

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

MINUTES

May 18, 2023

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Central Office, 3440 Harden Street Extension, Columbia, South Carolina.

The following were in attendance:

COMMISSION

Present In-Person

Stephanie Rawlinson – Chairman

Barry Malphrus – Vice Chairman

Gary Kocher, MD

Eddie Miller

Michelle Woodhead

Microsoft Teams

David Thomas

Robin Blackwood - Secretary

DDSN Administrative Staff

Constance Holloway, Interim State Director/General Counsel; Harley Davis, Ph.D., Chief Administrative Officer; Quincy Swygert, Chief Financial Officer; Courtney Crosby, Internal Audit Director; Lori Manos, Associate State Director of Policy; Janet Priest, Associate State Director of Operations; Liz Lemmond, Director of Human Resources; Morgan Foster, Human Resources Manager; Carolyn Benzon, Deputy General Counsel; Stephanie Turner, Autism Division Director; Mark Kaminer, Information Technology Division; and Christie Linguard, Executive Assistant.

Notice of Meeting Statement

Chairman Rawlinson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Woodhead read a statement of announcement about the meeting that was distributed to the appropriate media, interested persons, and posted at the Central Office and on the website in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Welcome

Chairman Rawlinson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She announced that this week is Employee Appreciation Week at the Agency. She also thanked Commissioner Malphrus for presiding over last month's meeting in her absence.

May 18, 2023 DDSN Commission Meeting Minutes
Page 2 of 5

Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Malphrus, the meeting agenda was unanimously approved as written by the Commission. (Attachment A)

Invocation

Chairman Rawlinson gave the invocation.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Malphrus made a motion to approve both the minutes from the April 20, 2023 Special Called Public Hearing regarding Regulations for the Agency and the April 20, 2023 regular Commission meeting; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Woodhead and unanimously approved by the Commission. (Attachment B)

Commissioners' Update

Commissioner Kocher noted that he has had conversations with a couple of constituents regarding the rules of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance not being adhered to in the public. Chairman Rawlinson suggested that calls like this be directed to Disability Rights South Carolina.

Commissioner Miller reminded everyone that the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Legacy Festival will take place this weekend in Mayesville, SC. Interim Director Constance Holloway will be in the parade this year; and the Agency's communication staff will be present to handout brochures and answer any questions for the public on Saturday.

Commissioner Woodhead announced that the Roger C. Peace Rollin' Tigers wheelchair basketball team won the national championship.

Chairman Malphrus stated that the bill to make this Agency a cabinet agency did not pass. Things will remain as they are now until the foreseeable future.

Chairman Rawlinson explained that there was a glitch in sending out the meeting notice for this month's Commission meeting. She asked that any provider who did not receive the notice to let Ms. Linguard know as soon as possible. As a reminder, the Commission meetings take place every third Thursday of the month, beginning at 10:00 AM. Materials are posted on our website.

Chairman Rawlinson went on to thank all of the parents of our Regional Center consumers for their emails and text messages. She announced that a Coastal

May 18, 2023 DDSN Commission Meeting Minutes
Page 3 of 5

Regional Center parent texted her about an upcoming event, the Annual Memorial Service, to remember those consumers that have passed away in the Center. This event will take place at the Coastal Regional Center in the gazebo on May 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

Chairman Rawlinson compiled a list of ongoing Agency projects that she would like an update on from the executive team by the next Commission meeting in June. She sent this information to the Agency's director. She passed a copy of the document to fellow Commission members and informed Commissioners Blackwood and Thomas that she will email them a copy.

Lastly, Chairman Rawlinson acknowledged that she received a copy of the *Pee Dee's Juice Journal* monthly booklet. She encouraged fellow Commission members and the general public to reach out to executive directors in other Regional Centers to see if they produce similar documentation so that everyone can be kept informed.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Programs and Services

Ms. Laurel Ybarra-Kane, Manager of Education and Interpretation at the SC State Museum, began by thanking the Commission for having her as a presenter today. She also thanked the Agency's staff for the partnership the Museum has established with the Agency. She went on to discuss the Museum's Accessibility Mornings Project (2nd Saturday every month). Ms. Ybarra-Kane spoke about the disability resources and educational team trainings at the Museum. The Disability Pride Day is July 8, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, featuring Zot Artz, Community Partners, Sensory Room, ASL, Silent Discos and much more. This is a donation-based event that is free to the public. (Attachment C)

Employee Recognition and Service Award Ceremony

Ms. Foster began by presenting service pins to central office employees that have been a state employee for 10, 20 and 30+ years. During the employee appreciation events that will be held at the Regional Centers throughout this month, staff members who have reached their milestone years of state service during the 2022 calendar year will also be recognized. The employees presented were thanked for their hard work, dedication and service. Each Regional Center selected an Employee of the Year, who was introduced by their respective Facility Administrator and recognized by the Commission. Each employee exemplified the Agency's vision, mission and values and have far exceeded the expectations of their positions. Each recipient received a bonus and a certificate. Ms. LaToya

May 18, 2023 DDSN Commission Meeting Minutes
Page 4 of 5

Tillman of the Midlands Regional Center was announced as the overall Employee of the Year for the Agency.

Old Business

A. Quarterly Incident Management Report

Ms. Dalton briefly spoke on the five-year incident trend data for Community-Based Services (including Residential and Day Service Settings) and Regional Centers through March 31, 2023. She also discussed compliance monitoring during reporting and implementation of the upcoming E-training associated with competency-based testing in a Learning Management System (LMS) for the provider network in the upcoming fiscal year. Questions were asked and answered regarding the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) cases and reporting to the Commission. (Attachment D).

B. Update on Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC & EdMetric, LLC

Dr. Davis began by stating that Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC (SSC) has scheduled two listening sessions targeting persons supported and their families. In addition, the Agency has received and is reviewing priorities summarized by SSC from their conversations with partners, persons supported and their families.

DDSN and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) attended a demonstration hosted by the state of Missouri to showcase their homegrown level of need tool. We are awaiting some additional information from Missouri to make a final determination of which level of need assessment tool to pilot in South Carolina.

Commissioner Blackwood asked for an update on the co-operative training for providers. Dr. Davis noted that this initiative got pushed back a bit due to the need to solicit providers for residential habilitation to support children. She will speak with providers at the upcoming monthly meeting on this Monday to discuss what types of co-operative training the providers would like to engage in currently.

New Business

Financial Update

Mr. Swygert presented the FY23 Spending Plan vs Actual as of April 30, 2023. To date, the Agency has expended \$817M, 87.05% of our approved spending plan of \$939.1M. The agency is currently 3.72% over budget. Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the Financial Update, seconded by

May 18, 2023 DDSN Commission Meeting Minutes
Page 5 of 5

Commissioner Blackwood and unanimously approved by the Commission.
(Attachment E)

Director's Update

Interim Director Holloway spotlighted Eric Jacobs of the Midlands Regional Center for his 31 years of service here at the Agency. Director Holloway announced the passing of a long-time employee, Ms. Catherine "Cathi" Margaret Browder, who was an Autism Administrator at the Pee Dee Regional Center. Heartfelt condolences are sent to her family, friends and staff at Pee Dee Regional Center. Lastly, she gave updates on the Agency. (Attachment F)

Next Regular Meeting

June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Adjournment


On a motion by Commissioner Kocher, seconded by Commissioner Miller and approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:41 A.M.

Submitted by:



Christie D. Linguard
Executive Assistant

Approved by:

DocuSigned by:


EB5F4D66AAB848B
Commissioner Gary Koehler, M.D.
Secretary

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

A G E N D A

**South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs
3440 Harden Street Extension
Conference Room 251 (TEAMS)
Columbia, South Carolina**

May 18, 2023

10:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order *Chairman Stephanie Rawlinson*
2. Notice of Meeting Statement *Commissioner Robin Blackwood*
3. Welcome
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Invocation *Commissioner Stephanie Rawlinson*
6. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes
 1. Special Called Commission Meeting/Pubic Hearing – April 20, 2023
 2. Commission Meeting – April 20, 2023
7. Commissioners' Update *Commissioners*
8. Public Input
9. Programs and Services
SC State Museum *Ms. Laura Ybarra-Kane
Manager of Education and Interpretation*
10. Employee Recognition and Service Award Ceremony *Ms. Constance Holloway
Ms. Morgan Foster
Ms. Liz Lemmond*
11. Old Business:
 - A. Quarterly Incident Management Report *Ms. Ann Dalton*
 - B. Update on Sage Squirrel Consulting, LLC & EdMetric, LLC *Harley Davis, PhD*
12. New Business:
Financial Update *Mr. Quincy Swygert*
13. Director's Update *Ms. Constance Holloway*
14. Next Regular Meeting - June 15, 2023
15. Adjournment

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
SPECIAL CALLED COMMISSION – PUBLIC HEARING ON REGULATIONS
MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2023

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 12:26 p.m., at the Department for Disabilities and Special Needs, 3440 Harden Street Extension, Columbia, South Carolina.

The following were in attendance:

COMMISSION

Present In-Person

Barry Malphrus – Vice Chairman

Robin Blackwood – Secretary

Eddie Miller

Michelle Woodhead

Absent

Stephanie Rawlinson – Chairman

Gary Kocher, MD

David Thomas

DDSN Administrative Staff

Carolyn Benzon, Deputy General Counsel; Lori Manos, Associate State Director of Policy; Erin Oehler, Attorney; Robert McBurney, Emergency Operations and Special Projects; Preston Southern, Information Technology Division; and Christie Linguard, Executive Assistant.

Call to Order and Notice of Meeting Statement

Vice Chairman Malphrus called the meeting to order and Secretary Blackwood read a statement of announcement about the meeting that was distributed to the appropriate media, interested persons, and posted at the Central Office and on the website in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Welcome

Vice Chairman Malphrus welcomed everyone to the Public Hearing for the proposed Regulations to go into the State Register.

Adoption of the Agenda

Discussion was held about Disability Rights South Carolina (DRSC) sending in their written comments and requesting a meeting of the Executive staff members in lieu of speaking at this Public Hearing today. Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to adopt the agenda as written with the amendment of the removal of DRSC commenting on the Agency’s Regulations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Malphrus and approved by all four (4) Commission members present. (Attachment A)

The only agenda item was stricken from the approved amended agenda. There were written comments from Mr. Ralph Shenefelt from Health and Safety Institute in Eugene, Oregon and Disability Rights South Carolina. As mentioned, staffers will meet with DRSC to discuss their comments. Vice Chairman Malphrus noted that the Agency will receive the current draft of each proposed regulation and make any appropriate grammatical or classification edits before submission of the final draft to the legislature. (Attachment B)

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Christie D. Linguard
Executive Assistant

Commissioner Robin Blackwood
Secretary

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

MINUTES

April 20, 2023

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, April 20, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Disabilities and Special Needs Central Office, 3440 Harden Street Extension, Columbia, South Carolina.

The following were in attendance:

COMMISSION

Present In-Person

Barry Malphrus – Vice Chairman

Robin Blackwood – Secretary

Gary Kocher, MD

Eddie Miller

Michelle Woodhead

Microsoft Teams

David Thomas

Absent

Stephanie Rawlinson – Chairman

DDSN Administrative Staff

Constance Holloway, Interim State Director/General Counsel; Harley Davis, Ph.D., Chief Administrative Officer; Quincy Swygert, Chief Financial Officer; Courtney Crosby, Internal Audit Director; Lori Manos, Associate State Director of Policy; Janet Priest, Associate State Director of Operations; Carolyn Benzon, Deputy General Counsel; Greg Meetze, Information Technology Director; Stephanie Turner, Autism Division Director; Andrew Tharin, Director of Engineering; Robert McBurney, Emergency Operations and Special Projects; Pacifico Perea, Public Information Division; Preston Southern, Information Technology Division; and Christie Linguard, Executive Assistant.

Notice of Meeting Statement

Vice Chairman Malphrus called the meeting to order and Secretary Blackwood read a statement of announcement about the meeting that was distributed to the appropriate media, interested persons, and posted at the Central Office and on the website in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Welcome

Vice Chairman Malphrus welcomed everyone to the meeting this morning. Guests were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Vice Chairman announced that there will be a Public Hearing thirty (30) minutes after the adjournment of this meeting.

Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Kocher, seconded by Commissioner Blackwood, the meeting agenda was unanimously approved as written by the Commission. (Attachment A)

Invocation

Commissioner Miller gave the invocation.

Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to approve the Commission Meeting minutes from March 16, 2023; this motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller and unanimously approved by the Commission. (Attachment B)

Commissioners' Update

Commissioner Blackwood attended the Laurens County Disabilities and Special Needs Board meeting and toured their facilities. She learned about sensory bags that were purchased and provided to law enforcement in the area. She announced the statewide conference on autism, Converge Autism Summit, presented by Springbrook Autism Behavioral Health in Greenville, SC. This Summit will take place on May 16 & 17, 2023.

Commissioner Woodhead noted that she attended the Collegiate National Wheelchair Tennis Nationals in Orlando, Florida. There are nine (9) universities in the United States that have established programs and five (5) emerging universities with this program. She also attended the Leisure Skill Clinic presented by Back to Independence Rehab in Charlotte, NC.

Vice Chairman Malphrus stated that he attended Disability Day at the statehouse last month.

Public Input

There was no public input.

Autism Awareness Month

Ms. Stephanie Turner began by defining Autism and explaining some of the behaviors. She gave statistics and updated the Commission on things the agency is doing to observe autism this month.

Programs and Services

A. United Cerebral Palsy of South Carolina

Ms. Rachel Sharp, Executive Director of the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of South Carolina, began by stating the mission of UCP and what they offer to the consumers of South Carolina. They provide services in five counties: Lexington, Richland, Greenville, Sumter and Clarendon. Their main office is in West Columbia. UCP provides support to all persons with disabilities. (Attachment C)

B. DHEC Division of Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Ms. Shannon Grant is a Social Worker at the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). She began by stating that funding for the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) comes from the Title V program. They serve children between the ages of birth to 21 years old with certain qualifying diagnoses. Their primary goals are to provide care coordination to families and children as well as funding assistance for needed services and supplies. As children begin to age out, they also provide transitional services. They have six different programs within their division: Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS) Program; Hemophilia Premium Assistance Program; Sickle Cell Services; Hearing Program; Orthodontia Program; and Special Formula Program. In addition, they also offer a residential summer camp for children, youth and young adults with disabilities called Camp Burnt Gin, which is held in Sumter County and is currently operating at 60% capacity after COVID. (Attachment D)

Old Business

A. Legislative Update

Mr. McBurney began by stating that the legislative session will be ending soon. Senate Bill 343, Crisis Stabilization, has passed the Senate and is now in the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs (3M) Committee. The Senate Finance Committee took up the budget on the floor this week. For the Agency's budget, the Senate funded everything the House of

Representatives funded for our budget with the additional funding for autism eligibility evaluations. They also fully funded the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) shortfall. Lastly, Mr. McBurney reminded the Commission of the upcoming Public Hearing on Regulations to take place thirty (30) minutes after the adjournment of this Commission meeting.

Interim Director Holloway gave a brief update on Senate Bill 602, as currently written. It was passed by the Senate on March 29, 2023, and referred to the Judiciary Committee in the House after being introduced on April 4, 2023. The six (6) sections of this Bill was discussed. (Attachment E)

B. Conflict-Free Case Management Update

Ms. Manos explained that conflict-free case management (CFCM) refers to an individual not receiving case management and direct services from the same provider. The transition for the Agency to move from CFCM began in July 2020. Phase 4 of the Transition Framework is underway by the Agency to meet the 100% CFCM benchmark deadline of December 31, 2023. A total of 5752 waiver participants were initially in conflict and as of February 1, 2023, there are only 1702 cases that remain in conflict. This represents the transition of 70.4% of the waiver participants to case management without conflict. Ms. Manos reported that the Agency is starting to see provider capacity issues centered around very complex cases. A focus group meeting with several providers was held earlier this week in an attempt to work through some of the capacity issues. The Agency is also working to recruit new providers into the system to assist with reaching the Agency's goal of 100% CFCM by the end of this calendar year. (Attachment F)

New Business

A. Annual Comprehensive Property Implementation Plan (CPIP) Five-Year Plan and Request for Approval for Year One Projects

Mr. Tharin began by explaining the need to present this Plan and approve year one. The five-year plan total approximate budget is \$42,910,000, with year one's budget approximately \$12,675,000. Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to approve the five-year Comprehensive Property Implementation Plan (CPIP) as presented, which includes starting on year one projects detailed in this Plan immediately. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Miller. There being no further discussion, both

the five-year and year one Plans were unanimously approved by the Commission. (Attachment G)

B. Financial Update

Mr. Swygert presented the FY23 Spending Plan vs Actual as of March 31, 2023. To date, the Agency has expended \$742M, of our approved spending plan of \$939.1M. The agency is currently 4.06% over budget. Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to approve the Financial Update, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved by the Commission. (Attachment H)

Mr. Swygert spoke briefly about the combined Audit Policy that went out for the 10-day public comment period earlier this month. At this time, the Agency will wait on the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to release their timeline as well as any cost report manuals or guidance to the Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards before presenting a revised Audit Policy.

Director's Update

- Interim Director Holloway began by highlighting long-term staffer, Elisa Bess, who works at the Saleeby Regional Center. Ms. Bess is celebrating 35 years of service at the Agency. She started as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) at Pee Dee Regional Center for three years and then transferred to Saleeby Regional Center in 1991 to work in the Adult Rehabilitation Department as a teacher. She is currently working in the same Department as a supervisor. Ms. Bess recently stated that she enjoys working with the Agency to make a difference in the lives of the people we serve.
- Employment and Day Services Program recently sponsored Mr. Vic Gable, a subject matter expert in the successful employment strategies, to assist in training our provider network on strategies and various other mechanisms to increase employment. Additionally, staffers have been traveling across the state to participate in transition fairs, where they provide helpful employment resources to students with disabilities in order that they may find jobs once they graduate from high school.
- The Eligibility Division continues to handle a high volume of cases, processing approximately 800 cases per month. Additionally, the division has expanded the screening process so they can better serve applicants and has started streamlining services for those on the autism spectrum following face-to-face assessments.
- Interim Director Holloway spoke briefly about Autism Awareness Month and once again, highlighted some of the activities going on throughout the

Agency to bring more awareness. She highlighted Stephanie Turner and thanked her for working with the police departments throughout the state to bring awareness.

- Highlights from our Regional Centers include:
 - Coastal Regional Center's security gate project has been completed. Also, the Parents Group at Coastal organized a garage sale last weekend, which was highlighted in the Post & Courier Newspaper.
 - Whitten Regional Center recently worked with the blood connection on the blood drive at the cinema.
 - Midlands Regional Center is collaborating with the South Carolina State Museum on an effort to increase visibility for individuals who are disabled.
 - Each Center will be participating in the Agency's newly launched internship program. This initiative will provide on-the-job experience for college students across the state and hopefully boost our employment and retention efforts across the Agency.

Executive Session

Vice Chairman Malphrus announced that the Commission will go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter and legal matter involving Poole v. South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs, et. al. At 11:36 AM, on a motion by Commissioner Blackwood, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, the commission voted unanimously to enter into executive session.

Rise Out of Executive Session

Commissioner Kocher made a motion to rise out of executive session. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and unanimously approved by the Commission. Upon rising out of executive session at 11:50 AM, Vice Chairman Malphrus announced that no motions were made, no decisions made and no votes taken during executive session.

Action on Item(s) Discussed in Executive Session, if needed

Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to withdraw former Director Mary Poole's March 2, 2021, termination letter and in doing so, the Commission admits to no wrongdoing. Commissioner Thomas seconded this motion. Individual votes were taken with the following outcome: Commissioners Gary Kocher and Michelle Woodhead abstained from voting because they were not Commission members during the time the letter was written; Commissioners

Robin Blackwood, Eddie Miller, David Thomas and Barry Malphrus all voted aye.
The motion carried.

The Public Hearing on Regulations will take place thirty (30) minutes from now.

Next Regular Meeting

May 18, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Miller and approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 11:58 A.M.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Christie D. Linguard
Executive Assistant

Commissioner Robin Blackwood
Secretary

SCDDSN Ongoing Projects

1. HCBS Settings Regulation

The Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Settings Regulation implementation has been underway for a number of years.

-Have we reached 100% compliance in all settings in South Carolina (SC) where HCBS are delivered, including DDSN-supported residential and day services settings?

2. Conflict-Free Case Management in HCBS Settings

Regulation requires Case Managers to be conflict free by 12/31/23, with a transition benchmark of 50% transition by 12/31/22 and 100% by 12/31/23.

-Is SCDDSN is on track to meet the 100% benchmark by December 31, 2023?

3. Waiver Enrollment and State Level Case Management

In FY2022, three state level case managers were hired with plans to hire additional five in FY2023.

-Have we hired the additional staff?

-When will the new enrollment system be in place and when will the commission learn about this new process?

4. Person-Centered Thinking Training and Learning Management System (LMS) Contractual and procurement processes were initiated in FY2022, has full LMS implementation started in FY2023?

5. Information Technology

-Technology Refresh:

In 2022, DDSN performed assessments on all technology infrastructure. Is DDSN is staying current and compliant with industry standards and information security requirements?

- Automation:

In 2022, DDSN was working to improve its office automation efforts. IT was working with various departments to help automate manual processes. Where are we in this process?

-Digitizing:

In 2022, DDSN was working to expand its Electronic Document Management System capabilities. IT was working through the discovery process to determine the needs of the various DDSN departments. Where are we in this process?

-Website Redevelopment:

In 2022, DDSN was engaged in a website redevelopment project that would modernize DDSN's web presence.

Where are we in this process?

-Contract Management System:

In 2022, DDSN was working to implement an electronic contract management system.

Is this process in place and how is it working?

-Endpoint protection:

In 2022, DDSN security and IT teams implemented Microsoft Endpoint Protection.

Is this working?

6. Apprenticeship SC and Direct Support Professional (DSP) Career Ladder Program at DDSN started in 2022.

-Is this program up & running? Is it working? What are the outcomes?

SCDDSN Ongoing Projects

7. In 2022, DDSN overhauled pay structure for DSPs in coordination with the division of State Human Resources in the SC Department of Administration. The goal was to address recruitment and retention of DSPs at DDSN Regional centers by providing DSPs additional career advancement opportunities and the chance to earn greater pay.

-What are the stats on this change?

8. Interdisciplinary Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

-Is this working?

9. Restoration of Positive Behavior Supports Training with University of SC (UofSC) Center for Disability Resources (CDR). DDSN renewed the contract for provision of this training in 2022.

-What have been the benefits to the service delivery system under this training based on our reports?

10. Corrective Action Plan (CAP) Process for Identified Material Deficiencies. This process was supposed to allow DDSN to assess provider accountability and better protect those that we serve.

-How is this working?

11. Autism Strategic Planning

In 2022 DDSN was working with partner agencies, including SC DHHS, the SC Department of Mental Health, and the SC Department of Social Services, to develop a state level autism strategic plan to ensure individuals with autism spectrum disorder have timely evaluations and eligibility determinations, and that early intervention and other services are available and accessible.

-Is this plan complete and if so when will it be presented to the commission?

12. Crisis Stabilization and Dually Diagnosed Individuals

-Where are we on our Crisis stabilization facilities? When will they open?

13. Council on Quality and Leadership CQL and Post-Payment Claims Review.

DDSN engaged CQL in 2022 and implemented The Basic Assurances® process as a way to require providers to improve the quality of services delivered over time. The goal was to allow DDSN to move from compliance to quality.

-How is this process moving forward?

-Where are we in the implementation of this?

13. Post-Payment Claims Review.

In 2023, DDSN was to implement a post-payment claims review process in coordination with SC DHHS. The post-payment claims review process would require review of a subset of service-specific indicators, to include verification of eligibility, inclusion of proper authorizations, evidence of service planning, and evidence of service delivery.

-Have we started this?

-How is it going?

14. DDSN-Owned Properties and Deferred Maintenance at Regional Centers.

As part of Proviso 36.6, which went into effect 7/1/22, DDSN prioritized deferred maintenance at DDSN-owned properties across the state. An agency directive was modified that outlines the process for providers occupying these properties to complete these deferred projects, and this directive is currently in effect. In addition, DDSN is ensuring deferred maintenance at Regional Centers is completed,

SCDDSN Ongoing Projects

including painting, roof replacements, bathroom upgrades, and purchase of new furniture, mattresses and other supplies for residents and staff of Regional Centers.

-Where is SCDDSN at in compliance process?

-What % of the work is completed?

15. Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies

In 2022, the biggest risk to services provided by DDSN in SC is the shortage of providers willing to serve individuals with ID/RD and related disabilities, head and spinal cord injury, and autism spectrum disorder, especially those that have high behavioral needs and/or additional mental health diagnoses. In order to best mitigate this identified risk, DDSN recommended:

-Rate increases for human service providers that that will help with recruitment efforts in the current labor market,

-Solution-based interagency collaborations to ensure these individuals have access to all available services provided by these agencies, as this is their right, and

-Data sharing across agencies who share service populations, which can be strengthened with legislative mandates.

-Hiring a provider recruiter to recruit new providers to SC.

-Have we addressed all of these areas?

-If not, what are the agencies plans to do so?

16. Zero Tolerance for Abuse & Neglect

The commission adopted a zero tolerance policy for abuse and neglect in our regional centers. ANE reports resulting in arrest is down from 12 to 4 this year. That's good! ANE reports with admin findings is up from 43 to 60 this year. This is concerning.

-Why do we think this number is up when we are offering additional training and have a zero tolerance policy?

Obviously, ANE with an arrest result in employee dismissal.

-What are the employee consequences for admin findings?

17. DHHS Audit of DDSN Waivers is taking place.

-what kind of audit is this?

18. Cameras in Regional Centers.

-Did DDSN add additional cameras in facilities?

-Did DDSN add cameras to the exteriors of facilities?

-How long does DDSN hold recordings now with no incident?

-How long does DDSN hold recordings of reported incidents?

-How long does DDSN hold recordings of incidents with administrative findings?

-How long does DDSN hold recordings of incidents with criminal findings?

19. Tech First State Status

The commission voted to have DDSN assist the providers association's efforts to make SC a tech first state.

-where does this process stand?

-what are the next steps?

South Carolina State Museum Accessibility Efforts

Laura Ybarra-Kane

Manager of Education & Interpretation



Accessibility Mornings

- FREE!
- 2nd Saturday of every month, 9am-11am
- All ages and abilities
- Select Sensory Show in either planetarium or 4D theaters
- Museum Highlights Tour for adults






Accessibility Mornings

Program Partners (thank you DDSN!)



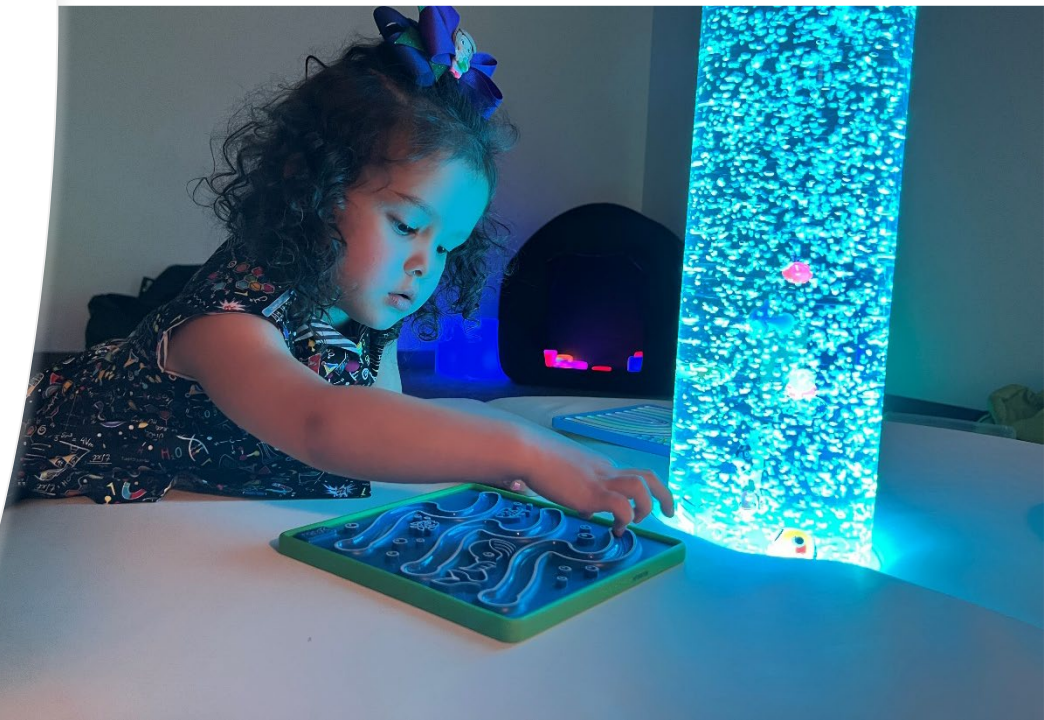
Accessibility Mornings

American Sign Language Interpretation



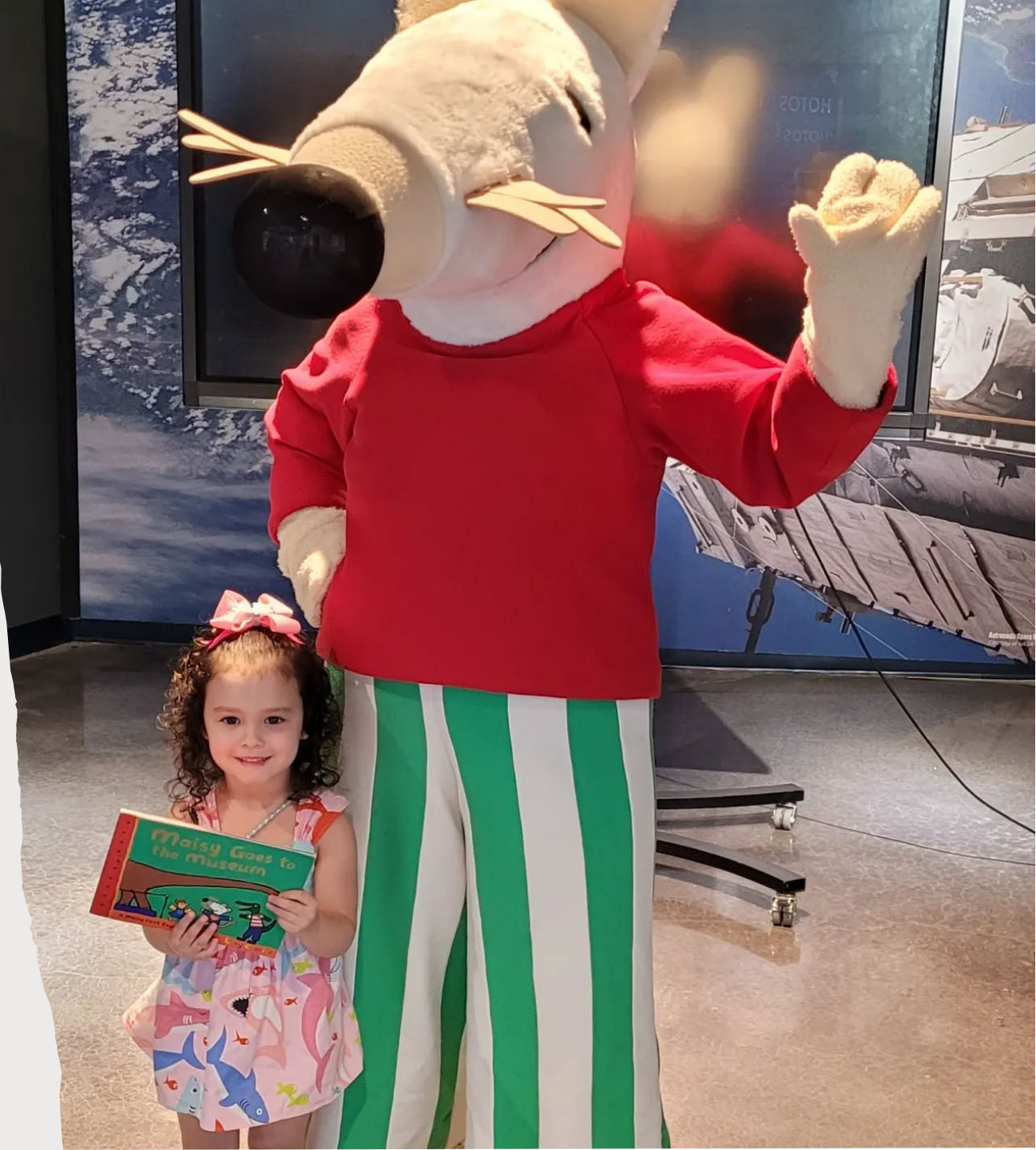
Accessibility Mornings

Sensory Calming Room



Accessibility Mornings

Character Meet-and-Greet &
Storytime



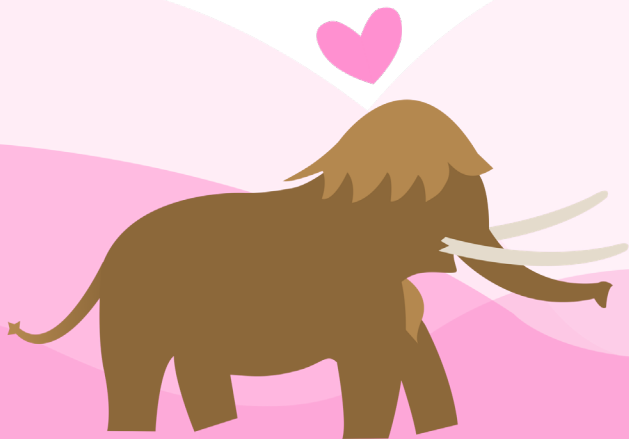
Disability Resources

- Noise canceling headphones
- Sensory bags
- Wheelchairs
- Fidget tools
- Weighted lap pads
- Wobble Cushions
- Assistive Listening Devices in the planetarium and 4D theaters.
- Open captioning in the planetarium
- Closed captioning devices in the 4D theater.
- Descriptive audio in the 4D theater.
- Portable magnifiers
- NEW: On-site Wellness Room!
- NEW: Renovated and upgraded bathrooms!



Education Team Trainings

- CPR/First Aid Certified through American Heart Association
- Deaf Friendly Learning: 20 Common Signs used in Museums
- Mandated Reporter Training w/USC Law School
- Autism Awareness w/DDSN!
- Classroom strategies for children with autism, ADHD, anxiety, or other sensory processing disorders w/The Behavior Co (ABA Therapy)
- Unconscious Bias Training w/USC's Collaborative on Race
- Parent Mentor Session
- Curator Tours

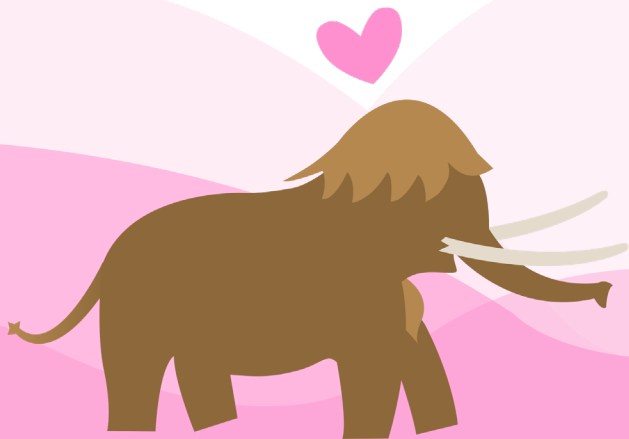




Disability Pride Day
July 8, 2023 – 10am-3pm
Featuring Zot Artz,
Community Partners, Sensory
Room, ASL, Silent Disco, &
more!

Looking to the Future...

- AIRA: Visual Interpretation Services for the Blind
- Kulture City site
- Sunflower Program
- Permanent Sensory Room
- Full-staff trainings, expanding past the education team

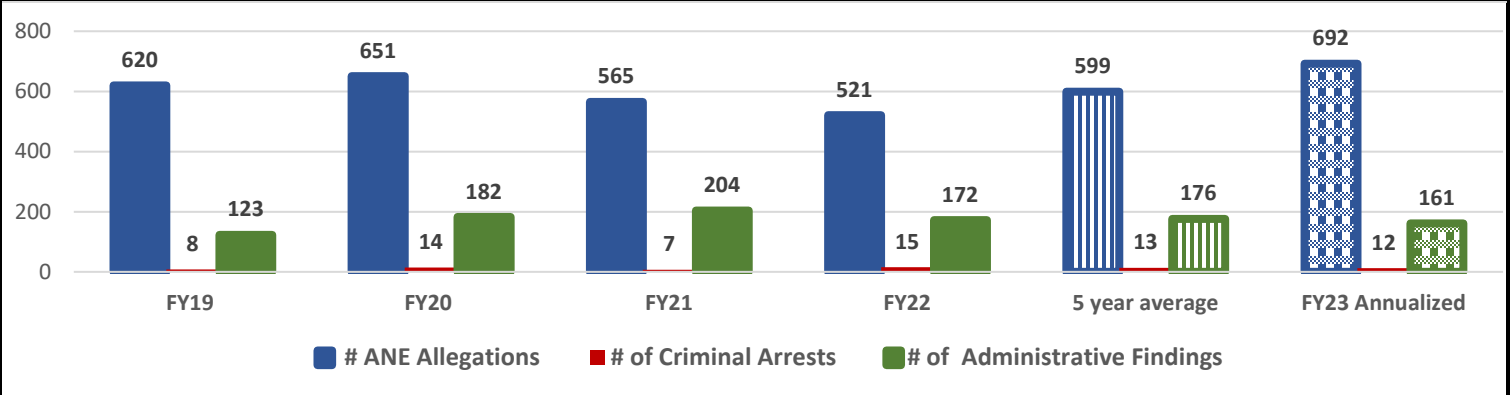


SCDDSN Incident Management Report 5-year trend data

for Community-Based Services (Includes Residential & Day Service Settings) Thru 3/31/2023

Allegations of Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# of Individual ANE Allegations	620	651	565	543	599	692 (519)
# of ANE Incident Reports (One report may involve multiple allegations)	415	436	388	389	416	472 (354)
Rate per 100	9.6	11.8	10.9	9.3	10.7	8.5
# ANE Allegations resulting in Criminal Arrest	8	14	7	15	13	12 (9)
# ANE Allegations with Administrative Findings from DSS or State Long-Term Care Ombudsman	123	182	204	172	177	161 (121)

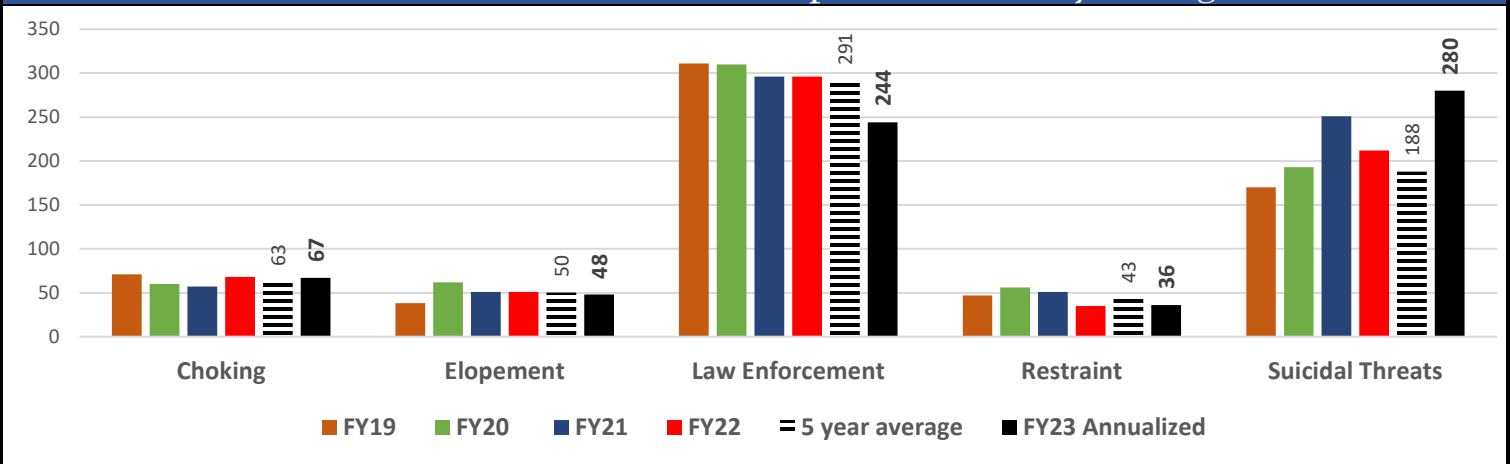
ANE Allegations: Comparison to Arrest Data & Administrative Findings



There were 2 ANE Reports for FY23 involving children under the age of 18. All other reports were for adults.

Critical Incident Reporting	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# Critical Incidents	916	982	974	1245	1037	1096 (822)
Rate per 100	9.6	11.8	10.9	15.4	11.9	13.2
# Choking Events	71	65	57	68	64	67 (50)
# Law Enforcement Calls	311	310	296	296	291	244 (183)
# Suicidal Threats	170	193	251	212	188	280 (210)
# Emergency Restraints or Restraints w/ Injury	47	56	51	35	43	29 (22)

5 Year Critical Incident Trend Report- Community Settings



There was 1 Critical Incident Report for FY23 involving a child under the age of 18. All other reports were for adults.

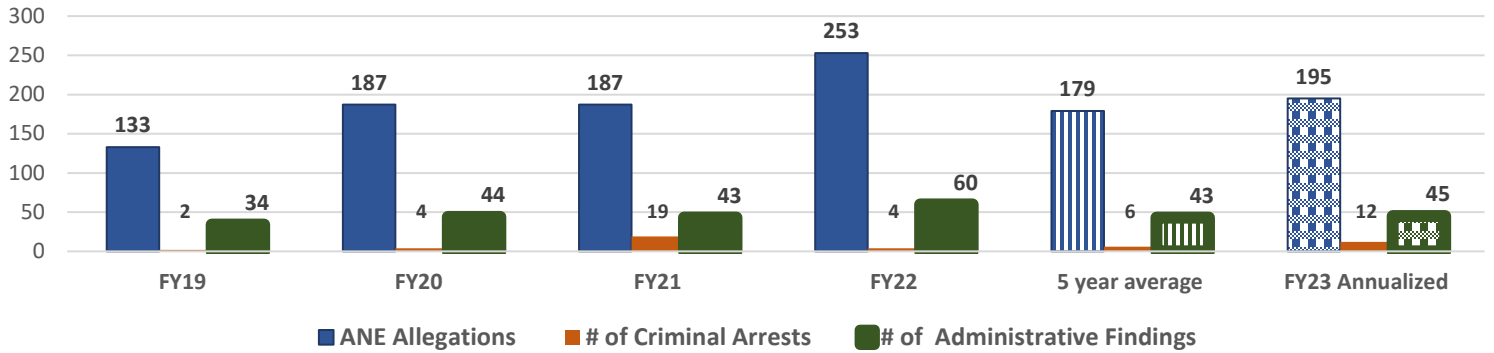
Death Reporting	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# of Deaths Reported- Community Settings	78	86	130	102	94	105 (79)
Rate per 100	1.6	1.9	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.2

SCDDSN Incident Management Report 5-year trend data

for Regional Centers *Thru 3/31/2023*

Allegations of Abuse, Neglect, & Exploitation	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# of Individual ANE Allegations	139	187	187	253	179	195 (131)
# of ANE Incident Reports (One report may involve multiple allegations)	102	136	138	167	128	139(104)
Rate per 100	20.9	28.9	27.9	38.0	27.0	31.7
# ANE Allegations resulting in Criminal Arrest	2	5	19	4	6	12 (6)
# ANE Allegations with Administrative Findings from DSS or State Long-Term Care Ombudsman	34	44	43	60	43	45 (34)

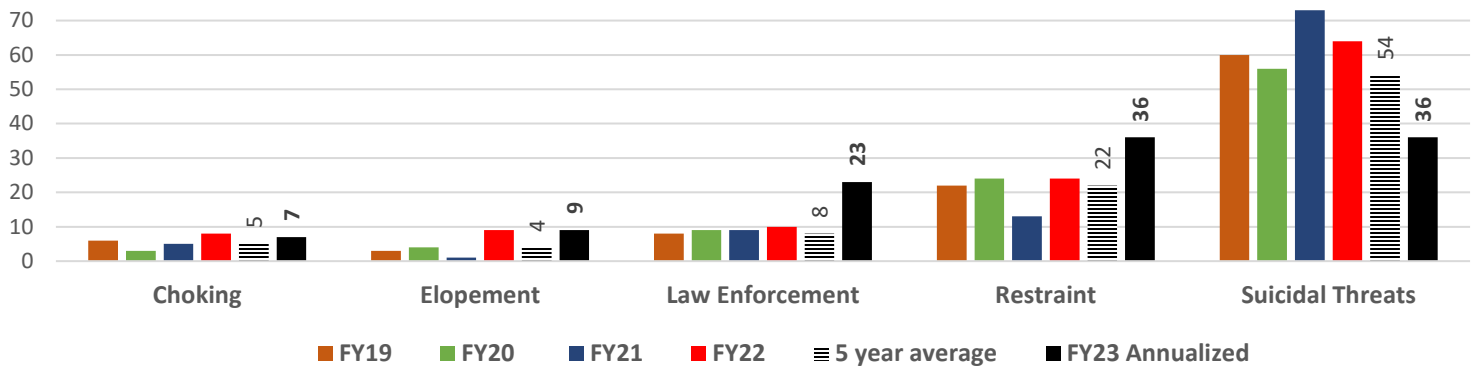
ANE Allegations: Comparison to Arrest Data & Administrative Findings



There were 0 ANE Reports for FY23 involving children under the age of 18. All reports were for adults.

Critical Incident Reporting	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# Critical Incidents	132	135	124	160	139	152 (114)
Rate per 100	18.6	20.8	19.1	24.2	21.1	24.7
# Choking Events	6	3	5	8	5	7 (5)
# Law Enforcement Calls	8	9	9	10	8	23 (17)
# Suicidal Threats	60	56	73	64	54	36 (27)
# Emergency Restraints or Restraints w/ Injury	22	24	13	24	22	36 (27)

5 Year Critical Incident Trend Report- Regional Centers



There were 0 Critical Incident Reports for FY23 involving children under the age of 18. All reports were for adults.

Death Reporting	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	5 YEAR Average	FY23 Annualized (Thru Q3)
# of Deaths Reported - Regional Centers	33	22	48	36	33	23 (17)
Rate per 100	4.6	3.4	7.0	5.4	4.8	4.0

FY 23 Spending Plan VS Actual Expenditures - thru 4/30/2023

Category	Approved Spending Plan	Cash Expenditures YTD	SCDHHS Monthly "Wash" Expenditures with Revenue YTD *	Total Monthly Expenditures YTD	Remaining Spending Plan	Spending Plan Deviation with Actual
DDSN spending plan budget	\$ 939,135,153	\$ 271,189,607	\$ 546,325,446	\$ 817,515,054	\$ 121,620,099	REASONABLE
Percent of total spending plan remaining	100.00%	28.88%	58.17%	87.05%	12.95%	
% of FY Remaining					16.67%	
Difference % - over (under) budgeted expenditures					3.72%	

Methodology & Report Owner: DDSN Budget Division

**Monthly Commission Meeting
May Update
Constance Holloway**

- Good morning, everyone. Thank you for giving me a few moments to talk about the exciting things we've been doing.
- In honor of Employee Appreciation Month, I'd like to continue our trend of spotlighting long-time staffers who have reached significant milestones with our agency. This month, Eric Jacobs, who works at the Midlands Center, is celebrating 30-plus years with DDSN.
- Eric Jacobs started as a DSP on May 4, 1992, at the Midlands Regional Center. He worked as a residential assistant from 2013 to 2022. In 2022, Eric joined the recreation department, where he helps plan and provide leisure activities and trips for the consumers.
- Eric says, *"I really enjoy making a difference in these consumers' lives. They appreciate even the smallest gestures you do for them. I particularly enjoy special events like Prom, Christmas and May Day Parades with my consumers. If my consumers are happy, I'm happy."*
- I would also like to take the time to mention the passing of a long-time agency employee, Cathi Browder. Cathi was a DDSN Autism Administrator and Evaluator in the Pee Dee region for over 30 years. Cathi passed away last week and I, along with all DDSN staff, pass along our condolences to Cathi's family and friends. Cathi was an awesome trailblazer in the ASD World. She developed the DDSN Autism Training Modules, provided in-home/school consultation, designed model ASD classrooms, helped initiate the CEU process for teacher re-certification with the SC Department of Education, and lots of other great autism initiatives. Cathi always led by example and provided encouragement and support to the families she worked with as well as her co-workers. She was a wonderful mentor, colleague and friend.

- Next, I'd like to delve into some agency updates, as well as some of the fun and exciting things we've been doing.
- Our Employment and Day Services programs have resumed in-person Counterpart Meetings. The topics for the meeting were derived from a survey sent out to providers last fall indicating areas of need. This is also a time that providers can get together to brainstorm about difficult cases and creative programming.
- The Autism Division has been very busy with events, trainings and seminars. Autism Director Stephanie Turner hosted information sessions at the Edventure Sensory Night and Accessibility Morning at the SC State Museum. She held three Crisis Intervention Trainings with law enforcement, fire department and detention facilities statewide. She also hosted Autism Resource Training at two regional medical centers.
- The Communications Division participated in multiple events statewide, including a Disability Awareness Merit Badge Clinic with Scouts BSA, Strides for Autism Walk, MUSC Spark in the Park and Columbia Wave Fest. Finally, the Columbia Fireflies and DDSN co-hosted Autism Awareness and Sensory Safety Night at Segra Park for more than 4,000 baseball fans.
- Next, I'd like to mention some of the exciting things happening at our regional centers.
- Coastal Regional Center recently installed industrial powder-coated benches across campus. These benches will provide both staff and residents with a safe and comfortable place to sit while enjoying the outdoors. The center continues ongoing improvement projects, including painting the interior of Highlands building 510, renovating Highlands building 110, and finishing the renovation of Hillside building 420.
- Midlands Regional Center hosted a very successful May Day parade with many community participants such as the Richland Police Department, Columbia Fire Department, University of South Carolina's mascot Cocky, Midland's Employee of the Year Latoya Tillman, and many others. The parade was followed by a barbecue and picnic.

- Whitten Regional Center sent six athletes to compete in the South Carolina Special Olympics Summer Games this past weekend at Fort Jackson here in Columbia. The consumers competed in events such as bocce ball, bowling, and swimming. All had a wonderful time at the competition.
- In addition, there were 85 applications for the new regional center internships with 79 meeting the minimum requirements for employment with all regional centers receiving applicants. The internship program is designed to bring a wealth of expertise and activities for our consumers in areas such as art, physical education and music, while allowing college students to earn credit toward their professional career.
- Finally, there have been no questions or topics sent in for Monday's provider meeting. Please submit those by close of business tomorrow if you have questions or topics that you would like DDSN staff to discuss.
- This is all I have for now, but I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you!