

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
March 15, 2016

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Grace Dennis, Caleb Brown (Excused)

STAFF PRESENT: William Love, Janice Beach

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.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 BOARD MEETING

MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY LYNN RUSSO TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 16, 2016 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 15, 2016 AGENDA

MOTION WAS MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 15, 2016 AGENDA. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman

With the resignation of Mr. Brown, we are in need of a new board member. Please keep looking for someone to fill this empty seat. Mr. Green said when they were forming the Disabilities Coalition there were one or two ladies at the Naval Hospital who were involved with some special education program over there. He will check his records and go over there and contact them to see if they are interested. Mr. Marshall asked about one of the presenters at our Board Retreat who had expressed interest. Mr. Love submitted his name but he did not have permanent residence. Ms. Spells said you have to be registered as a voter in Beaufort County to be a member. She thought someone from council had a nominee, Joni Quigley. She will check to see where this person lives and to see who nominated her. Ms. Pinkerton added that even when we fill this position, we always need names because you never know when someone may be leaving or moving.

March is Disabilities Awareness month. Proclamations were picked up from the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, the Town of Bluffton, and Beaufort County Council. Caleb Brown is at the Hilton Head meeting today to pick up that one.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love said he would like to start every meeting telling the Board members “Thank You”. It is extremely important that we have people who are committed and involved in this population. I couldn't do it without your help. We really appreciate those of you who went to the different meetings to pick up the proclamations.

Mr. Love shared a couple of things that happened this past week at one of our homes and in the community. He also discussed some issues we are having with staff being out with Worker's Comp injuries. These issues were brought up to make you aware and to help you understand that this is what we do every day because it is part of our job and we do it well. Mr. Love also discussed issues that we are having with families wanting individualized services for their child. We touch the lives of 425 people every day, whether it is Case Management or Day Program. It is very, very difficult to create individual programs for any one child.

Ms. Striebinger responded –I realize there are a lot of things that happen here and you really work hard to provide services in these situations that come up every day and I appreciate the way staff handles that. However, you receive money to provide services that needs to meet children's needs. We have mandates coming – Final Rule – that says things like “The Day Program structure that currently exists in the SCDDSN system is given as an example of something that is not community inclusive.” This comes from our state DSN power-point about Final Rule. So if state programs are the only ones offered to someone, it looks like it goes against Final Rule. And so there are services that need to be provided to people and they do need to be individualized to some extent based upon the skill level of the person coming into the program in order to be compliant with this. This is just one example. So for you to say you can't individualize programs, it goes against some of these mandates coming from the state.

Mr. Love responded – What people don't understand is that many of our programs are individualized. We have 52 people working at Publix and working at Goodwill. We have individuals doing a lot. I have 147 consumers come to the Day Program every day. 53% are out working on different jobs; some individualized programs and some are work groups. The problem I am having is staff. The state ratio is 1:10. I know the Final Rule really well. I know that Power-Point. I go to the state and I talk to those people all the time. Every provider is having the exact same issue. That is why it is taking five or six years to implement.

Ms. Striebinger asked what our transition plan is. Mr. Love responded that we have hired Coe (Keefer), who is our employment transition person. What he will be doing is working with businesses in the area and talk to them about employment. What he has done is he has worked with employment first and he has worked with them closely.

Ms. Striebinger asked if he has a written plan. Does he have some kind of document that says this is our transition plan; this is our current process; this is where we are going? Mr. Love responded, “We just got that. That is a good point. We started off by hiring Coe (Keefer). That is the first part of the plan. I am very familiar with Final Rule. I get information on it all the time. That is why I am bringing information to share with you today so we can move forward.”

Ms. Simmons-White added that as a nurse, when you have people whose IQ is below normal it is difficult to have 1:10 people to take care of. You have got to be realistic. Parents need to know you are doing the best you can with what you have. You don't have the money because you allocate funds according to individuals. So much money is allocated for care and 1:10 is a big stretch, especially for this population. There was further discussion about funding and waivers.

Mr. Marshall said you are always going to have problems in any organization. You have to step back and look at what our problems are. Most counties are having problems with facilities and transportation. Now we are moving to a higher level of concerns and looking at programs. We're not looking at individual life circumstances for our individuals. We don't get a whole lot of information on the quality of life of our consumers. The other thing I wanted to say is it's not for this Board or for Bill and his staff to do everything. If that is the perception, we need to change that.

Mr. Love responded, "I agree with you 100%. One thing we are doing is contracting (if my budget gets approved) to have somebody make a 5-7 minute video to talk about some of the services because when people go out they want to be able to talk about our services. We're out a lot.

Mr. Marshall said that we (the Board) can be good ambassadors (for DSN) if we know what is going on. Let us know so that we can help.

Mr. Love said we are looking into a Delayed Egress System for the homes to alert staff if a consumer tries to leave the home. This egress is one they use in hospitals and nursing homes. There is also a two day workshop in Columbia called Partners in Policymaking if anyone is interested in learning how to become an advocate for someone.

We have submitted our Hurricane and Disaster Plan. We have to do this every year. We have about sixty individuals we are responsible for getting out of the area in case there is serious weather. We have to provide a plan of how we respond to it and it is very, very detailed. If any of you are interested in getting a copy or seeing a copy I will make sure Janice sends you one. It is a requirement we have to do not only for the county but for the state.

We had budget meetings last week. It was great. I went in and said to give us what you gave us last year. They supplemented my budget with two million last year. I went in and asked for four million. With that four million I am asking for additional homes because we have 65 individuals in the Beaufort area looking for residential placement. There are 18 individuals in the Hilton Head/Bluffton area. There were 18 we had to place outside Beaufort County because we did not have a home. If we don't get two, I would like to get one. We are also looking for a place for a Day Program in the Bluffton area. Right now we transport 8-9 individuals from the Bluffton/Hilton Head area. If we get a Day Program in that area those individuals won't need to come this far. That is a violation having to come from that area over here. We are trying to do something about it. I will keep you posted on our progress with the Day Program and the houses.

Ms. Simmons-White said she is hearing a lot of negativity. If there is a complaint we should investigate.

Ms. Pinkerton said she thinks a lot of it starts at home. What they're hearing at home and seeing at home and among their friends is where some of this comes from. If you don't have respect at home you aren't going to have it anywhere else."

Someone asked about the Resource Fair for students with disabilities. Mr. Love said there is a special program and that Coe and someone from the Day Program will be attending the workshop. You are going to hear a lot about transitioning and a lot about employment. That is a federal initiative. The governor and Dr. Buscemi have done a great job. We are being bombarded with this kind of stuff.

VII. POLICY COMMITTEE - Grace Dennis

Grace is not here today so we will visit this next month.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Lynn Russo – Nothing at this time.
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing at this time
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair
Mr. Green will attend the next Legislative Delegation meeting once we find out the date.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

FOIA presentation was sent by email. Staff development forms need to be turned in to show that you viewed the training. We will resend the email for in case some of you did not receive it. If you did, please turn in the staff development form to Janice.

Mr. Green said that Osprey Village has been approved as a DDSN Service Provider. They will be getting together to list the services they will be able to provide

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

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

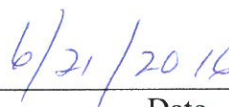
X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION WAS MADE BY LYNN RUSSO AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 15TH MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

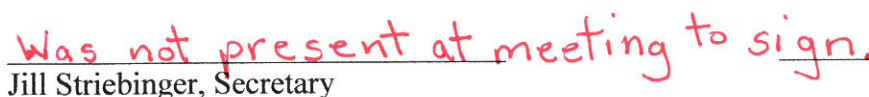
The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.



Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman



Date



Jill Striebinger, Secretary

Date