

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
April 18, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Grace Dennis, David Green, Gregory Hall, George Marshall, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Caleb Brown, Marcia Metzger, Gardenia Simmons-White, Monica Spells (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: William Love, Wanda Mayse, Janice Beach, Terry Geitner, Kathleen Gray-Gardner, Rose Heyward

GUESTS PRESENT: Rachel Johnson, Sharon Morris

I. CALL TO ORDER – Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman
Mrs. Pinkerton called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS
Mrs. Pinkerton welcomed our guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 21, 2017 BOARD MEETING

MRS. PINKERTON ASKED FOR A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 21, 2017 MINUTES. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN, WITH ONE CORRECTION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 18, 2017 AGENDA

MRS. PINKERTON ASKED FOR A MOTION TO ADOPT THE APRIL 18, 2017 AGENDA. A MOTION WAS MADE BY AND SECONDED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA WITH ONE ADDITION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman

Mrs. Pinkerton welcomed our newest member and asked her to tell us a little bit about herself. My name is Pamela Brandon. Everybody calls me Lady Pamela. I moved here about 4 ½ years ago from California. I am currently on the FOL Board, the First Read Program, Beaufort County Council on LNOBCS; I am a Clyburn Fellow, a Community Activist of Moms Demand Action, the League of Women Voters and a few other groups. I am glad to be here. It is nice to be a part of your group. I have been an ADA activist for 42 years or longer in four states. I take this very seriously.

Ms. Pinkerton said she will be attending a Special Needs Seminar on Saturday at 2:30 at the Bluffton Library. She will bring back as much information as she can get that we could use for our Board Retreat. It is open to anybody. Mr. Green added that the attorney who is doing the seminar is very good. She really knows her stuff about the special needs trust and that sort of thing.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Bill Love

Mr. Love welcomed Ms. Brandon. He said he has heard positive things about her. We appreciate your willingness and commitment to be a part of this.

Mr. Love said that last month he was asked by a board member to talk about Secretary Price's letter to the governor. Basically what the letter said is that he would like for each state to be more innovative and responsible for managing services for this population. The state wanted to know what individual boards thought about that. You suggested I ask what I should do (e.g., write letters, contact legislators, etc.). I was told to wait because a lot of them agree with him. They want to see what kind of changes we'll see as a result of this. Apparently there is a lot of abuse of and people taking advantage of federal money. The Provider's Association's position is to hold off and see what happens.

There was a lawsuit in the paper and on the radio and TV. Mr. Malloy who owned Carolina Cleaners filed a lawsuit and DSN was named in the lawsuit. What he said in the lawsuit is that we were taking advantage of the consumers by paying them subminimum wage. Because of that he felt we were benefiting from it. We were getting money by working them for less than minimum wage. That is not the case. He doesn't understand that. He made a couple of other claims too. All last week we were responding to affidavits. It went to court last Wednesday. The judge started off by saying she has a child with Down Syndrome but that it would not influence her decision. We got a decision this morning. The judge found no basis for the complaint. Ms. Mayse added that we are no longer paying subminimum wage. All the consumers are making minimum wage now. We got a contract with Fripp Resort that will be starting in a few weeks in the laundry area. About 53 – 54 % of our consumers are working and making minimum wage.

Mr. Love passed out a letter. We have a young woman from our program that was selected to go to Washington DC as our representative for the Advocacy group. She works at the air station. Mr. Geitner said this is the first time Palmetto Goodwill has had a recipient receive this award.

Mr. Love said that Terry Geitner is the Director of our Day Program. He asked him to bring Rose, Kathleen, and a couple of consumers to talk about their trip this weekend. Mr. Geitner introduced Kathleen Gardner, a training specialist, who oversees the Branches Program. Rose Heyward is another training specialist and she is over the Breakers Program. He also introduced two of our consumers Rachel Johnson and Sharon Morris who went on the trip this weekend.

Rose Heyward introduced herself as the Breakers Coordinator. Breakers is a respite program. We give parents a break so they can go do things they need to do while we take care of their individual. We serve individuals between the ages of 13 – 65. Anybody that is eligible for DSN is eligible for Breakers as long as they are not receiving any other service or don't have a waiver. The Breakers Program is for consumers who do not have a waiver. We are open three days a week; Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. We help consumers meet other special needs individuals, we provide supervised activities, such as games, bowling, movies, shopping, out of town trips and we do a lot of things out in the community. This past Saturday we went to the Jacksonville Zoo. Miss Sharon's neighborhood helped us by giving a donation to pay for the bus.

Sharon said they went to the Jacksonville Zoo. She helped pay for the bus. We had a lot of fun and saw live animals. I really had a good time. Mr. Love said Sharon's sister came in and wanted to know how she could help. We told her whatever she wanted to do. She said she would pay for the bus. We told her that would be right expensive. She went around the neighborhood and collected money. She came back and handed me a check for \$1000. She said whatever else she could do to support us she would. Ms. Heyward added that once a consumer gets a waiver they are no longer eligible for Breakers. They then go to the Day Program or they can go to Branches. That is Ms. Gardner's group. Mr. Geitner added that the Breakers Program is grant funded.

Kathleen Gardner said we are called Branches because we "branch" into the community to take advantage of the many activities the community has to offer. To be eligible for Branches you have to be at least 13 and I think my oldest is 67. To be eligible for Branches you have to have a waiver. It is state funded and you have to fall under either the Community Supports waiver or the ID/RD waiver. Each participant has an individualized plan identifying their strengths, interests, and preferences. Supervision is provided by trained staff with extensive experience working with individuals with developmental and related disabilities in a safe environment. When they leave us they go into the Day Program which prepares them for tomorrow. We also go out into the community and beyond. Our most recent trip was to the Jacksonville Zoo and Rachel is going to tell you about that.

Rachel told us that they sold book bags for \$10.00, they sold cakes, and they had a carwash. They went to see the Christmas lights and Christmas trees. We do fun stuff like going to the swimming pool. Mr. Geitner said that all of their bake sale, book bag sales, and carwash sales defrayed all the cost to go on this trip and provided meals for those who needed it and tickets to get into the zoo and paying for the bus. It was a well-planned and executed event.

Mr. Love said this month he has had three families request placement for their loved ones because of aging or circumstances in the homes. Each of those situations are leaving Beaufort County and going to another county to live because we don't have housing here. One is going to Spartanburg. The gentleman who was at our meeting a few months ago, his daughter is going to Columbia. His expectation is that she will be placed there and if an opening becomes available in Beaufort County it will improve her chances of coming back to Beaufort County. If you know anyone or have a family member make sure you get on the Residential list.

I went to look at some lots in Shell Point today for replacing Port Royal. It will be either four 4 bedroom homes or three 5 bedroom homes. I will be meeting with the builder soon.

October 14th we will be hosting a bazaar from 11 am to 4 pm. ABLE is sponsoring this event. We will be selling tables for \$25.00 each. All the money we make will go towards ABLE to help support families.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

Ms. Mayse reported that aftermath Hurricane Matthew we are going back to look at our plan. It was a well thought out and well put together plan and we executed it very well, but it needs some tweaking. That is what we are working on because it is due again. Seems like we just got out of hurricane planning season but it is time to do it again.

We are working on staffing. We have three vacancies and two applicants pending. If you know of anyone who would be interested please send them our way.

We have four consumers who left with staff yesterday to go on a cruise to the Bahamas. It is a five day cruise and they will be back on Saturday. They did not do any fundraising. Their money is from working and saving.

We are ongoing working on compliance standards to make sure all our paperwork is in order to ensure continued successful reviews.

We had a lady come in our Residential meeting who specializes in insuring individuals with disabilities. Once a policy has cash value, that amount is factored into their monthly income and could cause them to lose benefits. They have to sign a form stating that they have no intentions of cashing out the policy and that it is only for burial expenses. It needs to be an irrevocable insurance policy. She will be coming back May 18th.

Mr. Love said he got an email from a lady who was an ED in another part of the state. She and her family were here on vacation and were having lunch at the Shrimp Shack. She saw some of our consumers and staff and noticed the interaction between staff and consumers. She was very impressed with how the staff responded to the consumers.

Mr. Love said we are moving forward with Riverwalk where we are opening up the satellite office for the Day Program. We are opening up a training program there. The architects are involved and staff have been up to look at the space and make recommendations. Riverwalk is off of 170 before you get to 278 in Okatie. They are talking about maybe August or September to open. Consumers from the Hilton Head and Bluffton area will be able to go to that center and not have to come all the way here to Beaufort.

VII. POLICY COMMITTEE - Grace Dennis

Ms. Dennis reviewed the policy/directive listed on the agenda and made a motion to adopt the directive as written. Passed unanimously.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Lynn Russo – Nothing, except that the Retreat is coming up in October. I will be gone the second week in October so I may need some help. Mr. Love said this will be the last Retreat for Mr. Kubic. He will be retiring in December.
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair – Nothing

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Marshall said the County-wide Special Olympics is this Friday at May River High School in Pritchardville. The State Special Olympics is the first weekend in May.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 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 APRIL 18th MEETING. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Nancy Pinkerton
Nancy Pinkerton, Chairman

6-20-2017
Date

Gardenia S White
Gardenia Simmons-White, Vice-Chairman

Date