

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

MINUTES

July 18, 2019

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, July 18, 2019, 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:

Gary Lemel – Chairman

Vicki Thompson – Vice Chairman (Attended via Skype)

Lorri Unumb - Secretary

Robin Blackwood

DDSN Administrative Staff

Director Mary Poole; Mr. Pat Maley, Deputy Director; Mr. Rufus Britt, Associate State Director, Operations; Ms. Susan Beck, Associate State Director, Policy; Mr. Chris Clark, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Tana Vanderbilt, General Counsel, Mr. Robb McBurney, Legislative Liaison; Ms. Sandra Delaney, Administrative Coordinator (For other Administrative Staff see Attachment 1 – Sign In Sheet).

Guests

(See Attachment 1 Sign-In Sheet)

Coastal Regional Center (via videoconference)

(No Attendance)

Pee Dee Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 3 Sign-In Sheet)

Whitten Regional Center (via videoconference)

(No Attendance)

Notice of Meeting Statement

Chairman Lemel called the meeting to order and Commissioner Unumb 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 motion of Commissioner Unumb, seconded by Commissioner Blackwood, the Commission adopted the July 18, 2019 Meeting Agenda. (Attachment A)

Invocation

Commissioner Thompson gave the invocation.

Approval of the Commission Meeting Minutes

On motion of Commissioner Unumb, seconded by Commissioner Blackwood, the Commission approved the minutes of the June 20, 2019 Commission Meeting with a change.

Public Input

The following individuals spoke during Public Input: Patricia Harrison, Jerry Mize, and Jason Tavenner.

Commissioners' Update

Commissioner Blackwood shared information on the Fragile X Awareness Day Ceremony to be held at the State House on July 22, 2019. She also attended the Whitten Center Beach Blast held last month.

Chairman Lemel stated as many of you know we expected to have at least one interim appointment to join us on the Commission. We have been informed that that interim appointment will not be taking place by agreement between the legislature and the Governor's office, an agreement that doesn't really have anything to do with DDSN but has an impact on us until the legislature is back in session and an individual can go through the normal appointment process. Chairman Lemel added that the Commission is at four members which has an impact on all of us in terms of the amount of work that the Commission is going to have to do and encouraged the members to attend the meetings in order to have a quorum.

Committee Assignment

Chairman Lemel appointed the following Committee Chairs to organize the Committee meetings and added that all other Commission members will serve on all Committees until there are enough Commission members. At such time as any additional commissioners are appointed, we will be revisiting this and we will operate under this system until that time.

Finance and Audit Committee – Commissioner Blackwood, Chairman

Policy Committee – Commissioner Thompson, Chairman

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Unumb, Chairman

Policy Committee Update

Committee Chairman Thompson gave an update of the Policy Committee meeting that was held July 10, 2019. There were six standards to review but due to the timeframe, only three were reviewed. On behalf of the Policy Committee, Commissioner Thompson recommended that the Commission approve the following standards. (Attachment B)

Commissioner Blackwood moved to approve the Employment Services Individual Standards. Seconded by Commissioner Unumb, the motion passed.

The Employment Services Group Standards were approved with no opposition.

There was discussion on the Licensing Day Facilities Standards. Commissioner Thompson moved to approve the Licensing Day Facilities Standards as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Unumb, the motion passed.

In order for staff to provide guidance to the Policy Committee before the next committee meeting regarding the Residential Habilitation Standards, Commissioner Thompson made the following motion:

1. Reopen standards for public comment.
2. Create a work group to review the standards and obtain the work group's feedback.
3. Research other states' approach to setting the standards.

Seconded by Commissioner Unumb, the motion passed.

Commissioner Unumb requested that the research of the states include more than just Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Case Management Update

Ms. Beck shared a PowerPoint presentation that provided information on Case Management. Discussion followed. At Commissioner Thompson's request, Mr. Maley will provide a detailed billing report. (Attachment C)

EI Update

Mr. Britt reported that per a conference call he participated in this morning with DHHS, as of today, DHHS will release answers to frequently

asked questions and will indicate in writing to providers of EI services to continue practices as they have until further notice. DHHS did recognize that maybe the comments regarding prep time were premature. They will also provide weekly bulletins providing more clarity on EI.

Follow-Up to Community Contacts

Mr. Clark stated he followed-up with the Commission with the answers to their questions at the June 20, 2019 meeting regarding community contracts; however, he wanted to share the responses in public. (Attachment D – Questions and Answers)

HCBS Settings Regulation Training

Ms. Shaffer, Executive Director of MaxAbilities of York County, demonstrated the HCBS Settings Regulation training that the Board provides.

Family Support/Respite Administrative Costs

Mr. Clark presented information on family support/respite administrative costs. Commissioner Unumb moved that the Commission approve the recommendation to change the current practice to allow administrative costs as an expense in the Family Support/Respite Program. Commissioner Blackwood seconded and the motion passed. (Attachment E)

Financial Update

Mr. Clark provided an overview of the agency's financial activity and the agency's current financial position. Commissioner Unumb motioned to accept the financial report as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Blackwood, the motion passed. (Attachment F)

Provider Contract Increases

Mr. Clark provided information on the 2020 Contract Amendments for CHESCO, Dorchester, and Laurens DSN Boards. Commissioner Blackwood moved to approve the amendments as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Unumb, the motion passed. (Attachment G)

State Director's Report

Director Poole reported on various topics. (Attachment H)

Executive Session

Commissioner Unumb moved to enter into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter regarding Mentor. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Blackwood and passed.

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

August 15, 2019.

Submitted by,



Sandra Delaney

Approved:



Commissioner Lorri Unumb
Secretary