

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD

100 Clear Water Way

Beaufort, SC 29906

December 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Priscilla Drake, David Green, Frankie Middleton, Nancy Pinkerton, Danielle Quat, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Wanda Mayse, Beth Cody, Terry Geitner, Ava White, Darnell Hazard

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 OCTOBER 18, 2022 BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 18, 2022. A MOTION WAS MADE BY ANDY THACKER AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2022. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN COMEAU AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo said there are three members who are up for renewing their membership. Please make sure that is taken care of. The calendar for 2023 needs to be approved. Ms. Russo said she has a conflict with the April 18 meeting date. It was decided to wait until closer to that date to decide when to meet in April.

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 44% through this fiscal year. Our revenue is at 25% and our expenses are 21%. Personnel is at 37%, purchased services 28%, and supplies are 30%. We are at 36% in total expenditures, so we are staying well under budget.

Day Program –Terry Geitner said we are finally getting back into some of our activities pre-COVID. Our music therapist moved back from Texas, so we have music therapy again. Pet therapy will start back in January. Tennis lessons started about two weeks ago and are twice a month. The bead lady, Jeanie, from Dataw has been coming and the consumers are loving making bracelets. They are starting to make necklaces for Christmas gifts. We have had a couple of parties; Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Consumers will be going to Charleston to see the Festival of Lights on Friday. There are 50+ individuals going on a charter bus. We are still having the same staffing issues; we gain one and lose one, so we have not been able to bring back many more consumers as we had hoped. Those who do come back have to be ready to go to work because I do not have enough staff to cover the classrooms. Out of nine classrooms, only five are occupied. Staffing is an ongoing battle. There is no surge of applications. There are some Capital Projects we would like to undertake in the future. We are looking at making a walking path around our property. We have 10 acres that are underutilized. The pottery room is being revamped. We are going to put in new flooring, drop the ceiling, better acoustics, LED lighting, and build some cabinets. It can still be used for the current activities, but it can also be used for meetings when other rooms are not available. The acoustics in this room (the large training/conference room) are really bad, so we are going to try to do something about.

Nursing – Ava White is our new nurse. This is her second month here. Ms. White said she is enjoying it but staying very busy and just trying to get acclimated and settled in. One of her challenges has been not having that professional medical person in there as sort of a second eye on a few things. Trainings have been lacking. She is going to do trainings at the houses on safety and medication administration. She will be learning the policies and procedures with DSN.

- B. Mr. Love wished everyone a happy holiday. Mr. Love said there has been a lot going on with Thanksgiving and now Christmas approaching. We had a Thanksgiving party, and a Christmas party and consumers went to see the Festival of Lights. Staff are dressing up and getting involved and the consumers are happy.
- C. The County Administrator, the Deputy County Administrator, and Audra Antonacci visited here a few weeks ago. Mr. Greenway said he had never been here, and they were all impressed. One thing they found to be an issue was “how do we educate people about what we do”? They asked us to do a PSA, which we did. We are going to do a gas station video.
- D. Golden Palmetto Award – Mr. Love said we nominated Beaufort County for the Golden Palmetto Award, and we were selected. Two commissioners from the state came down to present the award at the county council meeting.
- E. New Case Manager Position - Mr. Love said we have identified a person for the Case Manager position. She will do other things besides case management.
- F. Grand Care – Mr. Love said we had a meeting with Grand Care about providing technology for our homes. Two homes will be fitted with technology to help with staffing. These homes will have higher functioning individuals who can manage for the most part on their own. The cost is about \$5,000 per home.

- G. New Consumer – Ms. Mayse said we have a gentleman that will be coming. We were approached by SCDDSN to provide residential services to a twenty-two-year-old male who is currently incarcerated. He is on the Autism Spectrum, and he threw boiling hot water on his mother. Family filed charges and they do not want him to return home. They are concerned about being able to keep him safe. We have had some meetings and have met with our behavior specialist and psychiatrist to see if we felt like we could give this person a chance and serve him in our residential program. We decided that we will take him on a 90-day contingency period. We have put some expectations in place for him for complying with our program.
- H. United Way Grant – Mr. Love reported for Ms. Scoggins that a couple of weeks ago, six or seven individuals from the United Way came to hear a presentation by Ms. Scoggins on why we should receive a grant from them for our Early Intervention program. Ms. Scoggins did an excellent job with her presentation. It was a very positive experience.

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

- A. New Consumers - Ms. Mayse said we are committed to returning individuals who have left the area because of not having a vacancy. Any time we have a vacancy, we try to reach out to someone that has been dislocated and are not near their family. We have a gentleman who just moved in on Saturday. His family lives on Hilton Head. He was placed in a residential program in Greenville and now he is back home near his family. We had a lot of applications, and I was glad we were able to bring some people back to the area. Our census is up with those new individuals moving in.
- B. Judges – We are looking for some judges for our holiday decorating. Beth will be getting with some of you later. Staff and consumers are decorating their homes and the one that is most festive will be getting a pizza party.
- C. Our Quality Assurance review went very well. There were some things we advocated for our scores to be increased but they did not. Some of it we felt were not fair, but we will have to live with those scores. We had two departments that were in the 80s but other than that high 90s and 100s.

#### 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 there, but Mr. Green did want to say that he has been a part of the DSN Advisory Board since June 2011. He feels it is time for him to turn in his resignation due to changes with his family and the Osprey Village organization. Mr. Green said he is going to be more involved with marketing, fund raising, and capital development and feels it may be a conflict of interest.

Mr. Green said he was especially glad to be helpful in getting the proviso for the proceeds of the sale of Port Royal CRCF to come back to Beaufort County.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on February 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM:

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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  
Lynn Russo, Chairman

2/22/23  
Date

Nancy Pinkerton  
Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman

2/22/23  
Date