

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
February 20, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wendy Bukowski, Lea Cifranick-McFadden, Priscilla Drake, Nancy Pinkerton, Lynn Russo, Galen Sturup Comeau, Andy Thacker, Fredricka Williamson,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frankie Middleton, Mary Ann Radke, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2023 BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2023. A MOTION WAS MADE BY WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY GALEN STURUP-COMEAU TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024. A MOTION WAS MADE BY WENDY BUKOWSKI AND SECONDED BY ANDY THACKER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Lynn Russo, Chairman

Ms. Russo said March is Disabilities Awareness Month. She asked if anyone would like to go to the various council meetings to pick up proclamations. Below is who is scheduled:

City of Beaufort	March 12, 2024	7:00 pm	Andy Thacker
Town of Port Royal	March 13, 2024	6:30 pm	Galen Sturup Comeau
Town of Bluffton	March 12, 2024	5:00 pm	Wendy Bukowski
Town of Hilton Head	March 5, 2024	3:00 pm	Galen Sturup Comeau
Beaufort County Council	March 11, 2024	5:00 pm	Lynn Russo

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT –Bill Love

Mr. Love began by saying how much he appreciates the Board and what you do. You are the faces out in the community talking about us and what we do and making sure people know about us.

- A. Department Updates – Early Intervention and Case Management - Cherie Scoggins said that Early Intervention is continuing to provide services across the county. They had 18 referrals in January and 6 so far this month. Case Management hired a part time person to work with some of our individuals ages 6 – 14. You can keep early intervention up until age 6 and then they go directly into school. She is just starting with an individual who is having challenging behaviors in school. We have seen an influx of homeless individuals. We are working with several individuals trying to find placement for them. The YMCA reached out to us about a scholarship program they have for providing swim lessons for our individuals.

Budget – Beth Cody provided a copy of the Fiscal Year 2024 approved budget vs Fiscal Year 2025 requested budget for the Board’s review. Typically, I go over where we are year to date, but I cannot do that at this time because the county switched to a different way of formatting our data. It is project-based accounting, and they dumped all expenses in the Admin group so I am having to go back invoice by invoice to move everything to where it needs to be.

Day Program – Terry Geitner said the day program audit went well. There were a few minor things they found that we have already corrected for the most part. Two-hour notice is hard but we should be ready at any time. We have had a few staffing changes: two left day program for residential, one moved back out of state, and one decided to pursue a different career path. We are in the beginning stages of planning for pickle ball in the springtime with Mike Chambers from Dataw.

Nursing – Ava White said during the last three months there was one reported case of Covid. They were prescribed meds and quarantined, and the case was contained. We currently have three clients with medication adjustments that will be addressed at the next Psych Clinic with Dr. Gonzales. Medication errors continue to fluctuate from month to month. There was a total of 25 falls over the last three months. Causes were due to loss of balance, seizure, weakness, behavior, client or staff negligence. Most only ended up with minor scrapes/abrasions. There were four that resulted in more serious injuries. Ms. White will be putting together fall prevention training for staff to help with reducing the number of falls. Lisa Jones, the performance enhancement specialist, is still working with fall-risk clients and those with severe decline in mobility and challenging physical limitations also work with outside physical therapists per their PCPs.

- B. Walking Path - Mr. Love said the walking path is finally finished. We will be putting signs along the walkway to talk about nature scenes and our services. We also plan to put some benches along the way.
- C. All-Terrain Wheelchairs – Mr. Love said that Hunting Island got a grant to purchase some all-terrain wheelchairs. We are going to take a couple of our individuals out there to practice using them.
- D. Community Review Teams – Mr. Love said some of you are on one of our Community Review Teams. You will be receiving a list showing where you will be going and the dates.

- E. Community Meetings to discuss our programs – Mr. Love said he drafted a letter to the community discussing our services. We will ask you to go with a staff person and talk to legislators, mayors, and churches to talk about us and what we do.
- F. Waterfront Burger Bash – Mr. Love said Matt Flewelling is having the Waterfront Burger Bash again this year. It will be on March 11th from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Please try to go if your schedule allows.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Wanda Mayse

- A. Staffing – Ms. Mayse said staff are working a lot of overtime. We are trying to keep morale up and keep staff from getting burned out. We had two new hires that started this week. We are getting applications and on average we are having a couple of interviews per week. Most of them have been viable candidates that we can try to employ. We are discharging two long-term clients because of level of care. One does not have family and we try to keep them close so staff and housemates can visit. However, it looks like we will have to place her at Ridgeland, and we don’t have the capacity to visit often.
- B. Licensing – Ms. Mayse said we have been spending a lot of time on licensing. We have been getting rapid calls from the state. With the new compliance standard in place, where we were getting 24-hour notice now we get 2. Recently we have had 6 of those and we met compliance over 90% on each of those programs.

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

There were no directives to review.

Ms. Russo said she would like to talk to Mr. Love about this committee and the Public Relations Committee. She would like to get more information about the two positions. Mr. Comeau had requested more information about the Public Relations Committee so that he could make sure it did not conflict with his other positions. He has agreed to chair this committee. Ms. Williamson asked for information on the policy committee.

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 to report

X. PUBLIC COMMENT


Mr. Love would like to have a ribbon cutting for the walking path. It will be some time the first part of May. Maybe have some refreshments in the new conference room.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on April 16, 2024, at 4:00 PM:

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

XII. ADJOURNMENT


THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 4:57 PM.



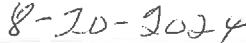
Lynn Russo, Chairman



Date



Nancy Pinkerton, Vice-Chairman



Date