

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
October 25, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Wendy Bukowski, David Green, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Gardenia Simmons-White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Grace Dennis, Andy Thacker, Scott Scobey, Monica Spells (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Janice Beach

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. The board members met briefly to approve the minutes from the August meeting and to adopt the agenda for the retreat.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 20, 2019 BOARD MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY PAMELA BRANDON-HENNIGH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2019 AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GARDENIA SIMMONS-WHITE AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo asked if there was a motion to approve the calendar for 2020. A motion was made by Wendy Bukowski and seconded by Gardenia Simmons-White to approve the calendar. Everyone was in agreement to the dates of the meetings for next year. Ms. Russo turned the meeting over to Mr. Love.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

Guests and Staff Present for Retreat – Jim Palmer (HRC), Steve Donaldson (BCDAD), William Krebs (ABLE), Worth Liipfert (BCDAD), York Glover (County Council), Wanda Mayse (DSN), Beth Cody (DSN), Cherie Scoggins (DSN), Mary Frame (DSN), Vicki Prescott (DSN), Beth Odom (DSN), Monica Spells

Mr. Love welcomed everyone to the retreat and shared a few interesting facts about some important people who had disabilities. Einstein, who was a mathematician and physicist, had a learning disability and did not learn to speak until he was 3 years old. Alexander

Graham Bell had a learning disability. George Washington could barely read. Franklin D. Roosevelt had polio. Helen Keller was blind, deaf and mute. Beethoven was deaf. Cody Lee who was on America's Got Talent was autistic and blind. He won!

Mr. Love thanked the Advisory Board for their efforts to help us build three new homes for our consumers. Once the third one is closed on we will be able to close Port Royal. The Human Rights Committee adds another level of integrity and commitment to our consumers. ABLE helps us in a lot of ways. They provide funding for things that we can't pay for by other means. We really appreciate everything that all our Boards do for us and the consumers.

Mr. Love had everyone read our mission statement together. He then had several of our consumers come in to say a few words about what they want in life – to be treated with respect and treated the same as anyone else.

Mr. Love turned the meeting over to Ms. Lynn Russo who asked everyone to stand and introduce themselves and tell what board they are associated with and how long they have been serving on the board. Once everyone was introduced, she turned the meeting over to Ms. Wendy Bukowski. Ms. Bukowski read a few inspirational quotes about disabilities. On behalf of the Advisory Board, she thanked Beaufort County Council for their forward thinking, continued support, and their commitment for the county's special needs community. She then turned the meeting back over to Ms. Russo.

Ms. Russo recognized the employees of DSN and expressed her appreciation for the staff that takes care of the consumers. It is not an easy job and it takes a special person to do it.

Ms. Russo introduced Ms. Monica Spells who is the Assistant County Administrator over Civic Engagement and Outreach which includes the Disabilities and Special Needs Department. She recognized Ms. Spells for her efforts in making sure we have all our needs met by going to meetings and pushing Council members and others.

Ms. Russo then introduced the speaker for today, Mr. James McQuilla, with The Weathers Group. Mr. McQuilla has a 30 year history as a management executive, sales professional and entrepreneur. His career includes non-profits, higher education, consumer banking, medical and pharmaceutical sales, residential construction and federal government contracting. He has served on many community and state-wide boards and commissions and was appointed by two different South Carolina State Governor's to leadership roles as a College Board of Trustee member (The Citadel) and as a Commissioner to the South Carolina State Board of Higher Education. Today he is going to discuss ways in which the Board can be empowered to work more cohesively and function better together as a board to serve our consumers.

Mr. McQuilla told a little about his background then spoke to the group about the role of the boards. He said it is important for the board to have a relationship with County Council. He suggested that the board members should have name tags and wear them at County Council meetings. He said there should be someone at every County Council meeting to represent the board.

The following is an overview of what Mr. McQuilla talked about today:

- Increase understanding regarding the role of the Board
- Explore relevant trends and changes
- Clarify expectations and responsibilities
- A collective reflection and consideration
- Celebrate success

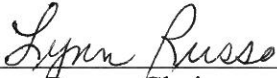
The day was filled with a lot of interaction with the group and was enjoyed by all.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at:

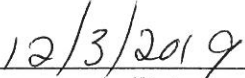
Disabilities and Special Needs Department
100 Clear Water Way, Beaufort, SC 29906

XII. ADJOURNMENT

THE RETREAT WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:00 PM.



Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date