

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
June 28, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, David Green, Nancy Pinkerton, Danielle Quat, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pamela Brandon-Hennigh, Priscilla Drake, Frankie Middleton

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

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

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2022, BOARD MEETING

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN STURUP COMEAU AND SECONDED BY DAVID GREEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2022. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 28, 2022, AGENDA

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2022. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo welcomed our newest members, Mary Ann Radke, Galen Sturup Comeau, and Danielle Quat, to the Board and had everyone go around the room and introduce themselves and tell a little about themselves.

Ms. Russo reminded everyone to fill out and sign the conflict-of-interest forms and turn them in to Ms. Beach by the end of the meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

A. Department Updates – Residential – Wanda Mayse said everything is pretty much routine. We are trying to get back to some semblance of normalcy even though COVID cases are going back up. We are still being cautious. We are still under our annual compliance review, and everything is going well. We are in good shape. Licensing for the homes is good. We are still understaffed but our staff are doing all they can to make sure we have coverage. We have four pending applicants that are in que waiting on processing.

A couple of weeks ago we had a fire at Center Drive that did some damage. There was actually more water damage from the sprinklers but at least we know the sprinklers work. We anticipate the construction crew to start on Wednesday and they said it would take three days to repair. We are going into a holiday weekend so realistically we probably won't be moving everything back until the middle of next week. Staff have done a good job at the hotel monitoring consumers. We have one consumer who likes to roam around at night, and we have had to change hotels, but everything is going well, and they said we can stay as long as we like.

Hurricane season started June 1 and will run through November 30th. Our veteran staff have trained our new staff on what happens when we have to evacuate. We are prepared if we have to evacuate and will probably end up going back to the same place we have evacuated in the past.

Terry Geitner was featured at the County Council meeting this week so make sure you watch that.

Budget – Beth Cody said our revenue is coming in better than we expected. There are only three days left in this fiscal year and we are right on target. We were a little worried about going to direct billing, but we are actually bringing in more revenue than we expected. We are expecting some increased rates from DHHS. The only thing that looks a little off is personnel and that is due to all the overtime because of being short staffed.

Case Management – Cherie Scoggins said case managers are monitoring the Community Supports Waiver and the ID/RD waiver. SCDDSN has 3 waivers that are eligible for services and the third one is the HASCI waivers. Mr. Love said he would like to be able to provide services to everybody in the community. Right now, if someone had a head and spinal cord injury, we would not be able to provide service for them. We are evaluating HASCI to be able to start accepting those cases. The case managers will need to learn a new waiver system. Case management is stable right now. With the help of Bill Krebs, who is on our ABLE board, we were able to apply for a United Way grant.

Early Intervention has done well. We have two new EIs, one in the Hilton Head office and one in the Bluffton office. They are pretty stable, and we are continuing to get referrals. There were only two EI providers in Beaufort County, us and Great Kids. Now there is a third EI provider called At Play. They will begin to absorb some of those referrals from the Hilton Head, Bluffton, Beaufort areas.

We started camp last week. We did not get as much participation as we had hoped. We started with eleven campers but are down to seven.

Day Program – Terry Geitner said they have implemented five classes in the Day Program that is structured like school. When the bell rings they go to the next class and work with different staff. This way they are not sitting in the same room with the same staff all day long. We have Earth Science, Banking, Shopping, Creative Arts, and Technology. We are doing this on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and they are loving it. We are getting some good feedback on this.

A year ago I had a staff of 28. Today I have 13 staff. We are unable to bring back more individuals at this time because of staffing and having to follow the SCDDSN guidelines of 1:10. We received a grant about two years ago from Women in Philanthropy. We have used it to focus on Gullah Heritage.

- B. Nurse Help – Mr. Love said Mary Frame is coming back to help us out with some training for staff. She will do this monthly as needed and as her schedule allows. Darrell Bauer, who is on the Human Rights Committee, is a licensed pharmacist and he has agreed to help out as well. Ms. Mayse contacted SCDDSN and asked if we are allowed to use him and they said as long as he has a valid license it would be okay.
- C. Evacuation Update - Mr. Love said we have received a signed letter of agreement from three facilities where we can evacuate if we have a hurricane. We will probably go to the same location we have been going to.
- D. Update on PR Plan – Mr. Love said we received \$62,000 in FMAP money for public relations. We hired a PR company out of Charleston who have prepared a media kit that summarizes our services. We will be making a presentation to County Council in August to show how the money is being spent.
- E. Goals – Mr. Love said he would like for DSN to be a clearinghouse for services, not just the services we provide but for other services available in the area so that if someone were to call, we would be able to direct them to the service they need. Part of my goal is to educate the community better about what we do.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Ms. Mayse gave her update above.

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

There were no policies or directives listed for review.

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 – The Disabilities Coalition put out a book listing services that are available in the county.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Radke asked what each of the committees are charged with doing. Ms. Russo explained that the hospitality committee, when we were having our retreats, were responsible for putting the retreat together and when there were other events, we helped with setting that up. The personnel committee sometimes will sit in on interviews for higher level positions, like the executive director, deputy director, etc. Public relations/legislative committee presents appeals at the county and state levels.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on August 16, 2022:

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID GREEN AND SECONDED BY GALEN STURUP COMEAU TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:15 PM.



Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date