

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
August 15, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Pinkerton, Danielle Quat, Mary Ann Radke, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Wendy Bukowski, Priscilla Drake, Frankie Middleton, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Love, Janice Beach, Vicki Prescott, Wanda Mayse, Terry Geitner, Cherie Scoggins, Ava White

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 21, 2023, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 21, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY ANN RADKE AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN STURRUP COMEAU AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo began a discussion about the applications for new members. The one that was reviewed and voted on previously is waiting on the governor's approval. There was a new application to review. It was agreed that Ms. Russo would call her and talk to her and maybe invite her to our next meeting. Ms. Russo mentioned she would not be at the October meeting but will have the vice-chair conduct the meeting.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

A. Department Updates – Day Program – Terry Geitner said staffing in the day program is excellent right now. They are down 2 positions. Mr. Geitner feels this is the strongest and best team he has had since he has been here. There is more of a cohesive teamwork with all of them and very supportive. We had a slight set-back with Covid with staff and consumers, but everything seems to be back on track now. Lisa Jones comes to the Day Program twice a week and works with the consumers. Her company is Efficiency Strength Training. She is not a physical therapist or chiropractor. We can see a big difference in the consumers she is working with.

Nursing – Ava White said Ms. Jones came in June observing everyone. She started working one on one in July with a few individuals. She will be training staff to take over some of the training she does. The consumers are really excited about being able to do these things. Ms. White said as for infectious disease, Covid has risen with twelve cases, three consumers with one hospitalization and nine staff. We are hoping this is all we are going to see. Covid protocols were put back in place in all our facilities. Medication management is ongoing for our consumers on psych medications. There have been positive results with the recent medication changes with a couple of our consumers. Our med errors continue to fluctuate. Med errors are low as compared to the number of medications passed per month. Falls remain on average between 3 and 4 per month.

Budget – Vicki Prescott reported that we are 12% into our budget year. Revenue is at 3%, personnel is at 8%, purchased services are 4%, and supplies are 1%. Overall expenditures are 7%.

Early Intervention – Cherie Scoggins said that Early Intervention is going well. We have one EI that will be having a baby on Monday. We have looked at our department collectively and over the past year we have had a new Early Intervention service provider come into the community. We are still receiving referrals but just not as many. So, we are going to look at changing that department a little bit. We are going to change one of our positions from full time to part time. She would like to come back part time instead of full time. We are going to change our services so that we will have one individual that will be responsible for families that only want service coordination and we have some families that get a lot of services so we will have one EI doing that. The rest will do hands-on training.

Case Management – Ms. Scoggins said case management is doing well. The new case manager, Sharon Dawson, is up and running. She worked very diligently to find placement for an individual upstate. We are finishing deconflicting cases. We are doing fifteen this month and next month will be working on the rest. We will be losing about 35 individuals, but we still have about 200 waivers we are providing services for. There are two individuals on the critical placement list. One is in the detention center, and we are looking for placement for him. He violated his parole and was placed back in the detention center. He goes to court on the 25th to see what the judge is going to do as far as his sentencing. The other individual is homeless. We found a placement for him, but he declined it.

- B. Bill 602 - Mr. Love said he went to a State Conference a couple of weeks ago and they discussed Bill 602 that states the governor wants to make the state director a cabinet level position. They would identify a secretary and three or four deputy secretaries. Mr. Love and another gentleman are compiling a list to show how different providers are set up to send to legislators as they are getting ready to vote on 602.

- C. Interim County Administrator – Mr. Love said he and Wanda Mayse went to a meeting to meet the new interim county administrator, John Robinson. Mr. Love said he is an interesting guy. He seems honest and sincere, but Mr. Love believes he is not interested in it becoming a permanent position but thinks he will do a good job while in the position. They need someone who is more political. County Council said the former county administrator wants a public hearing.
- D. disAbilities Resource Guide – Mr. Love said the new guide is out. He gave each board member a copy and said if they need more, he can get them. People are moving here and need information. This is a good resource.
- E. Meeting about Support Group – Mr. Love said he met with a group last week to try to create a support group for families who have a family member with disabilities to have a place to go to talk. They will meet here in September or October.
- F. Mental Health First Aid Training – Mr. Love said this training will be held September 11th. This is free training that is being done by the state.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Tier Changes – Ms. Mayse said we have looked at each consumer to assess their level of care. We have six individuals that we have submitted the paperwork to change their tiers. We must submit documentation of their needs to justify the change. So far four have been approved. New consumers come in at a tier 4 because it is a critical need.
- B. Staffing – We are down 19 full time direct care positions and 5 part time. We really have not felt it because current staff are pitching in to cover.

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

Ms. Middleton was not present, but there were no directives to review.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair – Absent
- 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. Mr. Sturup-Comeau is interested but must check on conflict of interest.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XI. The next board meeting will be held on **October 17, 2023, at 4:00 PM:**

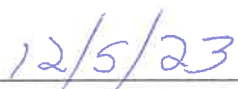
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XII. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN STURUP COMEAU AND SECONDED BY MARY ANN RADKE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:00 PM.




Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date