

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS
EMERGENCY MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2021

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Wednesday, March 1, 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 In-Person

Barry Malphrus – Vice Chairman

Robin Blackwood – Secretary

Eddie Miller

Stephanie Rawlinson

Present SKYPE

Gary Lemel – Chairman

Present Telephone Conference Line

David Thomas

DDSN Administrative Staff

Constance Holloway, Interim State Director and General Counsel; Pat Maley, Deputy Director and Interim Chief Financial Officer; and Christie Linguard, Administrative Coordinator.

Others Present

Eugene Matthews, Esq., DDSN Outside Legal Counsel and Philip Willis, Senior Analyst for the Senate Oversight Committee

Call to Order and Notice of Meeting Statement

Chairman Lemel 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

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

Executive Session

Commissioner Blackwood made the motion to enter into Executive Session for legal advisement and for a personnel matter relating to the interim executive director position, seconded by Commissioner Rawlinson and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Rise from Executive Session

Upon rising out of Executive Session at 6:24 p.m., Chairman Lemel announced that there were no motions made, no votes taken and no decisions were rendered.

Commissioner Malphrus made a motion to make Constance Holloway the interim executive director beyond March 1, 2021 and until such time a new executive director is hired. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and unanimously approved by Commission members.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to extend an invitation to a representative from the Senate, House and Governor's Office to participate in the executive director search for SCDDSN. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Rawlinson and unanimously approved.


Commissioner Rawlinson made a motion to approve the use of Find Great People to assist the Commission with regards to finding a new executive director for DDSN. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and unanimously approved by Commission members.

Commissioner Malphrus made a motion to create a letter regarding the termination of the executive director. The contents of the letter were read by Commissioner Rawlinson in its entirety. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blackwood. The vote consisted of five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays and one (1) abstention from Gary Lemel; although he has agreed to sign the letter as the Chairman of the Commission. (Attachment B).

Adjournment


On a motion by Commissioner Miller seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and unanimously approved by the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 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 1, 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. Executive Session *Chairman Gary Lemel*
 - A. Legal Advisement
 - B. Personnel Matter
5. Rise from Executive Session
6. Adjournment

Constance Holloway
Interim State Director
Patrick Maley
Deputy Director
Interim Chief Financial Officer
Rufus Britt
Associate State Director
Operations
Susan Kreh Beck
Associate State Director
Policy



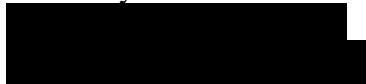
3440 Harden Street Extension
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
803/898-9600
Toll Free: 888/DSN-INFO
Home Page: www.ddsn.sc.gov

COMMISSION
Gary C. Lemel
Chairman
Barry D. Malphrus
Vice Chairman
Robin B. Blackwood
Secretary
Eddie L. Miller
Stephanie M. Rawlinson
David L. Thomas

March 2, 2021

CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT #7017 0190 0000 9625 8348

Ms. Mary Poole



Dear Ms. Poole:


We understand that you have requested that the Commission inform you of the reason that you were dismissed as the State Director of the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN).

The majority of the Commission lost confidence in your judgment to handle important matters. Specifically, the majority of the Commission was concerned about the manner in which you handled an executive-level employment matter related to sexual harassment. The majority of the Commission believed that you mishandled the matter and lost confidence in your ability to continue to lead the Department.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

8DA38A4E5FA94BF...
Gary C. Lemel
Chairman of the Commission

DocuSigned by:

078CA1E7220B4D2...
Barry D. Malphrus
Vice Chairman of the Commission