

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

March 23, 2021

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Wednesday, March 23, 2021, at 4:30 p.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 SKYPE

Gary Lemel – Chairman

Barry Malphrus – Vice Chairman

Robin Blackwood – Secretary

Stephanie Rawlinson

Present Telephone Conference Line

Eddie Miller

David Thomas

DDSN Administrative Staff

Constance Holloway, Interim State Director and General Counsel; Pat Maley, Deputy Director and Interim Chief Financial Officer; Rufus Britt, Associate State Director, Operations; Susan Beck, Associate State Director, Policy; Kim McLeod, Legislative Liaison & Public Information Officer; Susan Davis, Program Coordinator (Acting Director of Employment); Becky Peters, Director of Day Programs; and Administrative Coordinators Christie Linguard and Colleen Honey.

Others Present on the Conference Line

Mason Thomas, SC State Senate - Director of Research, Family & Veterans' Services Committee and Lisa Widener, SC Senate - Labor, Commerce & Industry Committee.

Call to Order and Notice of Meeting Statement

Chairman Lemel called the meeting to order at 4:34 PM 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Malphrus, seconded by Commissioner Thomas and unanimously approved by the Commission members, the agenda was approved as presented. (Attachment A)

Senate Bill 533

Commissioner Blackwood made a motion to listen to oral information today; seconded by Commissioner Rawlinson and unanimously approved by the Commission. Each speaker was limited to five (5) minutes.

Mr. Rufus Britt, DDSN Associate State Director, provided survey results from the survey sent to agencies providing day and employment services on March 17, 2021. The results were tabulated on March 22, 2021. Chairman Lemel asked that a narrative of the results be attached to these minutes. (Attachment B)

Chairman Lemel asked each speaker to speak on the possible negative consequences of this bill with regard to employment of our consumers and also any plans to mitigate such negative consequences. This open forum is not for anyone to advocate for or against a vote on the bill. The speakers who gave oral information included Kimberly Tissot of Able South Carolina; Beth Franco of Disabilities Rights South Carolina; Ralph Courtney of Tri-Development Center of Aiken County, Inc.; Abe Dendy (consumer), Julia Martinelli of AccessAbility; Ann Warner of Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN); and Tyler Rex of Thrive Upstate.

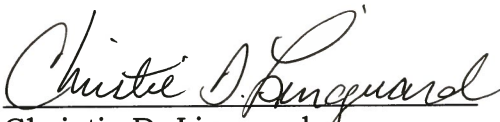
Mason Thomas, Director of Research, Family & Veterans' Services Committee, read a statement from Senator Katrina Shealy who is the author of Senate Bill 533.

Commissioner Rawlinson relayed information from two executive directors of DSN boards, Dawn Johnson of Florence County and Ryan Way of Clarendon County. Both directors were fine with the bill and the transition plan.

Adjournment

On a motion by Commissioner Thomas seconded by Commissioner Malphrus and unanimously approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Submitted by:

  
Christie D. Linguard  
Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

  
Commissioner Robin Blackwood  
Secretary

**SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

**EMERGENCY MEETING**

**A G E N D A**

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

**March 23, 2021**

**4:30 P.M.**

1. Call to Order *Chairman Gary Lemel*
2. Notice of Meeting Statement *Commissioner Robin Blackwood*
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Senate Bill 533 *Chairman Gary Lemel*
5. Adjournment