

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

April 20, 2021

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Wendy Bukowski, Grace Dennis, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker, Charles Atkinson (Ex-officio)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Frankie Middleton

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Love, Janice Beach, Beth Cody, Cherie Scoggins, Terry Geitner, Mary Frame

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

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

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

**II. WELCOMING GUESTS**

None present.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 BOARD MEETING**

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

**IV. ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 20, 2021 AGENDA**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GRACE DENNIS AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH AN ADDITION. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Ms. Russo asked the Board their thoughts on having the Advisory Board meetings televised on the County channel. Ms. Dennis brought up a concern with privacy issues about the things we discuss (consumers). Mr. Love said if names were mentioned it would be an issue. Ms. Bukowski asked if it would make us more visible as a Board if we were televised. Yes it would. There were a few more points discussed but the mutual decision was not to move forward with this. Mr. Atkinson said there was no pressure for us to do this, it is just an option if at any point we do want to.

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

Mr. Love expressed his appreciation of the Board and what the Board does for us. He said all of the members are ambassadors for DSN.

Budget Update (Beth Cody) – Ms. Cody said there is not much happening in our budget. SCDDSN changed Day Program to fee for service so our revenue looks a little skewed compared to what we had budgeted. Day Program revenue is only at 53% because of this. This change was done half way through the year during Covid when we didn't have anyone coming to the day program and we can't bill for people we don't see. Overall, revenue is at 62% and expenditures are at 50%.

Hurricane Season – Mr. Love said hurricane season begins June 1. We have been in contact with other providers to line up a place to evacuate should the situation arise. We will go back to Greenwood if necessary. He has talked to the director there and everything is in place to receive us. We hope to avoid it like we did last year. The prediction is that there will be one more hurricane than last year.

Monitoring State/Federal Laws – Mr. Love said we are paying a lot of attention to what is happening with the federal government. We are paying attention to a lot of bills at the state level; things like fee for service and sub-minimum wage. We had a contract where we did that for years but we now pay consumers minimum wage so it would not affect us. No-one has been fired because of this.

Proclamations – We have received the proclamations from the different councils across the county. Next year he hopes to send staff with Board members to the meetings instead of the meetings being held virtually.

Workshops – Mr. Love asked the Board what they thought of the first workshop that was presented on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Pinkerton said it was more informative than she thought it would be, but not many board members attended. Mr. Green thought the layers of discrimination were too broad.

Day Program – Mr. Geitner reported that he is proud of the work his staff are doing. We are very short staffed but staff are making adjustments and doing what they have to do to make it work. We have 60 some consumers in our facility which includes those going out and working. Shannon Loper opened the door at Gloria Potts at Sea Island so we have a group of consumers at St. Helena being picked up early and going there for training instead of coming here. We are able to social distance and continue to wear our masks, and we are not mixing residential consumers and community consumers. Mr. Geitner said he had a meeting with Ms. Linda Roper from the City of Beaufort and that we may have an opportunity to clean a building on Carteret Street; an 18,000 square foot building. It is the Barnes Law facility and it houses ten businesses. It was a great referral from Fred Leyda who sent them our way.

Case Management/Early Intervention – Ms. Scoggins said Case Managers are providing case management services for 203 active clients that receive waivers and we just received 2 new waivers. All Case Managers met their productivity goals for this month. Early Intervention is serving 170 little ones and we are still receiving referrals. We received 9 new referrals this month and just got two more. Mr. Love and I attended a Community Services meeting and received a \$5,000 grant for last year and we received another \$5,000 for this year. We used the grant to create age-specific book bags for the children we serve. The bag includes things for the child as well as the parent. We have given out 150 so far.

All Early Interventionists have good productivity. February being a short month, it was our biggest month so far. We had one death of a two year old who had a genetic disorder. We are supporting the family and the Early Interventionist. Thursday Ms. Scoggins will be attending the Ronald McDonald House of Charities board meeting. They will be having upcoming events and I will have Ms. Beach send the list to you.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

Ms. Mayse was not present today. Mr. Love provided her report.

COVID Vaccines – Mr. Love said out of 49 consumers, 47 have had their vaccinations.

Staffing – The staffing situation is improving. We are down to 17 vacancies in Residential and we have been getting more candidates.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Grace Dennis, Chair

Mrs. Dennis said the directives are revised periodically and are for our review and information only.

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 – Mr. Green said Mr. Love has mentioned that there is a lot of legislation at the state and federal level. Mr. Green received something from Ark of the US asking that everyone to request Congress to support the proposed HCBS funding bill.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

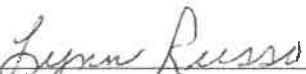
No comments.

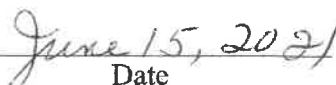
XI. The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 15, 2021:

**TBD**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:45 PM.

  
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Lynn Russo, Chairman

  
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Date

  
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Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman

  
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Date