

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
February 22, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Frankie Middleton, Danielle Quat, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker

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

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2022 BOARD MEETING

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

IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2023 AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DANIELLE QUAT AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo thanked everyone for changing our meeting to today to accommodate her and Ms. Bukowski who were not available yesterday. We will also need to change the April meeting as Ms. Russo will not be available on that date either.

March is Disabilities Awareness Month. The following volunteered to go the council meetings to accept the proclamation:

City of Beaufort	March 14 th	Andy Thacker
Town of Port Royal	March 8 th	Frankie Middleton
Town of Bluffton	March 14 th	Will be mailed
Hilton Head Town Council	March 15 th	Will be mailed
Beaufort County Council	March 13 th	Audra Antonacci-Ogden

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 65% through this fiscal year. We are at 44% of our total revenue, personnel is at 58%, purchased services 46%, and supplies are 45%. We are at 55% in total expenditures, so we are staying well under budget.

We are meeting tomorrow with the county budget director, finance director, and the interim HR director to go over the fiscal 2024 budget that goes into effect in July but we have to have it in to the county by February 28th. We are meeting with them to make sure we have everything in place that we need.

Day Program – Terry Geitner said we are in the process of getting some brand-new vehicles. We have already received one. We run routes throughout Beaufort County that are incredibly difficult to travel (back roads, unpaved roads, etc.). Over a period of time, it takes a toll with wear and tear on our vehicles. We go through them pretty quick. Our arrangement now with the garage is when they get up to 150,000 miles on them, we start looking to replace them. If they have a history of a lot of issues and are in and out of the shop a lot, we expedite that. As of right now we have a brand-new transit sitting out back. We are getting an electric vehicle as well as an EV. The electric will have a 90-mile limit so it will be for more of an in-town use. There will be one charging station put up here at the back of the day program. We have hired four new direct care specialists in the last couple of weeks and one training coordinator. We put TVs with Roku in the nine classrooms to be used for training purposes. We were audited today by Alliant for licensing, and we did extremely well. Our vehicles passed with flying colors. Vicki Prescott is very particular about keeping the vehicles up to par.

Case Management – Cherie Scoggins said this month alone, we have had sixteen individuals request active case management services because of things going on in the community. Our case manager's caseloads run about 75 – 80. We mentioned at the December meeting that we had hired someone to fill the vacant case manager position. She came and worked for two days and decided it was not for her. We re-advertised for that position and have received four applications of which three met the education requirements. We interviewed one and will be interviewing the other two in the morning. Medicaid had lifted requirements for people during COVID so they could continue to receive their Medicaid benefits without meeting eligibility requirements. COVID is going away. Starting back in April they will be going back to annual eligibility. Appendix K allowed people to continue to receive benefits but that is ending in May 2023.

Early Intervention – Cherie Scoggins said they have been invited to speak at Parents as Teachers May 10th at 4pm and asked any board member that would like to go to please let her know. With the help of ABLE Foundation, we applied for a grant from the United Way and we received \$15,000 for Bright Beginnings.

- B. Website - Mr. Love said the website has been updated and is up and running. You can go on the County website to see what they have done. We are also going to have an advertisement about our services on the gas pumps at gas stations. Audra A. has done a great job making things happen in terms of getting us out there.
- C. Dr. Fry – Dr. Fry has stepped down as SCDDSN director. Mr. Love is not sure why other than it is political. She will continue to consult. They have not found a replacement yet.
- D. Grand Care – Mr. Love said we met with Grand Care and we were going to have two homes that would be receiving this technology, but we have decided on only one home at this time.
- E. EV Stations - Mr. Love said Mr. Geitner touched on this. We will be putting one station here at DSN back behind the day program.
- F. Bonuses – Mr. Love said staff have received two bonuses in the last couple of months for a total of about \$3000. Medicaid sent us \$150,000. One bonus was for retention, and one was for recognition.
- G. Meeting with Legislator – Mr. Love said he had a meeting with Thomas Alexander who said the state is dealing with the same issues that we do, employment, mental health, drug issues, school.
- H. Disabilities Awareness Month – March is Disabilities Awareness Month which includes Disabilities Awareness Day on March 1st and March 3rd being Employee Recognition Day. Mr. Love has had signs made to put out front of the building and at the drive coming in thanking staff for all they do.
- I. Matthew Flewelling – Mr. Flewelling was in touch with Mr. Love and said he wants to do something for our population. He is planning a 2-3 hour get together for the consumers of BCDSN, JCDSN, Bluffton Pals, and Osprey Village. They plan to provide something to eat and drink. It will be held at an Okatie location.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Staffing - Ms. Mayse said we have hired three- and one-half people who are currently in training. We are still down about 19 direct care staff. We have current staff who are recruiting for us, and it has helped. There is a job fair with the state on March 21st that we will be participating in, and we hope to get some applicants from that. We interviewed a few people, and one turned us down because of the salary and two turned it down because of the hours. Grand Care will be a creative solution to some of our staffing issues. Staffing is not affecting our care of individuals.
- B. Community Involvement – We reached out to Social Security who initially said they do not have staff that can come out and talk to us. They reconsidered and did send somebody. We have some individuals who work, and it affects their social security.

- C. Consumers recently went to Night to Shine at Praise Assembly. The Cinderella Ball has not been held for the last three years but they plan on having that again in May.

VIII. POLICY/DIRECTIVES COMMITTEE – Frankie Middleton, Chair, Wendy Bukowski, Co-Chair

Ms. Middleton gave an overview of directive 700-09-DD, Determining Need for Residential Services.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair –Nothing to report
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – Nothing to report
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, VACANT, Chair – Ms. Russo asked if anyone would like to volunteer to be the chair of this committee.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Galen Sturup Comeau said there is a job fair at Beaufort Elementary on April 6th. He will find out if you must be invited.

- XI. The next board meeting will be held on **April 11, 2023, at 4:00 PM:**

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT


A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY ANN RADKE AND SECONDED BY GALEN STURUP COMEAU TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:15 PM.




Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date