

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

December 17, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, David Green, Helene Gruber, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White, Jill Striebinger and Ann Wirz

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

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 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS
There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2013 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY HELENE GRUBER AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 19, 2013 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2013 AGENDA

Mr. Brown stated he would like to add to his report the video of the County Council meeting with the consumers thanking council members for their continued support of the programs provided by the Disabilities and Special Needs Department.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ADOPT THE DECEMBER 17, 2013 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Board members watched the video of the council meeting with the comments by three of our individuals thanking council members for their support. Ms. Wagner commented that the individuals wrote their own speeches. Mr. Love commented that one of the individuals was living in an unhealthy environment and that if not taken out of that environment it could have been very damaging. Mr. Brown also presented council members with a certificate of appreciation from the DSN Advisory Board during the meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner passed out a copy of a letter sent out by the Human Services Providers and said she had highlighted some of the important parts and made notes. She said the letter was sent to all the legislators in the state. She said this is an introduction of what the state is asking for in the next year and what we as providers think are the important priorities. Emails have been forwarded hoping that every board will contact the local legislators and follow-up with this letter. She said with that in mind she put together some talking points specific to Beaufort DSN so if you talk to the legislators you will have something to go by. She reviewed the talking points and explained each topic and distributed addresses of the Legislative Delegation for contact purposes. She said the Legislative Session reconvenes January 14, 2014 and any conversation needs to be done very quickly. She said

you could grab a buddy for a short fifteen-minute visit, which could make a tremendous difference in how they vote for this year's budget.

Ms. Gruber passed out copies of a draft of the Disabilities and Special Needs Board Presentation explaining the role of the Advisory board, its purpose, powers and duties. Board members reviewed the presentation and made a few suggestions/corrections

Ms. Wagner also distributed copies of anticipated new expenses for 2014 and the additional funding needed to cover expenses of operating a home in Bluffton, funding for a service coordination position, replacement vehicles and the additional expenses with the larger 26,000 square foot building.

She said this is a week of celebration. We had a staff potluck lunch yesterday to celebrate the holiday season. Friday is the big holiday celebration for the consumers from 11:00 until 2:00 p.m. She said she hoped board members could come; it is a wonderful opportunity to see how much the consumers enjoy it and how the staff interact with the consumers and said we are so blest that we have such wonderful staff. She said the consumers will be having their pictures taken, exchanging gifts and having a good time. She mentioned that we have a reputation so good that people are seeking us out and it is amazing.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said to follow-up we have a family moving down next month from Maine and have had three or four new consumers in the last few months which is a blessing and a challenge.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE REPORT, 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 Ms. Wagner gave the information on the holiday celebration and encouraged board members to attend. She said you would enjoy it and be amazed at the staff interaction.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
Mr. Brown said we are still looking for members.
- Public Relations Committee, David Green, Chair
Nothing to report. Mr. Green said there is a lot of overlap between the Public Relations and the sub-committee relating to government affairs and felt they could be merged.
- 2014 Goals
 1. Review and make recommendations to County Council on more concise wording on the County Board Template, Helene Gruber, Chair.
Ms. Gruber said for several years we have labored with the fact that the confusion between the Board and the Advisory Board has been ramped for years. She said this is our attempt to clear it up. She went through the Powers and Duties of the Advisory and said this is the committee recommendations on what we believe reflects what this board actually does. She said with the minor corrections she asked for board approval to give these recommendations to Mr. Campbell and ask him to do with it as he feels

appropriate. Ms. Striebinger will make the changes and send to board members for final approval at the January board meeting.

- 2. Informing Parents, Communication with transitions, Bobby Collar, Chair
Nothing to report

Mr. Brown said we would combine the Public Relations Committee and Legislative Committee goal to make one committee. Mr. Brown said he was going to try to meet with a couple folks to see what we could do and would welcome anyone who would like to join us to meet for fifteen-minutes with the legislators to see what we can do.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Brown thanked the consumers for the beautiful card they made for the American Legion Post. He said they hung it up at the Post.

Mr. Brown wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, be safe and hopes to see everyone in the New Year.

Ms. Wagner also thanked Ms. Gruber for the certificates for the Employee of the Month. She said our December Employee of the month would be announced the first week in January and that person will attend the board meeting in January and be presented with the certificate.

Ms. Wagner thanked Mr. Brown for doing such a beautiful job at the council meeting. She said we had a lot of support and mentioned that Ms. Striebinger and her husband and son were there as well as several staff and consumers.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 21, 2014** 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 DAVID GREEN TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 17, 2013 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Absent -
Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Date

Gardenia Simmons-White
Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

01/21/2014
Date