

BEAUFORT COUNTY DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY BOARD
100 Clear Water Way
Beaufort, SC 29906
April 15, 2025

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lea Cifranick-McFadden, Priscilla Drake, Andy Thacker, Fredricka Williamson, Audra Antonacci (Ex-officio)

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER – Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

Mr. Comeau called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. WELCOMING GUESTS

There were no guests present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2025, BOARD MEETING

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2025 MEETING. A MOTION WAS MADE BY LYNN RUSSO AND SECONDED BY MARY ANN RADKE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IV. ADOPTION OF APRIL 15, 2025, AGENDA

A VOTE WAS TAKEN TO APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2025. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY ANN RADKE AND SECONDED BY WENDY BUKOWSKI TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

- A. Proclamations - Mr. Comeau asked if anyone had any comments about the proclamations. Ms. Russo said she attended the Bluffton meeting to accept the proclamation from Town of Bluffton but there was some confusion and they did not have us on their agenda. They did call and apologize for the confusion and mailed the proclamation to DSN. Mr. Comeau went to all the other meetings to receive the proclamations. City of Beaufort gave him/DSN a standing ovation. Mr. Comeau suggested in the future that whoever goes to the meetings to pick up the proclamations take a client with them to bring more attention to DSN.
- B. Board Attendance – Mr. Comeau suggested we start sending meeting invites to board members by email. That way we might get a better count of who will be attending the meetings and will know if we will have a quorum.
- C. Board Activity for DSN Promotion – Mr. Comeau suggested we have board members volunteer to go to various events (i.e., farmers market, community events, street fair, etc.) to help promote DSN in the community.

- D. Newsletter for DSN – Mr. Comeau asked if we still were considering a newsletter for DSN. Mr. Love said we meet monthly to update our website. It includes news articles and things that are happening.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT –Bill Love

- A. Department Updates – Budget – Vicki Prescott filled in for Beth Cody. She said we are 77% of the way through FY25. Revenue is 75% and total expenses are 73%. There is nothing unusual. She mentioned Ms. Cody has worked hard on FY26 budget and gotten all that in, but they are still fine tuning all of that.

EI/Case Management – Ms. Scoggins said on Friday, April 25th, the Child Abuse Prevention Festival is happening at Buckwalter Place, and we will be there. We received a number of Head and Spinal Cord Injury cases last month. In Case Management we had 20 referrals, which included the HASCI and regular referrals, and Early Intervention had 8 referrals. The EI team attended the Hopes and Dreams conference in Columbia last month. She met Tanner, who is on Love on the Spectrum show.

Nursing – Ava White – Ms. White said there have been minor urgent care visits related to various URIs and falls. There were 5 medication modifications for clients that took place at the last PDR clinic on 3/20 that we are closely monitoring. The annual Dysphagia/GERD training took place on 2/25 with all house managers. In February out of 25,118 meds passed, there were three errors. In March out of 74,127 meds passed there were 21 errors. RNs did a med audit of all CTH II homes in March. All homes scored very well. Palmetto Rx Solutions will conduct their semi-annual med audit on May 1. There was a total of eleven falls over February and March. There were two hospital visits and a few urgent care visits. Our part-time nurse is continuing training and acclimating to her new position and is fitting in very well. She will be taking over the house visits and med audits for residential and SLP in May. Our exercise therapist continues to work with our clients related to high fall risk.

Day Program – Mr. Terry Geitner said they have three openings in the Day Program, two direct care and one training coordinator. There have been many events and outings; Burger Bash, Gullah Restaurant came and did a presentation and cooked the food here and fed everyone, Bee City, we are going to Burton Center on April 22nd to do a presentation about what we do and who we are, the Cinderella Fella Ball is coming up in May.

- B. New Responsibilities – Mr. Love let the board know that Audra Antonacci has been assigned the responsibility of Parks and Recreation and the Library departments.
- C. Burger Bash – This is the third year Matt Flewelling has held the Burger Bash for people with disabilities. About 150 people attended.
- D. Conference – SCHSP held their annual conference in Myrtle Beach again this year. We had four of our staff attend.
- E. Nancy Pinkerton's Memorial – Lynn Russo, Wanda Mayse, and Bill Love attended the memorial service for Nancy Pinkerton, one of the original founders of our board. It was a very nice service. Her family requested that in lieu of flowers, people should send a donation to our ABLE board.

- F. J. C. Lewis – We were contacted by a representative of J. C. Lewis Ford offering free oil changes for staff in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. They will be held at four locations: Bluffton, Lady's Island, and two on the Beaufort side.
- G. New Time Keeping System – The County has installed a new timekeeping system – UKG. We are all still getting used to it.
- H. ALLIANT – We are expecting our compliance review by Alliant in June.

VII. DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Darnell Hazard for Wanda Mayse

Mr. Hazard said everything is going good in the residential department. We had one house manager step down to direct care and are interviewing for a house manager. There are 14 individuals going to the circus at the end of the month. We have Life Skills training every other weekend. Alliant will be auditing three homes next month: Waddell, Center, and Fraser. We are potentially moving an individual to a higher level of care for safety issues.

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

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Hospitality Committee, Wendy Bukowski, Chair – N/A
- Personnel Committee, Lynn Russo, Chair – N/A
- Public Relations/Legislative Committee, Galen Sturup Comeau, Chair - NA

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Love said Mr. Keyserling and Mr. Durbin, who presented at our last meeting about Mark Bookman, have had about three meetings, one this morning that he attended. They will meet again on May 1st.

XI. The next board meeting will be held on **July 15, 2025, at 4:00 PM:**


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

XII. ADJOURNMENT

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 5:00 PM.


Galen Sturup Comeau, Chairman

7/15/2025
Date


Lynn Russo, Vice-Chairman

7/15/25
Date