

## VIRTUAL MEETING

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD  
100 Clear Water Way  
Beaufort, SC 29906  
August 18, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Grace Dennis, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Gardenia Simmons-White, Andy Thacker, Charles Atkinson (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, David Green

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Wanda Mayse, Beth Cody, Cherie Scoggins, Terry Geitner, Mary Frame, Fred Furman

GUESTS PRESENT: York Glover, Kimberly Thorn, Bernadette Hampton

### I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Russo welcomed all guests. She asked Ms. Hampton if she would like to present her concerns prior to the meeting starting so she would not have to sit through the whole meeting. Ms. Hampton agreed and read a letter she had distributed prior to the meeting. Ms. Hampton is concerned about her cousin who lives in a CTH I. Her funds are being handled by A Second Chance 2 (as her Representative Payee). Ms. Hampton feels they are mishandling her cousin's funds and not paying her bills. She is also concerned about dental work that is not being paid for. Ms. Russo said the Board would have to discuss this and get back to Ms. Hampton. She added that dentures are not included in any of this. Mr. Love said we should respond to everything in writing. Mr. Furman said that they had spoken about this with Ms. Hampton and Ms. Johnson at A Second Chance 2 and tried to resolve the issue. It is not a DSN or a SCDDSN service. It is a private agency that is providing this service. Mr. Furman said that Ms. Hampton has the right to choose another agency if she is not happy with this one.

### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 23, 2020 BOARD MEETING

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

### IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 18, 2020 AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo announced to the Board that Monica Spells has resigned Beaufort County and has taken a position in Loudon County, Virginia. Ms. Russo said she is very sorry to see her go and she appreciates Ms. Spells' devotion, determination, and compassion for the

mission of DSN and its consumers. She will be greatly missed and I wish her well.

Ms. Russo said because of the situation with J. James, she recommends that a family member should be present when a consumer signs any contract. Ms. Mayse said that we do that and this contract was signed before Ms. Hampton became involved with Ms. James. It was another family member and she was present when the contract was signed.

#### VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

Mr. Love said Ms. Russo wrote a letter to County Council members acknowledging the fact that we found out about Ms. Spells' resignation in the newspaper. She summarized that Monica had done such a great job for us and she appreciated all the work Monica did for us in the short time she was with us. He also summarized that we have four new homes and we had three successful evacuations all under Monica's leadership.

Mr. Love said he received a call from Ashley Jacobs, County Administrator, letting him know she would be appointing an interim Assistant County Administrator replacing Ms. Spells. That was announced today. Mr. Charles Atkinson, who has joined our meeting, will be the interim manager. Mr. Atkinson said Ms. Spells left some big shoes to fill. Mr. Love said he appreciated Ms. Jacobs call.

Mr. Love said the staffing issues have been rough. Day Program is closed so we are using their staff to fill in at the homes. We still are not getting any applications. Mr. Love asked his department heads to talk a little bit about their program and how they are functioning during this shut down.

Early Intervention/Case Management - Cherie Scoggins said she has eight full time and one part time staff in Early Intervention who continue to work from home. They are doing in-home visits as well as telehealth. Four of her staff went out due to being exposed to Covid-19. They showed no symptoms and continued to work from home. Our staff do temperature checks before going into homes and they wear masks and gloves. We provide services to 179 children ages 0-5. There were ten referrals in July. With schools not opening families are struggling with providing childcare and working.

Case Management has four full time staff. We just hired a new Case Manager that we are super excited about. Our cases were running about 80 cases per Case Manager, but with the hiring of the new Case Manager that has gone down to about 61. We are providing active waiver case management services to 202 individuals in the community. We have 420 individuals who are non-waiver recipients. We have a total client count of 622 individuals that we are responsible for assisting. Mr. Love and I worked on a letter to send out to Level 2 non-waiver clients that we send every six months so they know we are here and they can request interim case management to help them. All the case managers are working remotely and productivity has increased. We do direct billing for those services so we are working really hard for that.

Residential – Wanda Mayse said staff anxiety levels are high going into homes where Covid-19 is. They are not wanting to go into these homes to work and not accepting the

fact that they are in healthcare and their responsibility is to take care of people. We have a protocol that lines up with the CDC guidelines and DHEC. They are required to wear personal protective equipment. Staff are trained on how to respond to someone with symptoms of Covid-19. They are isolated, they are tested, their temperatures are monitored, their health is monitored and they are assessed to see if they have the Covid-19 virus. If they do we take care of them until they are safe to not be quarantined. We monitor the CDC and DHEC web pages ongoing because it changes. It has gone from 14 days isolation to 10 days. The homes are sufficiently stocked with masks, face shields, gowns, etc. There is up to 80 hours of Covid leave available to staff if needed. Out of 94 staff, 35 got tested. 23 were negative and 8 positive. Out of 58 consumers, 28 were tested and 17 were positive. All of them are off of quarantine. Only two were hospitalized. We had one provider who operated a CTH I who died of Covid. He cared for two consumers. One of those individuals is still in the hospital waiting to be placed. He will need to be placed in an ICF/MR. Overall we have managed Covid-19 very well.

Day Program – Terry Geitner said we are doing a great job with what we have been dealt. There is a company coming in to fog our buildings and vehicles. We still have some of our consumers still working at the air station, Beaufort and Bluffton Goodwill, and private enterprises downtown. Their hours were changed and the number of consumers working was decreased.

Nursing– Mary Frame said she continues to provide health assessments and other services in the homes. She is working with Palmetto Rx to create a flu vaccine clinic for consumers on October 14<sup>th</sup>. We are considering doing a drive-thru so consumers are not having to get in and out of vehicles. We are set up to do our own Covid testing for consumers and staff who are symptomatic. We have everything we need to do the testing.

Mr. Love said our fourth new home at Bostic Circle is nearly completed. Mr. Atkinson said that is in his neighborhood. He lives six houses down from it.

## VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

Ms. Mayse said we have had two consumers transfer from our CTH. One gentleman at our Fraser Road home is waiting to transfer to a nursing home because of his level of care. Right now admissions at nursing homes are frozen due to increased Covid positive cases.

Hurricane season is here. We have the shed packed up with travel bags so that if we do have to evacuate it will help streamline the process. We are going to have each of the homes come to DSN at a scheduled time to pick up their package and leave separately. We will not all be leaving at once. Greenwood is willing to take us with the pandemic.

We have been given the okay to hire ten training specialists. Those positions are advertised and we are slowly getting applications. We have transitioned the day program staff to help work residential so that is helping.

The state will deliver PPE if we need it but we are pretty well stocked.

Beth Cody – SCDDSN is changing how they fund our services. Case Management and Early Intervention have been moved to direct billing. We are doing that with the community folks that have Band E & I which mostly affects the Day Program. Day Program will now be direct billed. This will be a significant change. We are learning how to bill.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Grace Dennis, Chair

There were no policies to review this month.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair – Ms. Bukowski had nothing to report
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing to report
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair – Absent

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mayse added that we do have a great group of staff members who have worked double shifts, have not had a day off in a month, and who have had no problem or reservations going in to those homes where people tested positive. We do have a core group of staff that are committed and dedicated to making sure the consumers are taken care of.

Ms. Kimberly Thorn introduced herself. She is a retired special education teacher and moved here about three and a half years ago and taught at Bluffton and May River. She is working with David Green with the Disability Coalition trying to get that up and running.

- XI. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2020 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at:

VIRTUALLY

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY GRACE DENNIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:15 PM.

  
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Lynn Russo, Chairman

  
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Date

  
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Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman

10/20/2020  
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Date