

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS

MINUTES

November 17, 2016

The South Carolina Commission on Disabilities and Special Needs met on Thursday, November 17, 2016, 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, Chairman
Gary Lemel – Secretary
Mary Ellen Barnwell – Via Teleconference
Sam Broughton, Ph.D.
Katie Fayssoux

Absent:

Eva Ravenel, Vice Chairman
Vicki Thompson

DDSN Administrative Staff

Dr. Buscemi, State Director; Mr. David Goodell, Associate State Director, Operations; Mrs. Susan Beck, Associate State Director, Policy; 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)

Georgetown County DSN Board

(See Attachment 3 Sign-In Sheet)

Pee Dee Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 4 Sign-In Sheet)

Pickens County DSN Board (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 5 Sign-In Sheet)

Whitten Regional Center (via videoconference)

(See Attachment 6 Sign-In Sheet)

York County DSN Board (via videoconference)
(See Attachment 7 Sign-In Sheet)

Jasper County DSN Board (via videoconference)

News Release of Meeting

Chairperson Danielson called the meeting to order and Commissioner Lemel 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Commission adopted the November 17, 2016 Meeting Agenda by unanimous consent. (Attachment A)

Invocation

Chairman Danielson gave the invocation.

Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2016 Commission Meetings

The Commission approved the October 20, 2016 Commission Meeting minutes by unanimous consent.

Public Input

The following individuals spoke during Public Input: Ms. Deborah McPherson, Dr. Gerald Bernard and Mr. Jerry Mize.

Commissioners' Update

Commissioners Fayssoux spoke of an event in her district.

State Director's Report

Dr. Buscemi reported on the following:

Employee Bonus for Hurricane Matthew –employees of the Regional Centers and Autism Division who worked during Hurricane Matthew as identified by the Centers are to each receive a \$150 bonus. There was a total of 254 employees with a total amount of \$38,100. Employees will receive the bonus in their December 16, 2016 paycheck.

SIG Recommendations Implementation Update – Dr. Buscemi will be presenting to the Adult Protection Coordinating Council next week on the SIG report. A meeting with other agencies involved in the statewide ANE process has been scheduled for November 28, 2016. DDSN and DHHS have begun

discussion on options for enhancing the quality assurance processes tied with Medicaid to focus more on service outcomes in compliance with the SIG recommendations. However, this will be a long process measured in years, not in months.

Linkhorn Case – The SC Supreme Court ruled yesterday that only persons who the agency finds have an intellectual disability, which occurred in the developmental period or a related disability, which occurred before the age of 22 can be involuntary committed to the jurisdiction of SCDDSN. The court ruled that an individual with a head injury or a spinal cord injury can only be voluntarily committed to SCDDSN. These holdings were based on the agency's statutes.

One-time funds for Workforce Initiatives and DOL Compliance – Notifications will go to providers before Thanksgiving and the awards will be made in December.

Governor's Proclamation – Birth Defects Awareness – Dr. Buscemi thanked the Governor for proclaiming January 2017 as Birth Defects Awareness Month. (Attachment B)

ABLE SC PIE (Partnership in Employment) grant – SC Employment First Initiative – The SC disability Employment Coalition, through collaboration with ten Project Partners, will establish the SC Employment First Initiative to address barriers to competitive, integrated employment for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Tri-Development Day Supports Center – Dr. Buscemi visited the newly opened Day Supports Center located in Beech Island. During the recent hurricane, it was used as an evacuation site for Beaufort.

UCP Award – Dr. Buscemi recently attended an event hosted by UCP. DDSN was presented with a Community Partnership Award.

Finance and Audit Committee Update

Committee Chairman Lemel gave an update of the Finance and Audit Committee meeting that was held prior to the Commission meeting. The Committee reviewed the FY16 audit activity as well as the FY17 audit plan. It was discussed on what steps can be taken to better close the loop on audit reports. The succession plan was discussed ensuring that something needs to be in place when the time comes for longtime audit employees to retire. As a result of the October Senate Finance Subcommittee meeting, the Committee is looking at standards of what information will be sent out and will consult with providers and legislative staff on setting these standards.

SC Transition Plan/Final Rule Expectations

Mrs. Beck gave a status update on the SC Transition Plan. The plan was first submitted to CMS February 26, 2015. The initial approval of plan by CMS was received on November 4, 2016. The next step is the final approval of the plan by CMS. The final compliance date is March 17, 2019. DDSN will continue to review, revise and finalize policies for compliance with HCBS Final Rule. The RFP for site review for all DDSN residential and day settings should be awarded January 1, 2017. Dr. Buscemi spoke of the upcoming meetings with providers to discuss changes in the Service authorization Plan Review process. Dr. Buscemi spoke about how conflict free case management is related to the HCBS Final Rule. She stated she received a letter signed by both provider groups addressing their concerns. DHHS is forming a stakeholder group to address the issue. (Attachment C)

Waiting List Reduction Efforts

Mrs. Beck presented information on the Waiting List Reduction Efforts. She stated that there has been a reduction in the length of time that an individual is on the ID/RD Waiting List since the project began, however, the number of individuals on the Waiting List is increasing. It is expected that the ID/RD Waiver renewal will be approved in January. Dr. Buscemi added the agency will begin attrition related to the movement of slots for the ID/RD Waiver next week. Mrs. Beck also stated that there has been a lot of movement in the CS Waiver. The CS Waiver renewal process is beginning for renewal in July 2017. (Attachment D)

DDSN Intake

Dr. Buscemi reported that sixty providers have submitted their proposals to the DDSN RFP for Intake with ten providers that have incomplete proposals. The State Procurement Office will work with DDSN to roll in the providers as they fully complete their proposals. Dr. Buscemi made the recommendation that DDSN proceed with decentralizing intake on December 1, 2016. On motion of Commissioner Broughton, seconded and passed, the Commission approved to move forward with decentralizing Intake on December 1, 2016.

Strategic Planning Update

Dr. Buscemi gave a detailed update of the goals and actions taken of the Strategic Planning which included Crisis Management, the Waiting List Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Employees, Oversight of Providers, Communication between DDSN and its Stakeholders, Provider Support, and Intake Process. In regards to Recruitment and Retention of Qualified Employees, Dr. Buscemi stated that the agency has requested a change in legislation to allow providers to begin new employee orientation prior to the background check being received. Dr. Buscemi requested it be noted that employees in orientation cannot have contact with vulnerable adults prior to the receipt of the criminal background checks.

QA Process/Incident Management Reporting

Mrs. Beck provided a detailed presentation on the QA Process and Incident Management Report. It is important that DDSN and providers close the circle of any investigation as well as to ensure the same incidents do not continue. (Attachment E)

LAC Recommendations Implementation Update

Dr. Buscemi spoke of the document that was provided showing actions that have been taken on the LAC recommendations. Discussion followed regarding No. 26 Recommendation holding the DSN boards accountable for their fiscal management. It will be a challenge, as DDSN does not have authority to assign members to the individual county DSN boards. Dr. Buscemi stated that DDSN will continue to take action on addressing the recommendations. (Attachment F)

DDSN Residential Development

Mr. David Goodell provided information addressing the growing number of individuals with significant behavioral needs who require residential services. Only a few of the existing community service providers have agreed to develop new services to support them, as this population is very challenging. This issue warrants DDSN to develop community residential services to support these individuals. Discussion followed. Commissioner Lemel made the motion to approve the outline presented by David Goodell to develop up to six directly operated residential homes and if there is any increase in the number of homes or any other changes, it is to be brought back to the Commission. The motions was seconded and passed.

NASDDDS Directors Forum Information

Dr. Buscemi gave an update on the NASDDDS 2017 Directors Forum & Annual Conference she attended last week in Crystal City, Virginia where many discussions centered around the current administration and what actions the newly elected administration will likely take.

Financial Reports

Mr. Waring gave an overview of the agency's financial activity through October 31, 2016 and the agency's current financial position. The agency's operating cash balance as of October 31, 2016 is \$148,119,005. Also, a SCEIS report reflecting budget verses actual expenditures through October 2016 was provided. Mr. Waring shared an analysis of expenditures of the Regional Centers from July 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016. Mr. Waring provided an Analysis of Funding per the Appropriations Act for the Greenwood Genetic Center and Autism family Support Services. (Attachment G)

Executive Session

On motion of Commissioner Fayssoux, seconded and passed, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter regarding Channel the Beacon.

Enter into Public Session

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

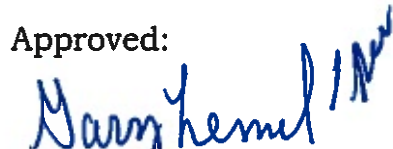
Next Regular Meeting

December 15, 2016

Submitted by,

Sandra J. Delaney

Approved:



Commissioner Gary Lemel
Secretary