

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

December 7, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Priscilla Drake, David Green, Frankie Middleton
Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Andy Thacker, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Wanda Mayse

GUESTS PRESENT: York Glover

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 our guest.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 19, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2021 AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDY THACKER AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH A COUPLE OF ADDITIONS. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo asked the Board members if they want to continue to have our meetings by WebEx or if they wanted to begin to meet in person. A discussion was had concerning Covid and the new variant. Everyone agreed to wait until our next meeting in February to see how the numbers are looking before we decide to meet in person. Ms. Russo asked Ms. Beach to send an email at the beginning of February to poll the members to see if they want to meet in person or continue with WebEx for now.

Ms. Russo again reminded members to please let us know whether they would be able to attend the meeting so we will know if we will have a quorum.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

A. Correspondence for New Members – Mr. Love would like to invite someone from Drug and Alcohol, Human Services, and PEP to have someone from their organization be a member on our board. Many of the issues discussed overlap agencies and he feels it would be beneficial to have someone from each department involved.

- B. Program Updates – Mr. Love said DHHS is changing our rates. Beth Cody attended a financial meeting today and they said they are going to continue to support us for two more months. EI is doing well. They have 189 participants in their program. Several programs were not taking referrals and because of that we have been asked to take a lot of them. Because of that our EI program is growing really, really fast. Mr. Love said he would let Ms. Mayse update the Board on residential. We had some damage to Center that the Board needs to be made aware of. He also asked that she tell them about the Thanksgiving dinner we had for the consumers.
- C. Deaths – Mr. Love said we have had three deaths of community folks in the last couple of months which were not Covid related. It is a part of their condition. It is difficult for staff who have worked with them for so long.
- D. Gifts – Mr. Love said he would be mailing each of the board members a calendar like the one he gave you last year with inspirational quotes on each day. He will be giving Council members one at the December 13th council meeting. Consumers will be lighting the tree at the council meeting.
- E. Transportation – Mr. Love said we would be terminating the contract that we have with Owl Transportation. We have had them for a few years and have been satisfied with them for the most part. Right now we are having a lot of problems with them. They are supposed to be driving four routes but are only doing one. Two of their drivers tested positive for Covid so they are having staffing issues. We contacted Dave Thomas in Purchasing and wrote a letter to them to terminate the contract effective January 3rd. We are going to have Palmetto Breeze pick up a few routes and will also have staff picking up consumers.
- F. Penn Center – Mr. Love said thanks to a referral from Mr. Glover, he and Mr. Geitner met with Mr. Wright at Penn Center. Mr. Wright wants some of our consumers to come there and help. We are going to have the contract from the library go there when they leave the library. Mr. Love said we have 85 consumers in the Day Program now and have 36 ready to come back. We have three new staff in the works so that will help a lot.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Staffing - Ms. Mayse said we have had consumers out in the community more. Staff are being cautious and using Covid precautions. We are still understaffed and continue to recruit.
- B. Census/Displaced Residents – Ms. Mayse said emergency preparedness efforts are always in place. We did not have to evacuate this year so that was good. However, a tree fell on the roof at Center and did a lot of damage. We thought it would take a long time to get it repaired but the county did a great job and we are already back in it. Staff kept consumers safe, and everyone did a great job. Ms. Mayse said the wind caused a tree limb to projectile through the roof behind where the refrigerator was, and it caused the refrigerator to be pushed across the room and left a huge hole in the roof.

- C. Fee for Service – Fee for service is not as severe for Residential. DHHS has a “No head in the bed – No pay” policy that we are fighting them on. It will be a simulated process until March.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Lynn Russo, Chair, Wendy Bukowski, Co-Chair

Ms. Russo reviewed the directives.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair –Nothing to report
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing to report
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, David Green, Chair – Mr. Green said with all the changes this is a good opportunity to start hitting up legislators about the waiting list. Ms. Russo said she would draft a letter.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- XI. The next board meeting will be held on **February 15, 2022**:

TBD

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:40 PM.

Lynn Russo, Chairman

Date

Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman

Date