

SCAS Board Quarterly Meeting

August 27, 2016

At SCAS headquarters 806 12th St., West Columbia SC 29169

Members Present:

Chair Joyce Nielsen*
Vice Chair Mark Hoffman
Becky Hughes
Susan Kastner
James Mack
Kelly Nash
Randall Sisam
Brooke Thomas
SCAS CEO and President Kim Thomas
*denotes phone participation

Members Absent:

Erik Beauvais
Walter Jenner
Susie Tolson

Staff Present:

Harry Langley
Sheila Raulerson

Guests Present:

Kay Hanson

Call to Order

Mark Hoffman called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

Approval of Agenda

Randy Sisam made a motion to approve the agenda. Brooke Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from 5/20/16 mtg

Randy Sisam made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Brooke Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Harry Langley reported that we had a very good July. The deficit was cut in half.

Director's Report

See printed Director's Report for more details.

Grants- Kim sent Susan Leiby to a grant writing class. A survey was created to find out what the autism community needs. The top five needs were information on waivers, ABA therapy, IEP assistance, puberty and sexuality and higher education. We still received our grants from DDSN and IDEA summer

funds. Kim is going to ask for an increase in the amount of IDEA summer funds. They are also trying to find a grant to assist in the cost of the conference.

Funding Campaigns– Nikie Smith is still working as fundraising and marketing contractor. We have 2 golf tournaments planned for this year. We are looking to do a Gala in the spring and focus on our conference in the fall. There are many other smaller ventures including Sonic and Moe’s.

Service Coordination/Case Management- We continue to get more cases. Another full time case manager was added in the Upstate. Our review with Alliant was higher than it’s ever been, which is very positive.

Special Events/Outreach/Information and Referral – All events are listed in the Directors Report. Our conference will take place on October 7 at the Medallion Center.

Parent School Partnership –Last year the mentors worked with 1509 families. 527 of these families were new families. Mentors had a total of 10,994 contacts this year.

Education/Trainings – We did a ton of trainings including first responders, volunteer, parent support, puberty and sexuality, CASA, and collaboration with Midlands Tech and Columbia College.

New Business:

Appointment of New Board Members

Brooke Thomas made a motion to accept new board members, Kay Hanson and Denise Chastain. Susan Kastner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Randy Sisam made a motion to enter executive session. Susan Kastner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Susan Kastner made a motion to come out of executive session. Kelly Nash seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

Board Retreat

The retreat will take place on September 24, 2016. Harry Langley offered to try and get Rosewood Baptist Church to donate the space.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Hughes
August 27, 2016

South Carolina Autism Society

Director's Report

August 27th, 2016

Grants:

Susan Leiby created a terrific survey to help identify areas of need particularly to have data to back up any grant requests. So far, we've received 900 responses to the survey. The top areas identified were the following: a getting started checklist or brochure for families upon diagnosis; training/education regarding DDSN services i.e. the waivers; ABA therapy; training on educational services k-12; puberty and sexuality training; and finally higher education for those students aging out of school. We have submitted two grants that we are awaiting determination based on the results of the survey. We did receive grants from DDSN which include Teaching Toy Box, Information and Referral, IDEA Summer Funds, Respite/Family Support Funds. We actually received an increase in the Respite/Family Support grant this year. We are trying to get a grant to assist in the cost of the conference as well which we hope to get from DDSN.

Funding Campaigns:

We currently receive funds on a regular basis from United Way of the Midlands, Horry County United Way, Aiken United Way, along with companies that have designated fund programs such as GE, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Lexington Medical Center, Bose, Colonial Life, Exelon, Greenville Police Department, Greenville Hospital System, Kraft Foods, Lexington County School District 1, Michelin, Publix, SCANA, SC State FCU, Shaw Industries, Southeastern Freight Lines, Total Comfort Solutions, Trane, TRC Environmental Corporation, United Health Group, NC Memorial Hospital, Showa Denko Carbon, Palmetto Health, Grant Thornton LLP, Columbia Collections, St. Francis Health System, Greenville Police Department.

Nikie Smith, our fundraising and marketing contractor, is working on several special events for the upcoming year along with Breck Cronise who works for SCAS. We had Deuces Wild Golf tournament in May. Planned an Oyster Roast for September 24th in Columbia at Harley Haven. We have two golf tournaments lined up for next year. We've gotten several door prizes donated already for the Oyster Roast. We are looking at doing a gala as well as a possible concert next year. We are working with several of the local high schools to have competitions amongst the schools to raise money for autism along with working with Sonic.

Service Coordination/Case Management:

The case managers continue to work very hard with their billing and making sure they get their service notes entered in a timely manner along with monitoring the amount of units they are billing for monthly. We are having quarterly case management meetings bringing everyone together, which we hope will improve our case management department. In addition to the quarterly meetings, we are having monthly staff meetings at each of the offices. We currently have 21 full time case managers and

1 part-time case manager. We had 1697 cases last quarter and this quarter we have 1776 cases. We continue to receive cases from around the state. We had our 18-month review with Alliant the beginning of June. The score for our review was higher than it's ever been which was a major accomplishment given all of the changes in staff at our agency along with all of the changes to case management standards and policies. The changes in supervision through our case management department seem to have been positive overall.

Special Events/Outreach/Information and Referral:

Information and Referral: We have broken information and referral into two territories so we have two people doing this part time to better serve the families in those areas so they can identify needed resources. On average, we are completing about 129 information and referral requests a month between the two positions. This not only includes families, but professionals as well calling trying to locate resources. We are working on developing resource manuals for the various counties in the state. We plan to have the resource manual available on line as well to make it easier for folks to access.

Over the past three months we have participated in several events:

- Upstate Spectrum Sunday with YMCA
- Part of Greenville CAN – Collaborative Action Network
- Regenisis Health Fair
- Edventure Health Fair
- Columbia Fireflies Autism Awareness Night
- TALKS Group
- High School Hang Out nights in Midlands which include movies and dinner
- Middle School Hangout nights in the Midlands
- Carson's Service Dog Event
- Health Fair at State Museum
- Bookman Elementary Road Resource Fair
- Story Fest at State Museum
- Charles Lea Center Resource Night
- US National Guard Resource Fair
- Richland 2 Resource Fair

Our conference is scheduled for October 7th at the Medallion Center with John Elder Robison as Keynote speaker and we will have 8-10 breakout sessions as well. Our Midlands Strides for Autism walk is scheduled for April 1st next year and it will be held at Saluda Shoals Park. The Upstate Strides for Autism walk is also going to be held on April 1st at Heritage Park.

Parent School Partnership:

The PSP program is back in full swing now that school is in session. The last fiscal year from July 2015 to June 2016 the mentors worked with 1,509 families. There were 527 new families. We attended 417 IEP meetings and attended 88 other meetings. The mentors had a total of 10,994 contacts. The last quarter numbers are 276 families served and of those families 43 were new to the PSP program. We attended 121 IEPs and 28 other meetings. The mentors had a total of 2,297 contacts.

Education/Trainings:

- 2 Puberty and Sexuality Trainings at Camp Talk
- 3 parent support meetings
- 2 volunteer trainings
- 3 First Responder Trainings for NAMI
- 3 Emergency Responder Trainings with Columbia PD, Richland County SD, and Lexington SD
- CASA Training for Midlands – Guardian Ad Litem program
- Extensive collaboration and autism training for Midlands Tech and Columbia College dance performance program