

BEAUFORT COUNTY BOARD OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS  
100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
August 27, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, Helene Gruber, Nancy Pinkerton, Ann Wirz, Gardenia Simmons-White and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Green, Margaret Ann Gatch and Jill Striebinger

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None Present

I. CALL TO ORDER – Jonathan Brown, Chairman  
Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS  
There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2013 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY BOBBY COLLAR TO APPROVE THE JULY 16, 2013 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 27, 2013 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY HELENE GRUBER TO ADOPT THE AUGUST 27, 2013 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT, Jonathan Brown, Chairman  
Mr. Brown said the Retreat Committee met and came up with October 25<sup>th</sup> as the date for the retreat. He said it is still a work in progress and to check your emails for updates.

Mr. Collar, Retreat Committee Chair, reported that Ms. Wagner, Mr. Brown, Ms. Gruber and Ms. Striebinger, by telephone conference, met to discuss who should be invited. He said we would enjoy hearing from some of the working staff to get their perspective on what is going on. We also would like for Mr. Rufus Britt, District Director, Mr. Kubic, Beaufort County Administrator, to speak again. Ms. Wagner suggested asking Mr. Gruber, County Attorney, to speak to us as to what our role as an Advisory Board is, where our jurisdiction begins and ends. Mr. Collar said it would be a great opportunity for us. We would also like for Dr. Patricia O'Conner, new PEP Director to speak. The committee also talked about lunch. Some felt the lunch last year was a little heavy and pricey and suggested sandwiches from Alvin Ords or Jimmy Johns. He said he would look into those suggestions and would look for something in the \$10.00 range. It was also suggested using invitations that would acknowledge their attendance and would give us a solid number to work with. He said we will be paying for lunch for our speakers and that amount would be incorporated into the cost of the lunch. We will also provide coffee, juice, muffins and doughnuts for the morning session and mentioned that board members were more than welcome to bring in some of their baked goods. Ms. Wirz said she checked on some other places that the committee might want to consider for lunch. She said she would share the information with Mr. Collar who said he would be glad to look into those options also.

Mr. Brown asked board members to think about goals for coming year. Goals that we can be sure that will be accomplished. He said we did not meet all the goals we set last year but we did great. He said we still need to work on the Communications goal; it is a work in progress.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said the Public Facilities Committee decided to move forward with the renovations on the replacement home for Broad River. We hope they will move very quickly with the renovations so we can get moved in 90 days from the date the renovations begin. Ms. Wagner said she made a copy of the presentation prepared for the committee and shared the presentation with the board members. She said we are very thankful for the support we have from County Council. They see the need and they answer that need very quickly.

Ms. Wagner said it is a very difficult time for PEP as all of their management staff is gone. She said the new director; Dr. Patricia O'Connor will be a real good addition for PEP. She said many of the records are gone and it will be challenge to start a job without people there who have known how to do things. Ms. Wagner mentioned that she has put together quite a few things for Dr. O'Connor and Mr. Love has worked with Dr. O'Connor and others to help them to understand what Day Program is and what the requirements are and help them understand contracts with employers. Ms. Cody has worked with them to help them understand how they get paid and what we need in order to pay them and how to enter information into the South Carolina data system. Ms. Wagner said she also put Dr. O'Connor in touch with Alliant, our oversight group, so they can communicate with them and put her in touch with some of the more important people at SCDDSN. Ms. Wagner said she hopes this will give us a stronger relationship than we have had with PEP and she will do anything she can do to help strengthen their organization.

Ms. Wagner reminded members that Friday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon we will hold our Flag Pole Celebration and Consumer talent show. Bryan Hill, Deputy County Administrator will speak as well as Scott Marshall, PALS Director, Hank Herring, ABLE Foundation and Reverend Cushingberry. Consumers will raise the flag and there will be a quote from Ms. Hartzog in the day program and singers from Rev. Cushingberry's church will sing some patriotic songs. Directly following the ceremony refreshments will be served and the talent show to follow. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. She said it will be a fun day.

Ms. Wagner passed out updates on TCM and reviewed the results and answered questions. She said this was the most positive update we have had so far.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said we are now fully staffed in the day program and that is great. He said we also have hired our first Autistic/Asperger employee and she will be an amazing employee. He said if you know an individual with Aspergers you know things are black and white, there is no gray area. It is very interesting. She is a very hard working person, graduated valedictorian of her class. People have been reluctant to hire her because of her diagnosis. She is doing extremely well and has raised our sensitivity level.

Mr. Love stated we received a phone call from Furniture Warehouse and if any of you shop there go by and tell them how much you appreciate hiring our consumers. They have asked us to start putting together chairs for their dining rooms. They have brought in the first two boxes and our consumers are putting the legs on.

Mr. Love said our consumers received their pay checks and although they had no concept of the amount of money they had and spent it all. He said this is something that we will work on as an objective. He said they were very excited about getting a paycheck and said it wasn't the amount of the check but the fact that people valued them, they had done something that earned them a check. He said we plan to make work the vehicle to teach consumers inter-personal skills, money management and setting boundaries. He said all of our goals and objectives set down by Medicaid can be done by working with this population and we now have 54% of our people out working.

Mr. Love mentioned that our relationship with Palmetto Breeze is going very well. He said he feels it is because we had so many meetings with family members before we started. We answered questions, met with them and have had no complaints. He said three family members have called to mention that all the fears they had anticipated was non existent.

#### VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE REPORTS, Grace Dennis, Chair

Ms. Dennis said the Policy Committee reviewed the directives listed on the agenda and asked for board approval of the directives as written. Directives were approved as submitted.

#### IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Helene Gruber, Chair  
Ms. Gruber said there is the celebration on Friday for the Flag Pole and talent show and encouraged members to attend and support the consumers and staff. She said she had not been contacted by the Social Committee but hopefully they will invite us again.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair  
Mr. Brown said we do have an applicant to replace Ms. Criscuolo. Ms. Barbara Childs has submitted an application and Mr. Brown will get in touch with her.
- Public Relations Committee, David Green, Chair  
Nothing to report.
- 2013 Goals Committee reports
  1. Communications among boards – Ms. Wirz said she and Ms Dennis are working on a directory with a list of names with phone numbers of those who are interested receiving and participating in board functions.
  2. Grant money and funding – Ms. Gruber asked if fund raising is a function of the Advisory Board and felt that Mr. Gruber could clarify that function when he speaks at the Board Retreat. Ms. Dennis mentioned that ABLE Foundation was formed to be able to raise funds.
  3. Communications with County and State  
Mr. Brown said our communications with the county is ongoing. He said he plans to attend a State Commission meeting.

Mr. Brown reminded board members that we should work on setting our goals for 2014 during the retreat.

#### X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Campbell said he has heard only positive reports from the Library and PALS that our consumers are doing an outstanding job and we are looking for other job opportunities. He also mentioned that he is pleased that we do have a person to fill the position on the board and felt she would be a good

candidate. He mentioned also that he would not be able to attend the celebration on Friday. He will be attending a funeral and mentioned that Mr. Hill would do a good job.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Brown mentioned that "Baptists say that lets do flowers while we are living" and with that told Ms. Gruber that "this great board that you turned over to me thought so highly of you and they want to thank you for your leadership, commitment and most of all your entertainment, because you did a lot of events that I can't even think about doing" He presented her with a gift certificate, card and gift from the DSN consumers and staff.


Ms. Gruber said it is always fun to work with people you like and this is a great group of people. She thanked everyone and said she loved being here.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at:  
Disabilities and Special Needs Department  
100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906

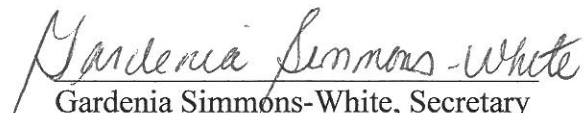
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY BOBBY COLLAR AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 27, 2013 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

  
Jonathan Brown, Chairman

9/17/2013  
Date

  
Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

9/17/2013  
Date