

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

October 18, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, David Green, Frankie Middleton, Danielle Quat, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Priscilla Drake, Nancy Pinkerton, Mary Ann Radke, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

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 3:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2022, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2022. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2022, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2022. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo said she had been to Greenville last week and noted it is such a long way from Beaufort. She asked what happened with the plan of having a place in Jasper County for consumers to go to in case of an evacuation? Ms. Mayse said that was something that Monica Spells was spearheading and it kind of fell to the wayside when she left. She also said we go to Greenwood because they are so accommodating, and they have more room which is better if we have to stay for a longer amount of time. Greenwood has more things around that we can take consumers out to do. The other facilities are out in the middle of nowhere and there is nothing for them to do.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT –Bill Love

Mr. Love said each department head is going to give an update of their departments.

A. Department Updates – Budget – Beth Cody said we are 29% through this fiscal year. Our total revenue is coming in at 18% and our expenses are 21%. We are well under budget. We are two weeks behind on revenue because although we have billed for services, it is not officially in our accounting system yet. Fee for service is doing really well.

Day Program –Terry Geitner said staffing and activities in the Day Program are starting to change. We have recently hired three full time and one part time staff, so we are going to be able to bring back more consumers. Some of the people who helped out with activities (music therapy, pet therapy, (new) bead lady) are starting to come back. We will be starting music therapy in November. Will Lilly will start tennis again soon. We are beginning to go on outings again. They went to the zoo last week.

Cherie Scoggins – Early Intervention – EI referrals have gone up. We only had 3 referrals in September but so far this month we have had 12. I participated in a week-long training last week on RBI (Routine Based Interview). That is what the state has decided to move towards. Instead of doing curriculum based we will be moving to routine-based interviews with the families. Sonya Lebrun, the EI lead, and I got trained last week. We have to actually go out into the community and do one of the interviews. We have to be video-taped. The interview takes about two hours to do. The purpose of it is to establish a positive relationship with the family, making sure we get rich and thick descriptions of what their life is like, and then a list of actual functional family goals. Sonya and I have six weeks to do ours and send it to the state. They take about eight weeks to review all the assessments and give feedback. Once that is completed, we will have to train all of our Early Interventionists. We have a year to have Routine Based assessments completed on everyone on our caseloads.

We applied for a \$15,000 grant from the United Way with the help of ABLE. We are in the final running for receiving the grant. They will come on November 16th to evaluate our program and then we will find out if we will receive the grant.

We had an Early Interventionist resign. She has three little girls at home, and they were taking a lot of her time, so she felt like she needed to be a stay-at-home mom. There is a new company in the area providing Early Intervention. Bill and I talked, and we decided not to fill that position because there was not a need. We discussed how to utilize that position so that it would be beneficial to our organization. I have been advocating for us to be able to provide case management to individuals that have head and spinal cord injuries. Bill and I problem-solved and we feel it is a better utilization to not hire a case manager or early interventionist but to change the position to where it meets a number of different needs. We have advertised the position and are starting interviews.

- B. PR Relationship – Mr. Love said we developed a relationship with a PR company out of Charleston and we have been working with them for the last couple of months. They have completed the media package summarizing our services which was the first phase. The second phase they will be working on updating our website. Once that is done, we will be through with their services.
- C. DDSN & DHHS - Mr. Love said there is a change in the relationship with SCDDSN and DHHS. They are taking SCDDSN out of the situation and we are billing DHHS directly. DDSN in now re-evaluating how they want to relate to us. Right now, they are more supportive, and they are creating more programs and trainings.
- D. Tee Shirts – Mr. Love said that everyone should have received their tee shirts. We also bought insulated bags, note pads, and pens as giveaways to help promote DSN.

- E. Visits in Community by Staff – Mr. Love said staff have been going out into the community talking about our services. Cherie Scoggins, Terry Geitner, Wanda Mayse, Beth Cody, and Danielle Quat have all been out promoting DSN.
- F. Veterans Day Parade – Mr. Love said we will be taking some of the consumers and walking in the Veterans Day parade on November 11th. They will also be going to the Festival of Lights in December.
- G. Bonus – DHHS is giving all full-time staff who worked continuously from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022 a \$1500.00 bonus.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Ms. Mayse said we still have a number of vacant positions, and our current staff are working really hard to cover with bare minimum staff. We are getting applicants trickling in. We have two vacant consumer positions. They have been open a little longer than I typically like for them to be, but we are being very intentional on who we are placing into the homes because of the staffing situation. We have four individuals that are suited for nursing home care because they have high medical needs, and we are not able to provide the proper care they need. We are not able to move them because nursing homes are having staffing issues too and are not accepting new patients.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Frankie Middleton, 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 – Nothing to report

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Russo asked when we go out into the community to hand out the bags and stuff, what types of venues do you go to? Mr. Geitner and Ms. Cody answered that we are just getting started doing this and we have compiled a list of places we will be going.

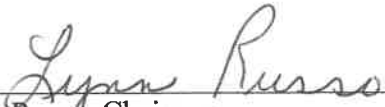
Galen Sturup Comeau asked about the difference between curriculum based and routine based interviews. Ms. Scoggins said curriculum based looks at the development based on the child’s age. They are looking at very specific things (can they stack blocks). Routine based looks at the child’s routine. (How would stacking blocks fall into the routine?) It is asking questions about what the child’s playtime looks like, what can the child do, what are his favorite toys. It is asking and getting the same information but just in a different way.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on December 6, 2022, at 4:00 PM:

**100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906**

XII. ADJOURNMENT

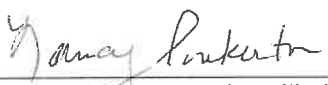
A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN STURUP COMEAU AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:55 PM.



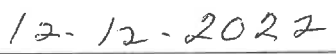
Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date