

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS  
100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
August 21, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Gloria Bolino, Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, Margaret Gatch, David Green, Helene Gruber, Nancy Pinkerton, and Gardenia Simmons-White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Algedra Ford, Ann Wirz and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio).

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: Joy Nelson, Beaufort County Public Information Officer

I. CALL TO ORDER – Helene Gruber, Chair

Ms. Gruber called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Gruber welcomed Ms. Nelson.

III. MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2012 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE JUNE 19, 2012 BOARD MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 21, 2012 AGENDA

Mr. Green stated he would like to add Ms. Nelson to the agenda. Ms. Gruber said this would be added directly after the approval of the minutes. Ms. Wagner stated she would like to add, under the Executive Directors report, information from SCDDSN on finances next year and the Commission meetings.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS WHITE TO ADOPT THE JUNE 19, 2012 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Nelson, Beaufort County Information Officer, introduced herself to board members and stated she started out as a reporter sixteen years ago. She has two beautiful daughters age 8 and 6. She mentioned she worked at WCSC TV in Charleston that involved working many long hours. She mentioned some of her duties with the TV station and was very involved with relating information to the media. She said her husband is a deputy sheriff and works crazy hours. She said as the children became more involved in activities and with her husband's job as a deputy, between his shift work and her crazy hours, it was not working so well. When the position for a public information officer in Beaufort became available she told my husband she was going to apply for the position and with her background experience with the media, was selected for the position. She said she has excellent writing skills, good public relation skills and a broadcast background. She said she is really hoping that she can come in and do a great job for all of the departments in Beaufort County. She thanked board members for the opportunity to speak and said she would welcome any ideas or suggestion and can be contacted by email at [jnelson@bcgov.net](mailto:jnelson@bcgov.net)

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Helene Gruber, Chair

Ms. Gruber said Ms. Wagner requested \$435.00 of the ABLE funds to have the tree painted on the lobby wall mentioning those who contributed to the ABLE Courtyard and the remaining \$12.00 was returned to ABLE.

Ms. Wagner passed around the 2012 ABLE Ornament. This year the ornament is a Heron and the cost is \$16.00. She said there is a limited quantity and are available in the reception area as well as several locations throughout the county.

Ms. Gruber said it was time to start planning the board retreat and asked for volunteers for a committee to plan for a time, location, speakers and a menu. Ms. Pinkerton volunteered to chair the committee; Mr. Collar and Mr. Brown volunteered to work with her on the committee. Update will be scheduled for the next meeting.

Ms. Gruber said we have space for 32 additional bricks in the ABLE Courtyard. The cost to have them engraved is \$18.25 and must be taken to Waltherboro for engraving. Ms. Gruber volunteered to transport them to Waltherboro and Ms. Dennis agreed to work on the sales of the remaining bricks. The cost to individuals will be \$50.00 for each brick purchased. Ms. Wagner said if additional bricks are purchased, they could be put in the patio area off the conference room.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner mentioned that Bill Love will be our new Deputy Director effective Monday, August 27, 2012, and asked members to join with her in celebration of his new position. She said we have been trying to make this happen for a while, although he has been acting in that capacity for a long time. She said it has been delightful to work with someone like Bill that you work closely with and who takes the lead when he needs to and makes sure things get done. She said he is a great resource and we are thrilled. Mr. Love said he appreciates all the board does and feels fortunate to have this opportunity to work together. He is excited about the opportunities we have to work with our consumers and it is challenging. He said he spent 30 years in the prison system and this position is much harder but more rewarding and satisfying.

Ms. Wagner said we found out in July that the budget we had from the county was 1.7 million and we had asked for 2.4 million. The 2.4 million was to carry us through the year. She said that is a big difference so we have had to do some major things. We reduced our service coordination staff by one, so at the end of this week we will lose one of our service coordinators due to Targeted Case Management and the billable services we provide. We also had overtime last year in the amount of \$260,000 in our residential facilities. We had many vacancies due to workers comp. issues and staff out due to personal leave and other health issues. To cut down on the overtime we have added an additional Shift Supervisor and a full time Training Specialist at the Port Royal facility. She said we have also expanded our day program and added an additional Training Specialist. We are serving an additional nine individuals that are for pay and the state has opened up 15 new slots in the waiver program. Governor Haley gave state employees a 3% raise; however, Beaufort County gave employees a 2% raise, so the 1% difference from the state will go into operational expense for us. She said for the first time in her eleven years with DSN we cut back on food, however, we will continue to feed our individuals well, but will cut back on what we spend on recreational activities. Ms. Wagner said it has been tough for us to go through this and said next

year will be worse in terms of what revenue we get from Beaufort County as next year is tax reassessment so county revenue will be less and unless county council raises taxes our revenue will be less.

Ms. Wagner said the state is trying to regain some raises in the band payments. The band payments were cut in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and band rates are what we use to operate. She said food, electricity and other expenses have gone up and we have gotten no additional funding so we are trying to do the same thing with less money that we did in 2008. The state is asking for 2.5 million to help bring those band payments up to a level higher than it is right now. They are also going to ask for 1.8 million to take 100 consumers off the waiting list for residential services that would be for caregivers that are over the age of 70. She mentioned there are 1100 individuals on the waiting list. She said there are also over 3100 people on the waiting list for waiver services. The state is working to downgrade or release individuals from the regional centers across the state and are asking for 1.5 million for people to transitioned into the community

Ms. Wagner reviewed the Targeted Case Management. HHS is planning to implement it in January of 2013. She said if the service coordinators are paid right now for their billable hours, they are paying for only one service coordinator. She said, unless they raise the billable rates we are going to be in trouble. She said in early intervention they are paying for a little bit more and with early intervention it is a little different because only part of their work load is case management, it is family training and we do not know how the billing for that will be implemented. We are getting educated at this point on what billable activities are and what we should do and how we record it in order to be paid for it.

Ms. Wagner said we received \$20,000 for renovations for the Cottage Walk facility. She said she spoke with the county about the need to get something done quickly. Broad River is going down a good bit. We have tried not to spend money on things we normally would because we are going to move. She said we are getting very anxious, but conversations are happening.

Ms. Wagner said the building is still under warranty. We have a list of about twenty items that are under warranty and it is very frustrating. The warranty on this building runs out in about four months. We had a meeting with two departments in the county, public works and engineering department. Engineering Department said Public Works will be responsible and Mark Roseneau is very committed to getting things done. We appreciate the fact that Mark has taken the responsibility and will start working on getting the items fixed.

Ms. Wagner said thanks to Ms. Gruber for arranging to have a bluebird house put up outside the day program. The birdhouse was equipped with a TV camera that we could watch from the lunchroom and we had the experience of watching a mother bluebird build her nest, lay her five eggs and watched her sitting on them and watched them all hatch. She said it was a fantastic experience.

Ms. Wagner asked for help in getting a flagpole and flag for our building. A few months ago consumers were learning about Flag Day and the fourth of July and asked why we didn't have a flag. They all signed a petition asking for a flag, so we are trying to fulfill that request. Ms. Wagner said the flagpole has to meet certain specifications. Beaufort County will do the installation. In checking on the cost of the flagpole, she found that the pole alone would cost \$1000.00. We do not have \$1000.00 to spend on a flagpole and is asking help. If you know anyone who would like to donate money to buy a flagpole to please let her know. Mr. Brown said he would work on it.

Ms. Wagner said one of our consumers from the Port Royal facility passed away at Bayview. Robert Zipperer has lived in the home for close to 20 years. He has been very frail and became very ill and was placed in Beaufort Memorial Hospital for several weeks. He was placed on oxygen and then transferred to Bayview Nursing Home, where he later passed away. Due to his death, we have a vacancy and are looking for a replacement.

Ms. Wagner said, in response to Ms. Bolino's question, the SCDDSN Commissioners are appointed by the governor and are the governing board for the state agency. She said they meet once a month and that agenda is sent to you by email from our office. Anyone is welcome to attend any session. She said we have had board members attend meetings. She does attend some of the meetings, however does receive information back from the meetings and that information is sent to you also. She said it is good for Beaufort if we do have board members attend. They see, not only her representing Beaufort, but others. They can ask questions and get answers and said that is a good thing. We feel very fortunate in Beaufort and convinced that we would not be as well off as we are, were it not for the fact that we have made many friends and have so much respect from the state. Ms. Gruber said it might be a good idea to invite them to our retreat. Ms. Wagner felt that was an excellent suggestion.

#### VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Helene Gruber, Chair  
Ms. Gruber asked Mr. Brown, when he chaired the meeting for her and suggested we add a Hospitality Committee to our committee assignments. He also appointed her chair; however, no committee members were selected. She said she asked Ms. Freda Schroeder from the ABLE Foundation and Alice Massey to work with her on this committee and will coordinate with the DSN Social Committee to see what we can do. She also said this committee could send cards to family members to acknowledge their loved ones life. She invited other members to become part of the committee.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair  
Mr. Brown asked if a decision has been made regarding replacement of Ms. Ford. Ms. Gruber said she needed to submit a letter of resignation if it is her decision to leave the board, then we can move on with finding a replacement. Mr. Brown said he would contact Ms. Ford.
- Policy/Directives Committee, Grace Dennis, Chair  
~Nothing to report
- Public Relations Committee, David Green, Chair  
Mr. Green said the committee met with Ms. Nelson before the board meeting. He said we updated her on our ideas and feel she will work with us. She has the enthusiasm and we look forward to working with her. He said he would follow-up with her on the information on the county web page.

#### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Wagner said on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September she will be giving a presentation to the nursing students from the Technical College of the Lowcountry, the Human Rights committee members, ABLE Foundation members and extended an invitation to Board Members. She said it would be from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. Also, if there are any individuals who would be interested in becoming part of the ABLE Foundation or the Advisory Board, please invite them to attend. We are in desperate need of members for the foundation.


Ms. Gruber said our November meeting is scheduled for the week of Thanksgiving and asked board members if the meeting could be changed. She suggested Wednesday, November 14th. Board members were in favor of the change.


The next board meeting will be held on September 18, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at:  
Disabilities and Special Needs Department  
100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906

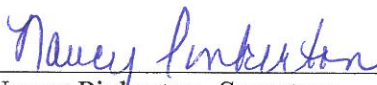
XI. ADJOURNMENT

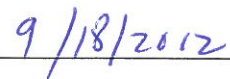
MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY GLORIA BOLINO TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 21, 2012 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

  
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Helene Gruber, Chair

  
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Date

  
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Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary

  
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Date