

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
Hilton Head Public Service District
21 Oak Park Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
July 19, 2011

4:00 P. M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan W. Brown, Algredda Ford, Margaret Ann Gatch, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White and Murray Weiner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Grace Dennis, Helene Gruber, Marion McCall, Ann Wirz and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: None present

I. CALL TO ORDER – Jonathan Brown, Vice-Chair

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

No guests present.

III. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2011 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 21, 2011 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JULY 19, 2011 AGENDA

Ms. Wagner said she would like to add discussion of the annual Board Retreat under the chairman's report

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY ALGREDDA FORD TO ADOPT THE JULY 19, 2011 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Jonathan Brown

Ms. Wagner said board members needed to form a committee to plan the annual retreat. She said it is usually scheduled around September, October or November and reminded board members that dedication of the new building is scheduled for November. The committee will need to decide on a date, place, time and what type of training and or speakers members would like. Board members present selected September 20th as this is the date for our next scheduled meeting. The retreat would be instead of the regular meeting. Mr. Brown asked for volunteers for the retreat committee. Ms. Wagner suggested Ms. Wirz, although she was not present, to chair the committee. Mr. Brown appointed Ms. Wirz to chair the committee. Ms. Simmons-White, Mr. Murray and Ms. Wirz will

schedule a meeting and notify board members as quickly as possible. There is no meeting scheduled for August. Ms. Wagner said she would get in touch Ms. Wirz

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said the building should be completed somewhere between August 1st and November 1st. She said she understands the contractors will be charged \$1400.00. daily for each day after August 1st. and said there is no way the building will be ready by then. Ms. Wagner said there is an issue with the landscaping and it is in the hands of the attorney to determine exactly what is in the contract. The original contract with the developer had \$58,000 in landscaping and added \$7,000 for the courtyard area. The developer said they did not add \$7,000; they changed to whole landscaping to \$7,000. Ms. Wagner said the contractors have made several changes in materials. We specifically did not want carpet in any of the areas but understand there will be carpeting in some areas. We also wanted flooring that had a 20 year warranty and did not need to be stripped and sealed, however they are putting in VCP that will require additional funds yearly to be stripped and sealed. She said it is disturbing to spend money on things that are not long term and will mean more money spent down the road. The day program area looks very good and will be great for consumers. The courtyard will be the centerpiece for the whole building and said we are up to about \$14,500 and need \$21,000. She said Mr. Wagner is trying very hard to get the expenses down for the plants and shrubs we need.

Ms. Wagner said we contract with PEP each year to provide services to individuals. This year SCDDSN has changed the way we contract with all qualified providers meaning we will pay PEP \$34,000 more this year to provide those services. Previously we paid for a unit of service where an individual goes to day program for a day; we pay for that day and built into that contract we would also pay for services if they were out 20% of the total number of days. If they were out more than 20% we would not pay for those. Holidays and inclement weather were not previously included in that 20%. In the future, we will be paying for those also. She said PEP is unique in the way they work with families than the way we work with families. All of our families are in the program five days a week because they need the services. PEP has individuals that come one or two days a week. In the past if an individual comes two days then he comes 104 days and can still have that 20% he can be out. Now, if he comes only 104 days then we can pay the other three days for individuals to come and they can overbook, meaning an individual can be there that doesn't come a lot and we can pay them for that person, therefore, we are paying for the full five days, which helps PEP's budget but doesn't help ours. Also, some individuals are out for longer periods of time due to hospitalization, out of state or for other reasons and SCDDSN decided that they will take responsibility and review those periodically and make some decision as to what we will have to pay for those individuals. We will be paying PEP \$236,000 yearly meaning we will have less to operate on this fiscal year.

Ms. Wagner said things are becoming more difficult for everybody. Revenues are less within the county and some staff has had to take five furlough days during the month of June. We will have less operating money from the county than we have had previously. She said another thing the county decided is that we will have to pay for any major repairs where in the past it came out of Public Works budget. If we did not have the money to pay for the repair, it would come out of the general fund. She said we might have to pay for other services, i.e., office space in Bluffton and Hilton Head, advertisements, background checks and general services from Public Works. She said it will be a difficult year for us.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ~Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
 - Nothing to report.
- ~Policy Committee, Gardenia Simmons-White, Chair
 - There were no policies submitted to be approved
- ~Public Relations Committee, Ann Wirz, Chair
 - Nothing to report

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Just a reminder that there is no scheduled meeting for August 2011. The Board Retreat will be held on September 20. Details will be emailed when completed. The next scheduled board meeting will be held on October 18, 2011 at PEP.


Ms. Wagner said that every year SCDDSN gives an award to a county government and mentioned that she nominated Beaufort County for the award this year and Beaufort County has been given the award this year. Attached is a copy of the winning letter.

Ms. Wagner said this award will be presented to Weston Newton, County Council Chairman, at the office first then in the Conference for State and County Government. She said it really is an honor for Beaufort County.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ADJOURN THE JULY 19, 2011 BOARD MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

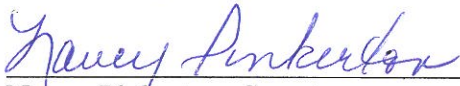
The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Helene Gruber, Chair

11/15/11

Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary

11/15/11

Date



Beaufort County Disabilities & Special Needs
1804 Old Shell Road
Port Royal, SC 29935
Phone 843-255-6300
Email mwagner@bcgov.net

Lois Park Mole, Director
Government & Community Relations
SCDDSN
PO Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240
June 7, 2011

Dear Ms Mole,

It is with a great deal of pride and gratitude that I nominate Beaufort County Government for the Golden Palmetto Award for 2011.

Beaufort County has clearly shown their support for people with Developmental disabilities not just in the past year but for many years. As you may know we are the only department of disabilities and special needs that is also a county department. This partnership has allowed Beaufort DSN to grow and provide excellent service to our community and especially those community members with developmental disabilities.

Our employees work for the county and through Beaufort County Employment Services they are hired and participate in all the benefits of other county employees. Our pay checks come through the County Finance Department. If a home or building needs repairs they are done by the Public Works Department. We receive additional funding from the County to allow us to pay the highest rate for direct care staff in the state. In the budget cut years, since 2008, we have still continued to receive county funding to keep services going that would have been cut.

In 2007, County Council voted to replace 2 outdated CTH II homes, add an additional CTH II home by building brand new all ADA homes designed to house 4 adults each. In 2010 County Council voted to replace another aging CTH II home and purchased a 4 bedroom home which is currently being renovated to make it ADA compliant.

For the past 3 or 4 years due to the growth of our day program and our limited space we have used the County Parks & Leisure services buildings to house part of our Day Program. The County has housed 2 Early Interventionist in Bluffton and 1 in Hilton Head Island as well.

This relationship is a model, that other counties could strive for, which sees the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and assures community support to care for the citizens with the greatest needs locally. This community which is represented by County Council Members puts human needs first and should be judged by what they do for their most needy citizens.

Although the partnership between Beaufort DSN and Beaufort County Government is long term and the good works mentioned are consistent year after year, the last year has truly been spectacular. In 2004, when Gary Kubic, the County Administrator came to Beaufort he met with me in my office and toured our Day Program/Administrative Building. At that point we had about 80 individuals in the day program and about 40 support staff in an 8,000 square foot old church building. We had no running water in our room for changing diapers, no outdoor space for activities and several staff offices in closets. He committed to a vision of a better facility for consumers and staff to better meet our needs. A process began that day to make his vision a reality. Now in 2011, with the support of the community, County Council and their dedication of 6.4 million in County Capital improvement Funds, a new building will be completed. It is state of the art, designed especially for people with disabilities. It contains a large area which is gym-like for group activities and 9 separated classroom centers for various training programs. It has a dining room which includes inside and outside spaces which are protected and allow individuals we serve to be outside in a safe environment. We have changing rooms with running water, a shower room, a place to wash clothing, and a covered entryway when unloading vehicles each day.

Outside we have 10 acres with a multi-purpose athletic court, a separate pottery/greenhouse building to support work projects for consumers, and space to develop walking trails to provide exercise. It is located on a lot that is safe and away from busy streets with covered walkways between buildings which provide fenced areas for a vegetable garden, a courtyard garden and quiet spaces. It includes a generator and is hurricane safe up to a category III hurricane. It is designed to be as energy efficient as possible thanks to a federal stimulus grant. We plan to move into this wonderful space in September 2011. Without Gary Kubic's vision, County Council's commitment, and overwhelming community support this would not have happened.

For all the reasons previously stated Beaufort County is truly committed to people with developmental disabilities not just for a year but for a way of life that shows the character of the community we call home.

Sincerely

Mitzi H. Wagner

Mitzi H. Wagner
Executive Director
Beaufort County Disabilities & Special Needs