has been a lot of interest and thought it may be fun to let the consumers and their families to submit a name for the Day Program. We will choose a name and put a brick in the garden with the name of the person who suggested the name.

Ms. Holland, County Finance Department, sent an updated budget and will be at the next meeting for her quarterly report. Ms. Wagner passed around her copy for review.

Ms. Pinkerton asked for an update on ABLE. Ms. Wagner said the auction was cancelled; however, they will proceed with the ornaments. They are still looking for additional members and other fundraisers.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

~Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair

- Nothing to report

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

- No directives presented for review. Ms. Wagner said there were several that will be given for review at the April meeting for approval in May.

~Public Relations Committee, Ann Wirz, Chair

- Ms. Wirz said she and Ms. Gatch will attend the Port Royal meeting on Wednesday to receive the proclamation and will talk to the members about the projects planned for the new facility.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

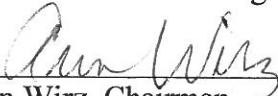
Mr. Campbell updated board members on the county budget and said we have been charged to stay within budget and to look for new ways to maintain the quality of life and advocate for those who can't speak for themselves. He also said that Ms. Santagati expressed her regrets that she will be unable to continue serving on the Disabilities and Special Needs Advisory Board. Ms. Pinkerton will send a note of thanks for her years of service with the Disabilities and Special Needs Board.

The April meeting is scheduled to be held at the Programs for Exceptional People (PEP) on April 19, 2011 beginning at 4:00 p.m.

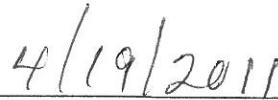
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARION McCALL AND SECONDED BY MARGARET ANN GATCH TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 15, 2011 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.


The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.




Ann Wirz, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary



Date