

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
January 15, 2013

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Margaret Gatch, Ann Wirz and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner, Bill Love, and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: None present

A quorum was not present at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Brown suggested that the meeting continue with topics not requiring a vote.

Ms. Gruber reminded members that beginning the first of this year we would begin working on the goals set at the retreat and periodically add them to the agenda for updates.

- Communication among boards: Ms. Gruber asked the committee to follow-up on the memo sent out to the boards to set up meetings and find some dates that everyone could meet.
- Grant money and fundraising: She asked that Mr. Brown and Ms. Bolino contact ABLE to see if there is anything we can work with them on fundraising. Ms. Wagner said ABLE is currently working on selling the remaining ornaments and selling bricks for the flagpole area.
- Communication with county and state: Ms. Gruber suggested that someone attend the SC Commission meeting and bring back information to share with the board. Ms. Bolino had mentioned that she would like to attend the meetings and would review the meeting dates.
- Educate families for eligibility: Ms. Gruber asked Mr. Collar and Mr. Green to try to figure out how to get the eligibility information out to the elementary groups. Mr. Collar said there is a district in-service on Friday with all the special education teachers. He said Brenda Hunt does remind individual at every cluster meeting. He said they distribute information on services provided at every meeting for each level. He suggested that a crew of DSN staff to come in and talk about what you have to offer. He said he would talk to Ms. Hunt and get it set up.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Helene Gruber, Chair

Ms. Gruber said a quorum was now present and called the meeting to order at 4:15 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2012 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 18, 2012 BOARD MINUTES AS PRESENTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 15, 2013 AGENDA

Ms. Gruber said she would like to add to the Chairman's Report the following item:

- ABLE Garden

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE TO ADOPT THE JANUARY 15, 2012 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Helene Gruber, Chair

Ms. Gruber said she is so grateful to Mr. Wagner for his work in the garden. She said it is always such a pleasure when she comes to this building. She said it is a lot of hard work that is never going to end. She said there is nothing we can do to repay him for his work and dedication but would like to give him a card thanking him for all he has done. She passed around a card for all to sign.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said we are working on the grant from United Way for Camp Treasure Chest and said there are some frustrations and talked to the ABLE Board last Tuesday about it. She said last year when we applied to get the grant for this year, ABLE did not have a strategic plan and did not establish any goals or fundraisers for the year. She said she made up a strategic plan and goals, as those were required to complete the plan and indicated she would not do it again. It is the boards responsibility and she was not comfortable making those up. She said they set up a meeting with a facilitator to help them and it was cancelled. The only real fund raiser they set for this year was the selling of the ornaments. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday to go over the draft that our staff put together for the grant. She said she also has an abbreviated financial statement but feels it will not help in terms of determining what their budget is. She thinks the problem is lack of membership that come consistently and is committed to the kind of structure the foundation needs to have. We desperately need members in ABLE and asked board members to let her know if there is anyone interested in doing this type of service.

Ms. Wagner said staff is working on a grant with the Government Council of Developmental Disabilities to provide funding to approve services for people with developmental disabilities in our area.

- Number one, it will bring in professionals in all areas; doctors, psychologists, psychiatrists, mental health professionals, police officers as well as others that can bring in expertise on issues that we deal with now, particularly those individuals with challenging behaviors, those with dual diagnosis, etc. She said we would offer lunch with a two hour forum "lunch and learn" to help them to learn more about the challenges we are facing as well as how to communicate with people with developmental disabilities. She said we have a limited number of professionals that will see our consumers and the forums will cover many things.
- Number two, is to develop a curriculum for a 12 week training program for our direct care staff in residential and day program to help them learn the same kind of things, how to deal with challenging behaviors and hope to improve the care we are able to give the consumers and give staff the confidence in dealing with those challenges and help with our turnover rate.

Ms. Wagner said she hopes to work with the Technical College of the Lowcountry or the University of South Carolina Beaufort to develop the program that would offer a certification that will be

competency based for those who attend. We would have thirty staff attend this year, thirty next year and then would be ongoing for new staff as they come in. Mr. Collar said they have a program at Midlands Tech in Columbia called Human Services Programs and may be a resource.

Ms. Wagner distributed copies of the SCDDSN budget for 2014, reviewed the information and answered questions. Ms. Wagner said one good thing for 2014 is the 5 million dollars in Gov. Haley's budget that is new reoccurring funds which is good and becomes part of the ongoing budget year after year.

Ms. Wagner said 15 bricks have been sold for the flagpole project. She said we had a lot of activity around Christmas. If you know of anyone who may be interested in purchasing a brick please let us know and we will get them a form. We will be glad to email a copy of the form if needed.

Ms. Wagner said we had one meeting regarding the Web Store and apologized to Mr. Green for not notifying him of the meeting. We have another meeting on Friday at 9:30 a.m. with the county advertising representative. She said this will be a great opportunity for DSN and for the ABLE Foundation to sell the items they have as well as the items our individuals make.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said we talked about starting a relationship with Palmetto Breeze for two of our routes with the idea that it would provide transportation for our consumers and reduce the wear and tear of our vehicles. He said we met with a group of seven family members and, for the most part, they were receptive until they learned that there was a possibility of one or two community folks riding the bus. One family member suggested that a family member volunteer to ride the bus for the first couple of weeks along with a staff person. He said it looks positive and we are still waiting to hear back from the grant. Palmetto Breeze also traveled the route to see what obstacles there may be, if the turn around is wide enough or if there is a hazard for vehicles and if the roads have too many ruts, etc.

Mr. Love said we are looking into our fee for services. There are now about six individuals who are paying to attend day program. We started the fee for services last year and are charging \$326.00 monthly. He said we contacted the state asking if we could use a formula to determine whether a consumer could pay the full amount of almost \$900.00 a month or pay the \$326.00. They said we could. We do have a number of families who could afford the pay the full amount and mentioned that we provide a lot of services for \$326.00 a month, to include transportation to and from, instruction, etc.

Mr. Love said a letter was sent out last week to family members about behaviors on the van. We have had a number of fights, biting, etc. and mentioned that if a consumer is acting out on the van families will have to provide their transportation. He said it would not be a permanent situation and would reevaluate them to see if it is appropriate for them to be back on the van. There is only one staff on the van and bad behaviors create issues. Ms. Gruber said other options for families that may not be able to provide transportation may be needed.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE, Grace Dennis, Chair

- 250-09 DD Calculation of room and board for Non-ICF/ID Programs (Revised)
- 250-10 DD Funding for Services (Revised)
- 250-11 DD Outlier Funding Request System–Capitated Funding System (Revised)

Ms. Dennis said the revised directives this month made for very interesting reading. She said the committee reviewed the directives listed and asked for board approval for the directives as written. Directives were approved as submitted.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Helene Gruber, Chair

Ms. Gruber said this committee is the most enthusiastic group of people you can imagine. She encouraged board members to attend some of the functions they are planning. On February 16th they are having a fashion show from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. The consumer will choose the fashion they will wear and if they did not have anything they would be taken to Goodwill to find something. Breakers Program individuals will be included. Coffee and light hors d'oeuvres will be served and a photographer there to take pictures.

- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair

Mr. Brown said we have had no luck so far. Mr. Becker did not submit his application. County Council will be contacted to see if there are any other applications to be reviewed.

- Public Relations Committee, David Green, Chair

Mr. Green said he had nothing to report and would work on the goals. He made himself available if needed at the meetings on the Web Store.


IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **February 19, 2013** at 4:00 p.m. at:
Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GLORIA BOLINO TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 15, 2013 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.


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



Helene Gruber, Chair

2-19-13

Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Secretary

2-19-2013

Date