

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

April 17, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Margaret Gatch, David Green, Helene Gruber, Nancy Pinkerton and Gardenia Simmons-White and Ann Wirz.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Algredda Ford, Marion McCoy, Gloria Bolino and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: None present

I. CALL TO ORDER – Helene Gruber, Chair

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

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2012 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE MARCH 20, 2012 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 17, 2012 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY ANN WIRZ AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE APRIL 17, 2012 AGENDA AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Helene Gruber-Chair

Ms. Gruber thanked Mr. Brown for chairing the past two meetings in her absence.

Ms. Gruber suggested we continue to have our meetings at the DSN facility due to the difficulty in finding meeting space at PEP and the Hilton Head Public Service District conference room is not always available. She asked for a motion to have our future meetings at the Beaufort DSN facility.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANN WIRZ TO HAVE OUR FUTURE MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS IN THE BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS CONFERENCE ROOM. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Green said the Meeting Room Policy Committee met and reviewed the policy draft. Mr. Collar handed out copies of the revised policy. He said there were some minor changes to the Booking Form and the Fee Schedule for the different locations in the building and changes in some of the verbiage to further clarify certain topics. Board members reviewed the document changes, asked questions and thanked the committee members for doing such an excellent job. Ms. Gruber asked for a motion to approve the policy, fees and forms as written.

MOTION WAS MADE BY JONATHAN BROWN AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE MEETING ROOM POLICY, BOOKING FORM AND FEE SCHEDULE AS WRITTEN EFFECTIVE APRIL 17, 2012. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Gruber said the Garden Party committee consists of the same group that was planning the dedication ceremony. She said we are going forward with a celebration party to celebrate the opening of the new facility and the ABLE Garden. This celebration will be for consumers, family members, staff relatives and the community. She said the county must approve plans and two Saturdays have been provided for their approval. May 26 and June 2 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Invitations will be sent, music and light refreshments will be provided. Ms. Wagner mentioned some of the consumers that have benefitted from the garden and the difference it has made in their behaviors. It is a safe and quiet environment for them. Mr. Green suggested making a video to show the consumers in the garden with a narration that could be shown to other boards. Ms. Wagner mentioned that she had talked with the county photographer to do a video of the celebration and that other boards will be invited as well as other state officials.

Ms. Gruber invited others to join the committee to plan for the event. The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2012.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said we have had some issues with the new building. We were without water and ice in the kitchen for a month and the air conditioning was out for several days. She said the building is still under warranty and they are not so quick about fixing problems. She said she receives certified letters daily stating that several of the sub-contractors are suing Liollo. She said when the building is turned over to the county; issues will be resolved much quicker. She said the other thing they are working on is all the security in the building will be with cards that can be scanned. All staff will be issued a card that can be scanned to have access to the building. Security cameras will also be installed and security will be connected to the fire alarm system so if there is a fire it will go off automatically. She said she hopes it all happens very quickly.

Ms. Wagner said they looked at the end of the year budget, line item by line item, and believes that we can finish the year without exceeding the budget. She said that is no guarantee because of the things we cannot control. i.e., cost of rising gas prices before the end of the year, repairs for our aging vehicles and other unexpected expenses. She said we are doing everything we can to cut back. She said our budget for 2013 has not gone any further than the finance department and said she did not know if ours will go the way we put it together or be in the same situation as last year. She said the electricity is lower than expected, however there is a greater expense for grounds maintenance, insurance and those kinds of expenses.

Ms. Wagner said Breakers is going great. We have about 13 to 18 individuals on Tuesdays and Thursdays and more on Saturdays. The families and individuals are happy. We consider this opportunity to be such a pleasure and hope to get the grant again next year and hope we will be able to do all the things we want to do. We will have a meeting sometime in May to talk about how they would like to see it structured next year and would like to increase the number of days and will ask for that in July and August and build from that next year. Currently we are using Waiver Respite Providers and hope that with the grant next year we can have Breakers staff. The Respite staff are really excited about the program and would love to do it full time. Ms. Dennis expressed her

daughter's excitement with the program and looks forward to each session. Ms Dennis said it is such a happy experience and wonderful to listen to their conversations. She said the all the staff are wonderful and so caring.

Ms. Wagner said many of the individuals in the Breakers program are young people who have graduated from school and have been out for a number of years. They are in their early 20's and are in need of services. She said both she and Mr. Love are disturbed to hear over the past few weeks about what we are seeing happen with young people graduating from school in May. Parents are not aware of the resources and services provided and the eligibility process. If they had known and started the eligibility process several years ago they would probably now have a Medicaid Waiver and it would be just a matter of time before he/she would be could be in day program. She said there are 3,000 to 4000 individuals on the waiting list for a Medicaid waiver and it will take up to seven years to become eligible. Mr. Collar talked about the process the Bluffton Schools have in place for transition and eligibility. Ms. Wagner said she wants to work with the Beaufort Gazette and try to get an article or a series of articles in the paper about what happens to these individuals in May when they graduate, what opportunities are available and how to apply for them. She said it must be difficult for parents of these individuals after they graduate to have nothing to do and no place to go. Ms. Wagner said if anyone knows of an individual that may need waiver services and especially day program services, you can help spread the word to start early. Although we may not be able to provide services to all families, not knowing their situation, I could go through the steps if they will call me.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
Mr. Brown said Ms. Bolino's appointment is official.
- Policy/Directives Committee, Grace Dennis, Chair
Nothing to report
- Public Relations Committee, David Green, Chair
Mr. Green asked if we knew who is replacing Ms. Larsen, Beaufort County Public Relations officer. Ms. Wagner said she has not been replaced. He asked who of the DSN staff could be a liaison to pass along information and update the web site. Ms. Wagner suggested Ms. Beth Cody, our Fiscal Operations Manager, and will speak with her and get back to him. He said other than that he had no additional information to report.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Green said the Osprey Village would have their strategic conference on Saturday at the Bluffton Business Club on Turkey Road. He invited all board members to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be served and then to stick around for the PEP Oyster Roast at 5:30 at the Bluffton Oyster Factory.

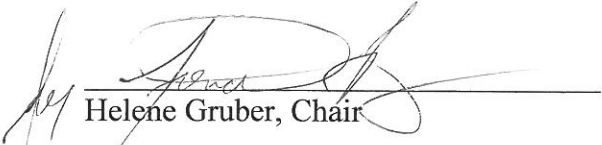
The next board meeting will be held on May 15, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at:
Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906

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XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO
ADJOURN THE APRIL 17, 2012 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

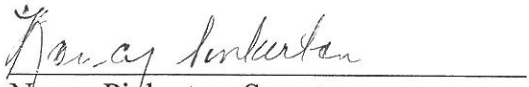
The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.



Helene Gruber, Chair

5-15-12

Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary

5/19/2012

Date

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