

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

February 18, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, David Green, 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: Anita Turner, Employee of the Month (January)

I. CALL TO ORDER – Jonathan Brown, Chairman  
Mr. Brown called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS  
Mr. Brown welcomed Ms. Turner.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2014 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY BOBBY COLLAR TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 21, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Mr. Brown recognized Ms. Turner as the Employee of the Month for January 2014. He said Ms. Turner received the most votes of the five employees that were nominated. He 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. Turner works at the Port Royal Community Residence, has been employed with DSN for three years, and was recently promoted to a Shift Supervisory position. Others nominated for the month of January were: Tori Austin, Chloe Way CTH II Training Specialist, Bruce Marroquin, Day Program Training Specialist, Doneta Garvin, Service Coordinator and Janice Beach, Principal Accounting Tech.

Mr. Brown reminded board members that March is Disabilities Awareness Month and asked volunteers to pick up the proclamations. They are as follows:

City of Beaufort	March 11 @ 7:00	Grace Dennis and/or Jonathan Brown
Town of Port Royal	March 12 @ 6:30	Ann Wirz and Mikel Swinton
Town of Bluffton	March 11 @ 6:00	Bobby Collar and David Green
Hilton Head	March 04 @ 4:00	Nancy Pinkerton
County Council	March 10 @ 5:00	Gardenia Simmons-White and Jonathan Brown

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said we were chosen as one of eight counties in South Carolina to be audited by an audit firm hired by Health and Human Services. She said the purpose of the audit was not to see how well we are doing with dispensing Medicaid funds; it was all how about how SCDDSN was doing in giving us funds. She said it was a very strange audit and DSN was asked a very direct question that was very uncomfortable to answer. She said she was asked if she thought SCDDSN was paying all the money to providers that it received from Health and Human Services. Ms. Wagner said she felt it was inappropriate and stated she was not in a position to know how SCDDSN spends their money. She said those were the kinds of questions asked and said she did not know why Beaufort was chosen. She said there is quite a battle going on between SCDDSN and HHS and thinks it will be a very interesting legislative session to see how services are restructured based on how who handles what. She mentioned she does not know how they may follow up on the audit but it was awkward. She said the end result is that the audit firm has been required to put together a power point with charts and structures based on their eight interviews that will be presented to legislature.

Ms. Wagner said this year Beaufort County Council allocated \$300,000 for a residential facility in the Bluffton/Hilton Head area. She said we have been looking for something in that area and an opportunity has fallen into our laps for a fantastic facility in Bluffton. It has nine bedrooms and baths, 5000 square feet on five acres. It is all ADA, has been used for a group home and for a home for unwed mothers, and has been licensed by DHEC. She mentioned that it is a delightful opportunity but without ongoing funding to keep it running it will not help us. She said we invited SCDDSN down to see the property and talk with us. They were not very positive about using it for a residential facility. They did say it could not be used for a CTH II and suggested it could be used for a CRCF facility. Our current CRCF was grand fathered in with 15 individuals where the regulations now allow only six. SCDDSN suggested that we start a day program, which would be easier to ensure ongoing funding. She said we put together a proposal and will set up conference calls with David Goodell and Tom Waring with what we think would be the best use of the facility. Our proposal is to use the upstairs for a six bed CRCF and the downstairs as a day program. We have 53 individuals on the residential waiting list; of those who may receive residential slots, seven are for aging caregivers and three or four on the critical list. For a day program in Bluffton we could move the six individuals from the Bluffton/Hilton Head area we currently serve in Beaufort and this would give them an opportunity to be closer to home. HHS has allocated 44.7 million dollars to take people off the waiting list for the ID/RD Waiver and for the Community Support Waiver. We may have seven additional individuals in the day program when those waivers are allocated.

Mr. Green stated he was in the middle of some of the discussions going on with what is happening in Bluffton and Hilton Head with the Disabilities Coalition as well as having a son attending PEP and there is a lot of concern on the part of the PEP folks that somehow Beaufort is trying to take over the Bluffton Hilton Head area and that PEP will start losing members. Mr. Love insured Mr. Green that we would not compete with PEP and will lend as much support as we can for PEP services. He said PEP is not equipped to take the more severe individuals and we hope it will be more of a partnership where we can offer people served in Beaufort County a choice of service providers for day services, either PEP or Beaufort DSN. Both organizations will have an opportunity to do what they do best. We both have the ultimate goal of serving as many people with developmental disabilities in Beaufort as we are able.

Ms. Wagner said the moving date to Cottage Walk is now March 10<sup>th</sup>. She said the renovations are complete and we are now waiting for the battery back up for the phone system because the fire alarm will not work if the electricity goes out. The Fire Marshal has approved everything with the exception of a few minor things and will come back as soon as we get the battery back up. Alliant will license the

home within the next two weeks. The movers are scheduled for the 10<sup>th</sup> and we plan to have some kind of open house toward the end of March or early April. She said it is a really nice facility.

Ms. Wagner said the Ivy Lane home is the last of the homes we have not updated to all ADA. Ivy Lane has had ongoing structural issues for several years and has been on the Capital Improvement list with Beaufort County for years. Currently it will cost \$75,000 to \$100,000 to correct all the issues with the home. We proposed that we replace the home rather than to invest that kind of money into a home that will never be ADA. We have suggested using money in our fund balance from last year to replace the home.

Mr. Kubic visits Broad River once a month and was asked by the consumers for a new vehicle because their van was being repaired and they had to ride in one of the county cars and the four guys didn't think they had enough room in the smaller cars. She said Mr. Kubic asked her what was wrong and she mentioned that several of our aging vehicles were always in the garage. He asked for a list of all the aging vehicles and would see what could be done. As a result of that he approved replacement of four of our vehicles.

Ms. Wagner said our budget for FY 2015 is due to county on March 10 and we are asking for a couple of things. The first is relating to service coordination and we are asking for two new positions that are not service coordinators but social workers who will pick up the services that service coordinators cannot do because they are not billable services under Medicaid. We are also asking for two more positions in day program as we have added 15 more individuals and we need to keep our ratio and be flexible enough to fill in the residential programs when staff is out on workers comp. or personal leave. She said if we do open the facility in Bluffton there will be the additional expense of staff, operational expenses, furniture, etc.

#### VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love mentioned there have been a lot of changes in the past six months not only in Beaufort but also around the state. He said we serve our population from birth to death and their needs are a complex reality. He said last week some of our staff went to a statewide conference and heard individuals speak on some of the current issues; TCM, Budget, HHS. It was obvious to all that change is coming and the change will affect how we do business and the quality of services to individuals we serve. These changes will raise the standard for all of us and that is a good thing. We have seen our population grow because of the increase in the waivers. He said, at the conference, there was a lot of emphasis on independent living and employment, finding meaningful jobs is a big portion of it and de-institutionalization. Ms. Wagner said Mr. Love and Ms. Randal did a workshop at the conference on day program activities and did an excellent job.

#### 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 adopted as submitted.

#### IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Jill Striebinger, Chair  
Mr. Brown recommended and asked Ms. Striebinger to fill the committee position vacated by Ms. Gruber. Ms. Striebinger accepted the position.

- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair  
Nothing to report. He said we are now down two members and there are no other applications on file with Beaufort County. He 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  
Mr. Green said he met with Mr. Keck and senior staffers in Columbia on January 30, representing Osprey Village, and basically talked about what OSPRY is trying to do and how that can be funded operationally with waivers assigned to people who would participate in their program based on their choice to do so. The big hang up is how you do that in a fair manner that no one could complain about. Mr. Keck said that 44.7 million may end up taking care of anywhere from 1100 to 1400 people. Mr. Green said we are fortunate to have on the Osprey Village board a gentleman who ran all of the DDSN programs in the state of Ohio. They also have a gentleman from Pennsylvania who ran the programs to move people out of institutions into community living facilities. One of the suggestions was; "Why do we need a statewide waiting list, would it not be easier and fairer to work with if it were county by county rather than statewide?"
- 2014 Goals
  1. Informing Parents, Communication with transitions, Bobby Collar, Chair  
Mr. Collar asked if he should arrange for DSN to attend transitional meetings and teacher conferences to present information to parents and teachers. Ms. Wagner said that would be wonderful and would gladly speak with parents and teachers and/or set up tables with information whenever possible.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

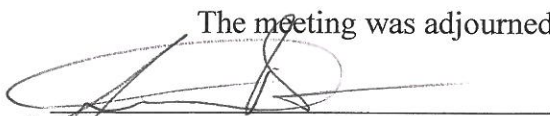
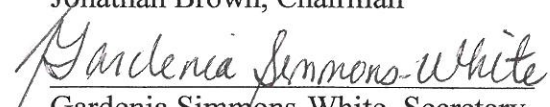
Mr. Green said the Disabilities Coalition would meet on March 3, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in the DSN meeting room.

The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 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 BOBBY COLLAR TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 18, 2014 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

  
Jonathan Brown, Chairman  
  
Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

3-18-14  
Date  
3/18/2014  
Date