

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
December 5, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Lea Cifranick-McFadden, Priscilla Drake, Nancy Pinkerton, Danielle Quat, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker, Fredricka Williamson, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frankie Middleton, Mary Ann Radke

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

GUESTS PRESENT: Rebecca Whitt

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

Ms. Russo welcomed our guest.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2023, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GALEN STURUP-COMEAU AND SECONDED BY NANCY PINKERTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2023, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY NANCY PINKERTON AND SECONDED BY GALEN STURUP-COMEAU TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo acknowledged our two new members and asked them to tell us a little bit about themselves.

Ms. Lea Cifranick-McFadden said she has been in Beaufort about nine years. She is a speech-language pathologist and works at Beaufort Memorial Hospital. She started in the pediatric Healthlink for children clinic and has since become the clinical coordinator for the rehab department at Beaufort Memorial overseeing speech, OT, and PT, both inpatient and outpatient for adults and pediatrics. However, since her application (for the board), she is now going to go to the Naval Hospital and work in the EDIS program. She and her husband are expecting a baby.

Ms. Fredricka Williamson said she is from the Beaufort area. She works on Parris Island and is part of the union as localized president of 2775 machinist union. She is also secretary on the board for APRI. What got her here was her son went to Early Intervention and she really

didn't understand anything about the Department of Special Needs and she always wanted to learn more.

Ms. Russo had everyone go around the room and introduce themselves to the new members.

Ms. Russo asked if everyone had reviewed the 2024 meeting calendar and if there were any changes that need to be made. There were none at this time and the calendar was approved.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

- A. Department Updates – Day Program – Terry Geitner started by saying how he takes pride in being surrounded by such a knowledgeable group of people to work with. He said he is down two direct care positions but has a strong team. The individuals in the Day Program are actively involved in holiday activities, i.e., Christmas party on the 15th with Santa, Gullah Kinfolk event, carriage ride, oyster tour at Lady's Island Oyster, Inc. in Seabrook (they have the single lady oysters). Transportation in the Day Program is good. We have several new vehicles. Overall, we have about 100 individuals attending the Day program with about 60% of them working.

Budget – Beth Cody was tied up in another meeting, so Mr. Love passed out a copy of the FY24 approved budget to the board members.

Early Intervention – Cherie Scoggins said that Early Intervention received 22 new referrals from Beaufort to Hilton Head. They are seeing more Hispanics so are having to use interpreters. We have one part-time position and will be doing interviews on Wednesday.

Case Management – Ms. Scoggins said case management is doing well. They received 5 new referrals per case manager. We have 2 new intakes. There were 2 individuals who have the HASCI Waiver (Head and Spinal Chord Injury). There are 3 females and 4 males on the critical waiting list, and we are looking for placement for them. There are two types of lists. The Critical list is for individuals who are a danger to themselves or others, have a caregiver who is over the age of 85, are homeless, or they are in a situation where there is a chance of abuse and neglect or there has been abuse and neglect. The Transfer list are individuals who are already in placement but want to go somewhere else. They could go anywhere but want to transfer closer to their home.

- B. Rebecca Whitt, Director BCA&D - Ms. Whitt said her department provides outpatient services for adults and adolescents. They have a full continuum of services ranging from prevention to intervention and treatment and then recovery and support. Last year they served 123 adolescents and 337 adults in their program. They are working to reduce the risk of substance abuse and are providing Narcan to the community. She wants to expand across the county. They take people regardless of their ability to pay. They are providing training to the community and to county employees. Narcan will be placed in county buildings that have a lot of foot traffic, i.e., Admin building, libraries, etc.

- C. LAC Report – Mr. Love said the Legislative Audit Council did a limited review of the SCDDSN. They performed an audit of state agencies and programs to identify ways to reduce the cost and improve the performance of state agencies and provide information to the General Assembly and the public. They reviewed about 10 providers. It is not good. This report is about making DDSN a cabinet position.
- D. PLT Cash-out – Mr. Love said the County is allowing employees to cash out up to 40 hours of their personal leave.
- E. Suggestion Box – Mr. Love said Ms. Antonacci suggested we do some things to help improve communication. One was a suggestion box, and we have put up one on the Day Program side and one on the Admin side. We have gotten a few suggestions already.
- F. Walking Path – Mr. Love said the walking path and the completion of the renovations of this room are all due to Ms. Antonacci's efforts. They are supposed to start forming and pouring concrete for the walking path next week.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Intake – Ms. Mayse said we have a new individual that was admitted at Frasier Drive, which has been vacant for a pretty long time. There were two other individuals that strongly advocated to be admitted to that position. One of them was actually a political push. The gentleman that we selected, we found out during the admission process that his family withheld information about what his needs were so he has been admitted on a 90 day trial. His needs were a lot higher than what we agreed to do. If it does not work out, we assured the sister that we would help with finding placement for him.
- B. Licensing – We are coming up for licensing next month. We are working on getting everything ready. There are a few projects we are working on with some of the homes that is being taken care of (mold issue which has been resolved, bathroom plumbing which is still being worked on, and the tree cutting project at Pinecrest is still on-going). ALLIANT reviews were usually every 12 months. They changed that for agencies who consistently score over 90 in all areas to an 18 month interval.

We are still having challenges with staffing but we are chipping away at it. We have staff who are filling in where needed and some day program staff who help out too. We are getting a few applications each week and we are interviewing all who qualify.

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

There were no directives to review.

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 – Nothing

X. PUBLIC COMMENT


Danielle Quat said tis will be her last meeting with us. She has accepted a new position and will be resigning from the Board.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on February 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM:

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

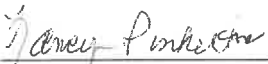
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 3:30 PM.



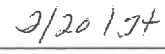
Lyon Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date