

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

MINUTES

April 16, 2015

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, April 16, 2015, 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:

Bill Danielson, Chairperson
Fred Lynn, Vice Chairman
Eva Ravenel, Secretary
Katherine Davis
Katherine Finley
Christine Sharp

DDSN Administrative Staff

Dr. Buscemi, State Director; Mrs. Susan Beck, Associate State Director, Policy; Mr. David Goodell, Associate State Director, Operations; Mr. Tom Waring, Associate State Director, Administration; Mrs. Tana Vanderbilt, General Counsel (For other Administrative Staff see Attachment 1 – Sign In Sheet).

Guests

(See Attachment 1 Sign-In Sheet)

Coastal Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 2 Sign-In Sheet)

Pee Dee Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 3 Sign-In Sheet)

Whitten Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 4 Sign-In Sheet)

York County DSN Board (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 5 York County Sign-In Sheet)

News Release of Meeting

Chairperson Bill Danielson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Eva Ravenel read a statement of announcement about the meeting that was mailed to the appropriate media, interested persons, and posted at the Central Office and on the website in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Invocation

Commissioner Fred Lynn gave the invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Commission adopted the April 16, 2015 Meeting Agenda by unanimous consent. (Attachment A)

Approval of the Minutes of the March 19, 2015 Commission Meetings

The Commission approved the March 19, 2015 Commission Meeting minutes by unanimous consent.

Public Input

Ms. Linda Lee spoke on behalf of the Whitten Center Parent's Club.

Ms. Deborah McPherson spoke representing herself.

Commissioners' Update

Commissioner Fred Lynn spoke of events in his district.

Autism Awareness Month

Ms. Val Gioia of the SC Autism Society spoke of the different events planned in recognition of Autism Awareness Month. She encouraged everyone to view the website of the SC Autism Society for more details of the events.

Mr. Daniel Davis, DDSN Autism Division Director, spoke of how the prevalence of autism has changed during his 30 years of serving individuals with autism. In 1984, research indicated that autism occurred in 1 in 10,000 live births. Today that number is 1 in 68 live births. Mr. Davis also recognized the efforts of the Autism Division staff across the state that assist individuals with autism and their families; he went on to thank DDSN and the Commission for their support of the Autism Division.

Day Rate Adjustment for Prior Years

Mr. Tom Waring gave a report on funds that will be allocated to the providers who provide day services. DHHS adjusted rates for the department's Medicaid reimbursement for day services effective October 2012. The day rates were adjusted based on filed cost reports and CPI indexes. Mr. Waring discussed in detail the history of the adjusted day rates. Prior year payments for FY 2013 and 2014 needed to be made to providers who provide day services. The first period of October of 2012 to June 2013 has been calculated and the total funds to be allocated are approximately \$9 million. Contract amendments are completed and are being sent out this week for payment by the end of the month. Staff are working on the second timeframe of FY 2014 and plan on completing the allocation by May with payment in June. The projection for FY 2014 is about \$12 million. A total of \$21 million will be allocated to the provider network related to the prior year's day rate adjustments. Combined with the \$17 million that the provider network received for current fiscal year for the day rate adjustment, a substantial amount of funds have been allocated to providers, which will help with deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs.

Waiting List Progress Report

Mrs. Susan Beck gave a detailed update on the Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities, the Community Supports and the Head and Spinal Cord reduction waiting list reduction efforts, as well as the Critical Needs List. Mrs. Beck stated that another 100 individuals were moved off the pending list due to efforts to expedite the process. Currently, there is not a waiting list for HASCI. An update on the Pervasive Developmental Disorder Program was also provided. (Attachment C)

2014 Employee of the Year Awards

Mr. David Goodell stated that the Regional Center employees provide a wide array of services to the consumers 24-hours a day, 7-days a week and are extremely dedicated to our individuals that live at the Regional Centers. There is a small group that rise above the rest of the staff and are recognized through the Employee of the Year program. He commended the panel that has the difficult task of selecting naming the Employee of the Year. Mrs. Deirdre Blake-Sayers described the process for selecting the DDSN Employee of the Year and noted that this award represents the best of the best.

Mr. John Hitchman announced Ms. Sarah Timmons-McNeil as Employee of the Year for the Pee Dee Regional Center. Ms. Timmons-McNeil performs duties as a Human Services Assistant and has been employed at the Pee Dee Regional Center for 27 years. Commissioner Katherine Finley presented a Commission resolution to Ms. Sarah Timmons-McNeil.

Mr. Wes Leonard announced Ms. Joanne Davis as Employee of the Year for the Whitten Regional Center. Ms. Davis performs duties as a Human Services Assistant and has been employed at the Whitten Regional Center for more than 28 years. Commissioner Christine Sharp presented a Commission resolution to Ms. Davis.

Ms. Becky Hill announced Ms. Debra A. Kowalczyk as Employee of the Year for the Coastal Regional Center. Ms. Kowalczyk performs duties as a Licensed Registered Nurse and has been employed at the Coastal Regional Center for 8 years. Commissioner Eva Ravenel presented a Commission resolution to Ms. Kowalczyk.

Mr. John Hitchman announced Ms. Wanda Anderson as Employee of the Year for the Saleeby Regional Center. Ms. Anderson performs duties as a Licensed Practical Nurse and has been employed at the Pee Dee Center for 10 years. Commissioner Fred Lynn presented a Commission resolution to Ms. Anderson.

Ms. Nancy Hall announced Ms. Dereka M. Walker as Employee of the Year for the Midlands Regional Center. Ms. Walker performs duties as a Human Services Assistant and has been employed at the Midlands Regional Center for 7 years. Chairman Katherine Davis presented a Commission resolution to Ms. Walker.

Chairperson Bill Danielson announced that Ms. Joanne Davis was selected as the statewide 2014 DDSN Employee of the Year. Chairperson Danielson and Dr. Buscemi presented Ms. Davis with a plaque and a monetary award.

State Director's Report

Dr. Buscemi reported that she testified this week to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee in support of the South Carolina ABLE Legislation (H.B. 3768) stating it would be positive for the population we serve without jeopardizing their federal benefits of Medicaid and SSI Disability. The Legislation received a favorable report from the subcommittee with the next step for the full committee to approve the bill. The House already passed a proviso allowing the ABLE savings benefit to begin next year.

Dr. Buscemi reported that the Senate Finance Committee met this week. Provisos were adopted yesterday as well. Provisos regarding DDSN included removing the "R" word and providing flexibility within the system. The Senate Finance numbers are similar to the House numbers for the Waiting List Reduction efforts. Dr. Buscemi reported that starting in May, DDSN will likely start rolling out additional waiver slots to make the waiver service expansion more manageable.

Dr. Buscemi spoke of Rehabilitative Behavioral Health Services (RBHS) and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Services (PRTF). In July 2014, DHHS removed the state agencies from the role of prior authorizing these services and assumed the responsibility for the state match. Costs increased dramatically as a result. On March 1, 2015, DHHS stopped the enrollment of any new providers, reduced rates and instituted a vigorous prior approval/preauthorization process. As a result, some providers significantly struggled financially. On Monday of this week, DHHS issued further changes, increasing the rates and streamlining the preauthorization process. This primarily affects DMH; however, DDSN is affected in a limited fashion, primarily the provision of in-home behavioral supports to individuals on the critical list.

Dr. Buscemi announced that the June Commission Meeting has been changed. The Commission will be holding a two-day strategic planning retreat on Monday, June 15, 2015 and Tuesday, June 16, 2015. The June Commission Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 16, 2016 in the afternoon. The exact time will be announced closer to the date.

Dr. Buscemi stated the two newly named Commission Members are still undergoing the approval process. They both received a favorable recommendation from the Senate Medical Affairs Committee. They are now waiting on the full Senate confirmation.

The DDSN Central Office employees that have been at the Midlands Regional Center due to the building renovations will move back to the Central office at the end of April.

Dr. Buscemi stated that DDSN is still collecting arts for the "Call for Art" project and invited all to view the arts on display in the Executive Suite. She asked that people get the word out that DDSN is still accepting art.

Upon Commissioner Ravenel's request to place direct billing on the next agenda, discussion followed as to whether to have it on the upcoming retreat agenda.

Executive Session

On motion of Commissioner Fred Lynn, seconded and passed, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters.

Enter into Public Session

The Commission entered into Public Session. It was noted that no action was taken in the Executive Session.

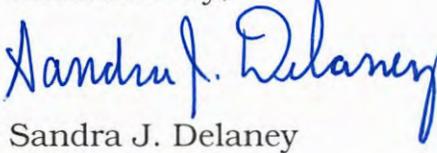
Next Regular Meeting Date

Chairperson Bill Danielson announced the next regular Commission Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015 with the starting time to be determined. The meeting will be held at the DDSN Central Office.

Adjournment

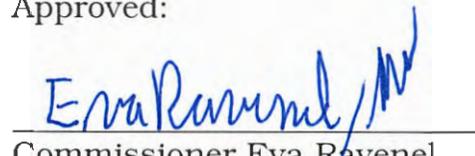
With no further business, Chairperson Bill Danielson adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by,



Sandra J. Delaney

Approved:



Commissioner Eva Ravenel
Secretary

SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND
Commission Meeting

Attachment 1

April 16, 2015

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT) Name and Organization

1. John Hitchman SCDDSN
2. Tamara Hammons Autism
3. Say Amber Autism
4. Liza Robertson Midlands - HR
5. Dereka Walker Midland Center
6. Nancy Hall Midlands Center
7. Sarah Simmons McNeil Pee Dee Center
8. Janie Hensley Pee Dee Center
9. Daniel Davis Autism Divn
10. Joanne Parr Midlands
11. Marty Wilbanks Whitted Center
12. Wes Leonard WC
13. Wanda Anderson Saleeby
14. Judy Johnson Potocock
15. LINDA LEE WPEC - PADD
16. Mike Keith Marion-Dillon DSN
17. Shondale Hall DDSN
18. Chuck Norman DDSN
19. Jennifer Van Cleave LGOFA
20. MATTHEW TAYLOR DDSN

SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Commission Meeting

April 16, 2015

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name and Organization

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|-----|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 21. | Deborah and Heather McPherson | Richard Canty |
| 22. | Rebecca D. Hill | Coastal Center |
| 23. | Lois Cummings | Coastal Center |
| 24. | DEBRA KOWALCZYK | COASTAL CENTER |
| 25. | Thoyd Warren | KCBDSN |
| 27. | Rufus Britt | DDSN |
| 28. | Jerry Mize | Conroe ASN |
| 29. | D. Rotholz | CDR/CSC |
| 30. | John Dooney | DDSN |
| 31. | Thornwell Simmons | PTA |
| 32. | Beth Bunge | Bright Start |
| 33. | Jennifer Bester | DDSD |
| 34. | Dean Reed | DDSN |
| 35. | Keith B. Coker | Heber |
| 36. | Aisha Baltimore | Family Connection SC |
| 37. | KEVIN YACOBI | DDSN |
| 38. | | |
| 39. | | |
| 40. | | |

SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND
Commission Meeting
April 16, 2015

Attachment 2

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT) Name and Organization

1. Suzanne Johnson Coastal Center Parent
2. Ronda Ritchie - DDSN Dist. II Office
3. Linda Bodeford Coastal Center
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SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND S. ...
Commission Meeting
April 16, 2015

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT) Name and Organization

1. *Deborah Smice* *District II Office*

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SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND
Commission Meeting
April 16, 2015

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT) Name and Organization

- 1. John King DDSN
- 2. Jimmy Burton DDSN
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SC COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND S
Commission Meeting
April 16, 2015

Attachment 5

Guest Registration Sheet

(PLEASE PRINT) Name and Organization

1. JANICE FOWLER, York DSN Board

2. John Skinner York - Faith Realty

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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES A

A G E N D A

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

April 16, 2015

10:00 A.M.

1. Call to Order *Chairperson Bill Danielson*
2. Welcome - Notice of Meeting Statement *Commissioner Eva Ravenel*
3. Invocation *Commissioner Fred Lynn*
4. Introduction of Guests
5. Adoption of Agenda
6. Approval of the Minutes of the March 19, 2015 Commission Meeting
7. Public Input
8. Commissioners' Update *Commissioners*
9. Autism Awareness Month *Ms. Kim Thomas
Mr. Daniel Davis*
10. Business:
 - A. Day Rate Adjustment for Prior Years *Mr. Tom Waring*
 - B. Waiting List Progress Report *Mrs. Susan Beck*
 - C. 2014 Employee of the Year Awards *Mrs. Deirdre Blake-Sayers
Mr. David Goodell*
11. State Director's Report *Dr. Beverly Buscemi*
12. Executive Session
13. Next Meeting Date (May 21, 2015 at DDSN Central Office)
14. Adjournment

PLEASE SILENCE CELL PHONES DURING THE MEETING. THANK YOU.

SC Department of Disabilities and Special N

Waiting List Reduction Efforts

As of April 1, 2015

Waiting List	Number of Individuals Removed from Waiting Lists	Consumer/Family Determination		Number of Individuals Services are Pending
		Number of Individuals Enrolled in a Waiver	Number of Individuals Opted for Other Services/ Determined Ineligible	
Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities	1,265	520	344	401
Community Supports	2,057	522	876	659
Head and Spinal Cord Injury	474	216	64	194
		1,258	1,284	
Total	3,796	2,542		1,254

Waiting List *	Number of Individuals Added Between July 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015	Number of Individuals Waiting as of April 1, 2015
Intellectual Disability/Related Disabilities	1,313	5,524
Community Supports	1,344	3,528
Total	2,657	9,052

* There is no longer a Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI) Waiver waiting list.

** Approximately 30 percent of 9,052 are duplicated names.

Pervasive Developmental Disorder Program Report
July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

1. Number Currently Enrolled in the PDD Waiver	699
2. Number Currently Enrolled in the PDD State – Funded Program	280
3. Total Number Enrolled in the PDD Program	979
4. Number Added to the PDD Waiting List July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015	610
5. Number of Slots Awarded July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015	298
6. Number Currently on the PDD Waiting List	1,514

BabyNet Transition Data

1. Number Transitioned FY 2013 October 16, 2012 – June 30, 2013	86
2. Number Transitioned FY 2014 July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014	176
3. Number Transitioned FY 2015 July 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015	193
4. Total Number Transitioned	455

South Carolina Department Of Disabilities & Special Needs
As Of March 31, 2015

Service List	02/28/15	Added	Removed	03/31/15
Critical Needs	91	50	32	109
Pervasive Developmental Disorder Program	1486	70	42	1514
Intellectual Disability and Related Disabilities Waiver	5416	184	77	5523
Community Supports Waiver	3548	198	218	3528
Head and Spinal Cord Injury Waiver	0	22	22	0

Report Date: 4/9/15