

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD**

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

February 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Grace Dennis, David Green, Charles Atkinson (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Cherie Scoggins, Terry Geitner

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

None present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 1, 2020 BOARD MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY FRANKIE MIDDLETON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ONE ADDITION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo asked for volunteers to attend “virtual” council meetings to pick up proclamations for Disabilities Awareness Month. The following will attend:

City of Beaufort	March 9 <sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM	Andy Thacker
Town of Port Royal	March 10 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM	Frankie Middleton
Hilton Head Town Council	Will be mailed	
Town of Bluffton	Have not heard from them	
Beaufort County Council	March 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 PM	Lynn Russo/Wendy Bukowski

Ms. Russo said she, Wendy and Bill went to see Gardenia to present her a gift from the Board for her many years of service. She is such a sweet lady and will be greatly missed.

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

Mr. Love began by saying how much he appreciates what the Board does for us and that they add legitimacy to what we do. The Board is very important to our group. Thank you.

Gardenia Simmons-White Resignation - Mr. Love also added that he, Lynn and Wendy went to see Gardenia and spent about 30 – 35 minutes with her at her home. She feels that because of Covid she needed to resign. Cherie Scoggins and Gardenia were in attendance at the County Council meeting last month. The County wants to highlight staff from each department who do an exemplary job at each meeting. Cherie was chosen from our department and was there for that. Gardenia was presented a certificate from the County for her 21 years of service.

Alliant Scores – Mr. Love reported that we received our scores from Alliant for our Quality Assurance review. The state contracts with an outside group who goes over every area of our program. We got an overall score of 97.1. We were a little concerned because of everything being remote but we did well. All of our staff did a great job. We will not have to have another review for 18 months. If the score is 85 or below, they would review us in 12 months.

Bostic Home – Mr. Love said that Bostic Circle CTH is now open and it is really nice. If you want to ride by and see it you can. Or if you want to go inside let us know and we can arrange that. There are three ladies living there now. We are getting a nice response from the neighbors.

Day Program Opening – Day Program will be opening for the individuals who live in our homes, not the community folks. There will only be four people per classroom with one staff. They will stay in the classroom and there will be no mingling. Consumers have been doing very well keeping their masks on. This will give them a change of scenery and get them out of the house for a little while.

Monitoring Proposals/Bills from New Administration – There are a lot of changes coming from the federal government because of the new administration that are going to affect us, hopefully in a positive way. They are getting rid of the sub-minimum wage requirement. We started paying our consumers minimum wage about three years ago. DDSN hired a lobbyist to monitor all the bills going on at the state and federal level. She has been there about two months.

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

Ms. Mayse was not present today. Ms. Joyce McBride provided her report. She reported that Bostic is now licensed and occupied. We have families that were placed out of the county when in crisis because there were no vacant residential beds in Beaufort. With the opening of Bostic we were able to move four individuals back to Beaufort. We thank you for your continued support to help make that happen.

New Hires – Ms. McBride said that with the addition of the new CTH II home we continue to have staffing shortages. One of the strategies we used to help alleviate the shortages was to add six House Manager Positions so that we have one house manager per home. This reduces some of the responsibilities and transfers some. In addition to administrative duties, the house managers are required to work a minimum of two shifts per week providing direct care. This change eliminated several direct care positions. The candidates were internal so some direct care staff were promoted to the positions. This change is also creating opportunities for some restructuring which will increase efficiency.

We had one longtime resident that was transitioned to a nursing home due to increased care needs that we cannot provide. We also had a consumer who decided to move back home with his mother so we have two vacancies. There are two women who live out in the community that are experiencing a decline in health. We have offered them the opportunity to move into one of our homes, but they want to remain in their own homes. They will be given priority because Beaufort County wants to serve our community members before looking outside the county. We do not want to lose funding and are trying to avoid moving them out of the county. One of our community consumers requested to move out of the county and within less than a month she was calling wanting to return.

Se are still waiting and trying to do as much as we can to prepare for consumers to receive COVID-19 vaccines. We do not have any information regarding a timeline yet.

Mr. Love asked Cherie Scoggins to report on Case Management and Early Intervention. Ms. Scoggins said in the next couple of years, Case Management is going to move into Conflict Free Case Management. What that means is if we are providing case management to an individual who attends our Day Program or lives in one of our residential homes, they would be considered as an individual in conflict. Bill and I have had a lot of discussion about this and we decided to open ourselves up to provide services for other areas. This will affect counties across the state. We have requested from the state to allow us to provide services to other areas and we have been approved. Early intervention is pretty stable right now. We did have a big dip in referrals in December. We only had 4. We had 11 in January. So far in February we have had 6 so we are pretty much where we need to be for the middle of the month. We have also been approved for a grant for Early Intervention. Families will be getting a nice bag with our logo on it. Based on the child's age, there will be an educational piece, a book, and an educational resource for the caregiver.

Case Managers and Early Interventionists have moved out of their offices and will be totally working from home. We have provided printers for them to be able to copy and scan things from home. There will be a vacant office available to them when they need to come into the office. The Veterans Administration will be moving into the Case Management offices March 1<sup>st</sup> and will occupy that end of the hall.

#### VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Grace Dennis, Chair

Mrs. Dennis was not in attendance.

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 – Not present

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Pinkerton asked where we are with getting vaccines for consumers. Mr. Love said DHEC is taking care of the consumers.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at:

VIRTUALLY

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:37 PM.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Russo, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

4/20/2021  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date