

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

June 17, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bobby Collar, Grace Dennis, David Green, Margaret Ann Gatch, George Marshall, Nancy Pinkerton, Gardenia Simmons-White and Morris Campbell (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jonathan Brown, Jill Striebinger and Ann Wirz

STAFF PRESENT: Mitzi Wagner, Bill Love, Beth Cody, Fred Furman and Joe Anne King

GUESTS PRESENT: Sue Ann Bolick, ABLE Foundation, John and Trey Gatch

I. CALL TO ORDER – Bobby Collar, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Collar, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Mr. Collar welcomed Ms. Bolick, Mr. Gatch, Trey Gatch and Fred Furman. DSN Employee of the Month for May.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 20, 2014 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE MAY 20, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 17, 2014 AGENDA

Ms. Wagner said she would like to add to her report the following items:

~Sue Ann Bolick, ABLE Foundation, ornaments and Shrimp Festival

~Accident, Palmetto Breeze

~Board pleasure for the July meeting

MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE TO ADOPT THE JUNE 17, 2014 AGENDA AS AMENDED. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Bobby Collar, Vice Chairman

Mr. Collar said the employees that were nominated for Employee of the Month for May were: April Lang, CTH II Training Specialist, Rose Heyward, Day Program Training Specialist, Billjean Sizemore, Port Royal Community Residence Training Specialist and Cynthia Perry, Early Intervention. Fred Furman, Service Coordination, was chosen as Employee of the Month for May. Mr. Furman has been with the department for 20 years. Mr. Collar presented Mr. Furman with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Disabilities and Special Needs Advisory Board and thanked him for his years of service with the department. Ms. Wagner mentioned that Mr. Furman began with the department as a Mental Retardation Specialist at the Port Royal Community Residence. From there he transferred into the Day Program as a Training Specialist, then went into the Job Coach Program and is now a Service Coordinator. He is also the Defensive Driving trainer for the department.

Ms. Bolick thanked board members for allowing her to speak on behalf of the ABLE Foundation and mentioned that her mission is to ask board members for their help in the sale of the 2014 ornaments. She also asked for suggestions of additional locations that may be interested in displaying the

ornaments in their place of business. The ornament for 2014 is the Starfish. Several locations were suggested. Ms. Bolick also mentioned that ABLE will have a booth at the Shrimp Festival and asked for help in working in the booth even if only for an hour or so. Any help would be appreciated. She said you could contact her or anyone from the foundation. She said they are also planning an annual fund raising event and would welcome suggestions and volunteers for that.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mitzi Wagner

Ms. Wagner said Ms. Cody would give a budget update. Ms. Cody passed around copies of the report. She said this is the final report for the fiscal year and reviewed the line items and answered questions. She mentioned we are in very good shape and are pleased with how everything worked out.

Ms. Wagner mentioned that we had the Broad River and Ivy Lane facilities appraised. She said Broad River was appraised at \$110,000 which may be a little more than it is worth and Ivy was appraised at \$135,000. She said Broad River is vacant but is monitored regularly by staff. Ivy is currently being used but we are in the process of looking for a replacement home. She said the county may put the homes up for bid and if you know of anyone who may be interested in either of the homes you may mention that they may be up for bid in the future.

Ms. Wagner said this is the first week of summer camp. This is the first time ever that we have had summer camp in Bluffton. We have eight campers in the Bluffton camp who are all children or youths with autism so it has been a bit challenging. We hope that it will grow in future years. She said the facility in Bluffton is not quite prepared as the schools that have Camp Treasure Chest this side of the river. They do not have the TV or the means to play music so we have tried to improvise and it is working out great. She said we are using Palmetto Breeze for some of the transportation and some of the parents are providing transportation to and from camp. We hope by next year we will have 25 or 30 participants south of the river like we do on this side.

Ms. Wagner said we have completed the United Way Grant application for ABLE and would like to recognize several staff for helping. She said Beth Cody, Webby Dyches and Erin Womack had a large part in preparing the document. David Striebinger is fantastic and has made it the best year ever. She said it was almost like an orchestrated completion; everyone had a part and did it perfectly. It was amazing that it was such a simple process when previously it was so complicated.

Ms. Wagner said it is time to start thinking about a retreat for some time around September or October. If you have any suggestions on speakers or facilitators to please let her know. Start thinking about it and she would do whatever she could.

Ms. Wagner said she did not know if everyone was aware of the Palmetto Breeze accident that involved eight of our consumers. It was an accident as far as we can tell. Apparently there was a basket in the road that may have dropped off a truck and the driver swerved to miss it and the bus flipped over on its side was hit by two pickup trucks. We are very thankful everyone survived. All were transported to the emergency room. One of our individuals was severely injured and had to be transported to MUSC. He was sitting where the roof caved in. His liver was severed and had a pelvic fracture and head injuries. Ms. Wagner, Bill Love, Morris Campbell, Ann Coaxum and Maddie Ludeker were at the emergency room with the individuals and said the staff in the ER was excellent, very understanding and kind. Three individuals went back for a recheck. Mr. Love said we have talked with the consumers in the day program regarding the accident; also, we have talked

with the family members daily and sent a letter to Beaufort Memorial to thank them for their patience and understanding with the consumers and families. Palmetto Breeze has agreed to take care of family expenses regarding the accident.

Ms. Wagner said we talked previously about putting together a committee to start a long process of trying to work through the process with the federal guidelines that we will not be able within the next five years to maintain a large facility like Port Royal Community Residence to care for 15 individuals. She said her suggestion for the advisory board would be to have a committee that would be willing to work on bits and pieces over the next five years to get ready for that. The first step would be to begin now because SCDDSN is trying to make some decisions now on how they are going to handle the facilities they own. She said SCDDSN owns the Port Royal facility so the committee needs to start soon to start advocating for how we think they should handle that facility and the next step would be to go to the legislators and try to help them understand that the money needs to come back here so we can develop something appropriate for the 15 individuals who live at Port Royal. Mr. Collar asked if there was anyone that would like to volunteer to share or be on that committee. Mr. Green said he feels that would fall under the Public Relations/Legislative Committee's responsibilities and stated he would be glad to organize it. Mr. Love said he would like to work with the committee and Ms. Dennis will also. Mr. Green will ask Ms. Striebinger if she would agree to serve on the committee also.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said we have ongoing concerns about retaining people and what do we need to do differently to keep people. Ms. Wagner is setting up small meetings with groups from all areas of the organization. He said staff has come back with positive feedback from the meetings. He said our families are becoming more involved and are expecting more. He said our numbers are going up and people are moving into the area and seem pleased with what they are seeing. He said Breakers had their cookout and all went well. This will be our third year for the grant. He mentioned that there are only three other counties in the state taking advantage of it. It continues to go well.

VIII. POLICY COMMITTEE, Grace Dennis

Ms. Dennis said the Policy Committee reviewed the policies/directives listed on the agenda and asked that the directives be approved as written.

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO ADOPT THE DIRECTIVES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Jill Striebinger, Chair
No report given, Ms. Striebinger was not present
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair
No report. Mr. Brown was not present. We still have one board vacancy
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
Mr. Green said the Disabilities Coalition is moving forward with plans to conduct a survey and get better public awareness of what we are doing in all of our organizations.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Collar asked for the board's pleasure for the July meeting. Board members elected not to have a meeting in July last year and asked if there would be a meeting during July.

MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE FOR FORGO THE MEETING IN JULY. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Campbell mentioned that the second reading of the budget has taken place but at the third reading this department is one of the few that will receive the same level of funding this year as in the past. Not many departments are as fortunate as Mitzi's to have maintained the same level of funding. The third hearing is coming up on the 23rd and feels the budgets are safe. He said Mitzi and Bill talked about the accident and how well the team pulled together and everyone was happy with what they have done and we will make sure that family members will be OK.

He said as far as the whole operation is concerned and what we are doing from his position in the county we are just trying to keep everything steady and try to maintain the same quality of service that you would be proud of but it is getting harder to maintain. He said we are doing the best we can with what we have.

Mr. Campbell thanked board members for their service and said it is important to have your input on the board for the department and the agencies and it will always take a team effort of the community as well as those of us who are on the payroll.

Ms. Love said he appreciated hearing that from Mr. Campbell because you always feel like you are alone with stuff and it is good to hear you say that we are not alone and we are all in this together.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 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 JUNE 17, 2014 MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.


Jonathan Brown, Chairman

Date

8/19/14


Gardenia Simmons-White, Secretary

Date

8/19/14