

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
December 15, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonathan Brown, Margaret Ann Gatch, Grace Dennis, Gardenia Simmons-White, David Green, Lynn Russo, Nancy Pinkerton, Jill Striebinger, George Marshall, Anne Hamilton, Monica Spells (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Caleb Brown

STAFF PRESENT: William Love, Janice Beach, Beth Odom

GUESTS PRESENT: John Gatch, Michael Corbett

I. CALL TO ORDER – Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman
Mrs. Pinkerton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Mrs. Pinkerton welcomed our guests and asked David Green to introduce his guest, Michael Corbett. Mr. Corbett is the Executive Director for Osprey Village. Mr. Corbett shared his background. Mr. Corbett said he is from Ohio. He has been doing housing for people with developmental disabilities for an agency for 15 years and he has been working with people with disabilities for 30 years. He has done a lot of housing. He took an agency with four homes and when he left they had fifty-five homes scattered throughout two counties. He has been working with David for about two weeks now.

Ms. Pinkerton asked everyone to be sure to fill out the Conflict of Interest form and turn them in before they leave today.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2015 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 17, 2015 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2015 AGENDA

THE DECEMBER 15, 2015 AGENDA WAS ADOPTED WITH SOME ADDITIONS.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman

Mrs. Pinkerton asked Beth Odom to start the meeting by telling us about her program.

Beth is Supervisor over the Early Intervention department. As we said at last month's meeting, Erin's department is the gatekeeper of DSN services. Beth is responsible for the babies. For young children from birth to 5 years old that we serve in Early Intervention most of our referrals come through the BabyNet program who serves children birth to 3 years old as part of First Steps which is part of the Department of Education at the state level. If the child continues to be eligible after age 3 they can continue with our services by going through

SCDDSN eligibility. The BabyNet program stops at age 3. If the child is still in need of services and the family is interested and the child qualifies they can also go to the school system at age 3 if they qualify for pre-school special education services. A 3 year old would go into a half day pre-school program or they may have speech therapy provided for them at their child care center or the parent may bring them to the school for speech therapy. The children we serve live anywhere in Beaufort County. They come from a wide variety of families. Some may have been born prematurely and need a little extra help to get started in the beginning. That may be all they need. Others may need major lifelong services and they would be lifelong consumers at DSN. The process for receiving a child for services is we first get a call from BabyNet that they have a child who needs services. Then they are assigned to an Early Interventionist. We have 6 EIs. Three work out of this office, two are in the Bluffton satellite office and one is in the Hilton Head satellite office. They contact the family and schedule a home visit with the family and find out what the needs are and develop a service plan. Then they start family training, which is one of two services we provide. Family training is where we go sit down on the floor and play with the child. They go to the homes or to the day care center with their caregiver. They take a toy bag with them to use for training. The other service we offer is Service Coordination to help connect families to other services. We make a lot of referrals for therapy services; PT, OT, speech. We also connect families with basic needs resources in the community. In six months we do a re-assessment and give the parent an update on the child's progress. We would revise the goals if that is indicated and continue with services. A year later we would come back and do the whole process again. We assess, we talk to the family about what their current needs are, and we develop a new plan for the child. The transition process to the schools would start about two and a half years of age and we would walk them through that process. We would go to the transition conference with them, be there for the school evaluations, and the IEP meetings if the parent would like for us to do that. For the children who stay with us without going to school, we take them through the eligibility process with DDSN and we would just continue family training and service coordination. Program-wide we are serving 80 – 85 children. We usually serve 95 – 100. Caseloads are low right now. The state recommended range for caseloads are a minimum of 16 to a maximum of 22. Anyone can initiate the contact with BabyNet.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Bluffton Houses – The houses at Bluffton have been approved and we have forwarded things to the state. Families will start on December 18th moving some things in and choosing rooms. We hope to totally move in on January 2nd. Open house is on Friday, January 8th from 4-6 pm. Dr. Beverly Buscemi of SCDDSN and some of the members of the legislative delegation want to be invited. Opening homes on that side (Bluffton/Hilton Head) is a big deal. They are beautiful homes. Pinecrest is the male home and Lakes Crossing is the female home. Open house is for both homes; they are 10 minutes apart.

County Council Meeting – County Council meeting yesterday we had 60-70 young people to receive awards for sports. Someone gave \$1 million for the Humane Society. The county won the Silver Palmetto Award a few years ago for their participation in replacing homes. I want to nominate them again for their help in getting the new homes, replacing vehicles, and for Scott Insurance who helped us reduce our Worker's Compensation injuries. There was too much going on at the tree lighting.

Compensation Study – There is a compensation study for all county employees. It is very extensive, 14 pages. They do not want a job description, but want to know what we actually do. It is a really complex tool. It makes you really think about what you actually do on a day to day basis. We want to have them in before February when the Council has their retreat.

FOIA – David, Mike and I went to the Freedom of Information training which was required by the state. What they are saying is not to be concerned about closed session meetings. Keep transparent. Be open and honest.

Last month we talked about the transition position. I took staff out for lunch last week where we discussed the position for transitioning consumers from school to work. I will ask Coe to come to our next meeting to discuss what he is doing. He is excited about the position.

VII. POLICY COMMITTEE - Grace Dennis
There were no policies to review this month.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Lynn Russo – Will need to get with someone about the Open House in January. We need to invite people from the HOA and neighbors.
- Personnel Committee, Jonathan Brown, Chair – Jonathan announced his resignation. He took a position with a company in Texas and will be moving by January 1st. We will need a new chair for this committee and a new member for the Board.
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
Mr. Green asked if anyone knows when the next local Legislative Delegation meets. Nobody knew.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

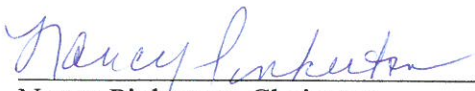
The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at:

Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way, Beaufort, SC 29906

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY JONATHAN BROWN AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ADJOURN THE DECEMBER 15TH MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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



Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman

1-19-16

Date



Jill Striebinger, Secretary

1/19/16

Date