

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

January 21, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Grace Dennis, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White, and Jill Striebinger

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Margaret Ann Gatch, Helene Gruber, Ann Wirz and Morris Campbell (Ex-Officio)

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Regina Gardner, Employee of the Month (December)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary
Ms. Simmons-White called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS
Ms. Simmons-White welcomed Ms. Gardner.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2013 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 17, 2013 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 21, 2014 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY JILL STRIEBINGER TO ADOPT THE JANUARY 21, 2014 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary
Ms. Simmons-White recognized Ms. Gardner as the Employee of the Month for December 2013. She said Ms. Gardner received the most votes of the five employees that were nominated. Ms. Simmons-White congratulated her on behalf of the Advisory Board members and presented her with a "Certificate of Appreciation" in honor of her outstanding performance and dedication in serving the needs of individuals with disabilities. Ms. Gardner works at the Port Royal Community Residence and has been employed with DSN for fifteen years. Others nominated for the month of December were: Tori Austin, Chloe Way CTH II Training Specialist, Zakiya Hill-Thompson, Day Program Training Specialist, Sonya LeBrun, Early Interventionist and Robin Krehbiel, Admin. Tech.

Ms. Wagner said Ms. Gruber and her committee completed the recommended revisions for the county template. Ms. Gruber completed a letter that will go to Mr. Campbell along with the changes suggested by the group. Ms. Wagner asked if board members wanted to review the changes and vote during the next meeting or vote to accept the changes today and forward on to Mr. Campbell.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ACCEPT THE CHANGES AS SUBMITTED AND FORWARD TO MR. CAMPBELL. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner thanked Ms. Striebinger for setting up meetings with our legislators. She will give her report under the Committee reports.

Ms. Wagner passed out an article that was posted in the Post and Courier in Charleston that will have a tremendous impact on DSN. She said that Mr. Keck, Director of DHHS came forward with a commitment to spend 44.7 million dollars to provide funds to reduce or eliminate the waiting list for waivers. She said Beaufort has 213 individuals waiting for waiver approval. If they all received waivers it would mean a tremendous growth in our day program. She also said we have 56 on the waiting list for residential services. She said this would be a tremendous impact and major changes in the next few years for DSN. Ms. Wagner said we cannot accept more individuals in our day program and are talking with people about the possibilities of expansion of both residential and day program. She said we may not be able to do it in a year but we need to get to a place where we can do it. Mr. Love said we need to think about providing a different kind of service. He said we turned the day program conference room into an additional training room that will accommodate our work crew. This gives us ten training rooms. He said we are getting Training Specialist applicants with multiple skills that will accommodate our individuals.

Ms. Wagner said there is a meeting with DDSN on January 31 to look at the property that we are anticipating having and what might be the best use of that property and will share at the next meeting the outcome of that. She said Mr. Kubic would be part of the meeting.

Ms. Wagner said we are hoping to move into the Cottage Walk home on February 17, 2014. She said the Fire Marshall inspection would be done on Thursday. As soon as that is completed, we can schedule the licensing inspection. She said we are excited and asked board members to work with us on some kind of open house for the board, neighbors, and our individuals in the other homes that will visit. We plan to have cookies and juice and would like to schedule it sometime after the 17th after the individuals are settled in.

Ms. Wagner said Public Works is working with us on repairs to the Ivy Lane home. They have repaired the walls in one of the bedrooms numerous times where the individual consistently puts his fist through the walls and are working on reinforcing the walls. We also found out that we have more repairs than just the one room. We have hired a contractor to reinforce the floors. The floor supports have deteriorated over time in the kitchen and need to be repaired and the air conditioner is about to go out. She said we are looking at about \$75,000 to \$100,000 in repairs to a house that is not ADA and said we are contemplating what to do. We may, at some point, be advocating for a replacement home.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said it is exciting with all that is going on. He said we are still having difficulty with the doors. The power in the transformers is not strong enough to open the doors, so maintenance will look at those. He said we are also looking at some bathroom repairs with some money we have left over and doing some training on use of the bathroom facilities.

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
Nothing to report, Ms. Gruber has elected not to seek re-appointment and was not present.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
Nothing to report. Ms. Wagner said we are now down two members and there are no other applications on file with Beaufort County. She asked if board members might know of someone that would be a good candidate and ask them to complete the application on the county web page.
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
Ms. Striebinger said she contacted Rep. Shannon Erickson, Mr. Hodges and Tom Davis and was able to set up a meeting with Rep. Hodges and Senator Tom Davis. She said she and Ms Wagner attended both meetings and advocated for the needs of our individuals and asked questions. She said they gave a presentation to the legislative forum and said she felt she was able to get her point across. Mr. Green attended the meeting with Sen. Davis and said it went very well and they were able to let them know the day-to-day problems and issues. Ms. Wagner said she felt it made a difference and suggested a follow-up meeting and make it a point to watch the voting to see how they vote and follow-up with a call thanking them for their vote toward positive things for DSN then the next time you go you will have developed some kind of open relationship with them and that would be terrific. Ms. Striebinger said she was told that if you really want to make a difference would be to write a handwritten note. Legislators get emails, faxes and all this stuff all the time. A personal had written note would show you took the time to write them.
- 2014 Goals
 1. Review and make recommendations to County Council on more concise wording on the County Board Template, (Goal has been achieved and recommendations will be forwarded to Mr. Campbell.
 2. Informing Parents, Communication with transitions, Bobby Collar, Chair
Nothing to report

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Green said the Disabilities Coalition will meet on February 3, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. at the Bluffton Medical Campus and on March 3 in the DSN meeting room.

Ms. Wagner said the ABLE Foundation has put together the best plan they have ever had. One of their goals is to set up committees to do certain things. She asked the Advisory Board and will ask the Human Rights Committee if they would like to participate in a committee that would make it large enough to be able to do these things. One goal of the group is to contact businesses and service clubs and ask for donations. They have set a monetary goal of \$25,000 each year. They also plan to do an annual or semi-annual mail out to help to do that. A group is also working on the web page development. Also, a committee will plan two activities for the year. One event is a Blue Grass Music festival and the other will be some sort of athletic event with food, i.e., oyster roast or BBQ with maybe a bike race or a 5K-run/walk event. She said the foundation needs more members and if

you are interested in joining any of the committees please let her know. The ornaments are going well, we do not make much money on them and Ms. Schroeder does a wonderful job with the event. The next ornament will be the Star Fish.


Ms. Simmons-White said the holiday celebration was very nice. She said it was wonderful to see all the clients, parents and staff and she enjoyed it.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, February 18, 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 NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 21, 2014 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

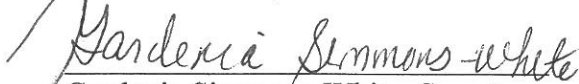
The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Jonathan Brown, Chairman

2-18-14

Date



Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

2/18/14

Date