

SOUTH CAROLINA AUTISM SOCIETY

Minutes

Board of Directors

January 25, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT

Renee Collins
Robert Hock
Mark Hoffman
Becky Hughes
Walter Jenner
Susan Kastner
Julie McElrath Kellett
Richie Maldonado
Margaret Moore
Kelly Nash
Erik Norton
Roy Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyce Nielsen
Susie Tolson
Don Wuori
Mitchell Yell

STAFF PRESENT

Kim Thomas, Interim Executive Director
Harry Langley

Call to Order

Susan Kastner called the meeting to order at 10:16 am. A quorum was declared.

Approval of Agenda

Margaret Moore made a motion to approve the agenda. Mark Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from 10/12 and 10/29 mtgs.

Margaret Moore made a motion to approve all minutes as presented. Kelly Nash seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Legislative Update

Brian Flynn reported that last year was not a good year for the proviso. The goal for this year was to prevent DOE from doing away with the proviso. The proviso will be kept under the Education Oversight Committee because we have a lot of support from those legislators. This is

the best chance we have to protect the proviso. The good news is the \$350,000 for this year is there and will come under the Education Oversight Committee budget. We need an extra \$100,000 and will ask for that. We are serving four times the families today, while funding has not increased. Brian will go to the House this week and ask for the extra \$100,000. He will then go to the Senate, which is good because we have strong support in the Senate. The proviso money is generally received quarterly. He will continue to send us weekly reports with bill charts attached.

Director's Report

Kim Thomas reported that we have no active grants at this point. We settled the issue with DOE. We still have no answer from DDC. We have a grant for approximately \$30,000 from 2012-13 that is finished and was never paid by them. Apparently there are a couple of people on that council who are holding up this process. We need to try and appeal to any friends that we have on that council. We have had no problems with DDC staff or the Governor's office. The chair of the committee is not bringing this up for action. Brian Flynn will help us work on this matter. At some point they are going to have to answer to the money. They have not met since we settled with DOE and this should hopefully help.

Service Coordination continues to grow by 20 new cases per month. We have 574 cases at Level 1 and 533 cases at Level 2. Current payment for Level 1 is \$109.84 per case. We continue to help a lot of families with quality of life funds. This program was reviewed at the end of June and we received really good reviews.

Upcoming special events include Autism Awareness Month in April, walks in the Upstate and Midlands, a poker run and a golf tournament. We are also looking to have some events in the Charleston and Myrtle Beach areas. We need more visibility in those areas of the state. We will continue to partner with the Junior League in the Midlands and hope to do this in the Upstate as well. Kim would like to try and hold a silent auction in April. We really need to work on fundraising and would like to find an outside agency that could help with this. However, this needs to be studied and researched. We haven't earmarked money for specific events such as respite, etc.

We also need to boost membership. A suggestion was made to include membership in the registration for the walks. We should also consider a revised membership program to include those we serve.

The PSP program is back up and operating. We lost one parent mentor because she got a full time job with benefits. Kim will be hiring a replacement for her.

We have helped over 1000 families through Information and Referral.

Treasurer's Report

Harry Langley reported that he is now entering transaction by transaction. The general fund and PSP come under the primary fund for business. This includes I&R, Service Coordination and Administrative. Other restricted on the handout includes quality of life funds, like the Turkey Drive, etc.

Search Committee Report

Mark Hoffman reported that his committee went through the resume review and found five candidates to interview. One of those backed out. The committee interviewed a total of four. His committee recommended hiring Kim Thomas as CEO.

New Business

Discussion of Board Members and Structure

Alex Holbert and Mitchell Yell have resigned from the board. A list of suggested structural changes was sent via email. In order to change board limits, the by-laws would have to be changed. Erik Norton stated that we should focus on what we can do now and table the other matters for another meeting. Susan Kastner asked for volunteers to fill Alex and Mitch's positions. Roy Williams volunteered to take the Treasurer position. There were no volunteers for Vice-Chair. We now have an At Large position to fill for Roy moving to Treasurer.

Discussion of PR Campaign

In lieu of an actual PR campaign, it was decided that several committees should be formed. Roy Williams will chair a Finance Committee. Kelly Nash will chair a Fundraising/PR Committee. Mark Hoffman will chair a Governance Committee which will include by-laws review and membership. Rob Hock will chair a Service Innovation Committee. Each chair will draft the roles of their respective committees and will recruit members.

Dr. Walter Jenner announced that a new prevalence number will be announced in April by the CDC. He suggested that April would be an optimal time for a conference in the future. It is too soon to organize at this point for this year. We could keep the business meeting and elections in October. He also announced that Tripp Richie from the Low Country Autism Foundation at MUSC is expanding into Horry County. He hopes to form an Autism Center of Excellence.

Executive Session

Roy Williams made a motion to enter executive session. Renee Collins seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Roy Williams made a motion to exit executive session. Rob Hock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CEO Hire

Erik Norton made a motion to offer Kim Thomas the position as permanent Executive Director. Roy Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 pm. The next meeting will be May 17, 2014.