

South Carolina Autism Society Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting
held at SCAS headquarters, 806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169
February 4, 2017

Members present:

Chair Becky Hughes
Edward Addison
Denise Chastain
Susan Kastner
James Mack
Kelly Nash
Brooke Thomas
SCAS President and CEO Kim Thomas

Members Absent:

Kay Hanson
Joyce Nielsen
Randall Sisam

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chair Becky Hughes. Introductions were made.

Approval of Agenda

Susan Kastner made a motion to approve the agenda. James Mack seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from 8-27-16 quarterly meeting

Brooke Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes. Susan Kastner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from 8-27-16 annual meeting

Minutes from the annual meeting were not available. They will be reviewed at the next quarterly meeting.

Legislative Update

Kim presented the Legislative Update. There has been concern that the funding for the Parent School Partnership might be reduced, but our lobbyist, Brian Flynn, has stated that our \$500,000 funding should be safe. Brian also noted that SC Senator Katrina Shealy (R, Lexington) has introduced a bill to change the state's definition of Autism Spectrum Disorder so that it matches the updated definition in the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5).

Treasurer's Report

Brooke presented the Treasurer's Report. On the books SCAS has a negative balance, which Kim and Brooke say was unexpected. This can be easily fixed. There are several reasons for this negative balance:

- Fundraising is down. In 2016 fundraising amounted to about \$35,000, down \$10,000 from 2015. Fundraising is the responsibility of the Board.
- A few service coordinators have not been recording and reporting billing hours properly. Billing hours are turned in to the SC Department of Disabilities and Special Needs for reimbursement to SCAS for providing service coordination. Kim will be addressing this issue.

- Accountant Harry Langley, on contract to SCAS, has not been properly responsive, so Kim and Brooke have not always had current financial information. Nothing inappropriate has occurred, but Harry has not been prompt with information requests from Kim or Brooke and has not always been available for telephone conferences. Since Harry now seems to be over-extended, we will look for another accountant. Brooke has a contact who works as an accountant recruiter, and she will speak with this person for some leads. Kim would like to hire someone in the next 2-3 weeks. Kim and Brooke will speak with Harry after a new accountant is identified.

Director's Report

Kim presented the Director's Report.

- SCAS has applied for two grants from the SC Developmental Disabilities Council. One grant is to fund emergency responder training, and the other grant is to fund college transition fairs.
- SCAS received the Hussman grant through the Autism Society of America. This will fund training programs in puberty and sexuality in the ASD population.
- There have been a lot of responses to the State of Autism online survey conducted by SCAS.

New Business

- Potential new Board members – Kim has approached Ron Reames, a therapist with the Carolina Center for Counselling and Behavior Intervention in the Greenville area about joining the Board. Becky will invite him to the next quarterly meeting. Brooke has a contact in the marketing profession who may also be willing to join the Board, and who would be a real asset when it comes to planning fundraising events. Brooke will contact her. Kim also knows of a person on the autism spectrum who might be willing to join the Board.
- Succession Plan – Kim has completed this and sent it to Becky and Joyce. Becky will send it out to the Board, and it can be voted on at the next quarterly meeting.

Ongoing Business

- Board Retreat discussion – Susan is reviewing the vision and mission statements. Once this is complete the Board can move forward with Strategic Goals and the update of the bylaws. To this end, there will be a committee meeting on March 18, 2017, at the SCAS office.
- Fundraising – There was a lot of discussion about ideas for fundraising. Susan spoke of Spirit Week activities that most Greenville County High Schools participate in, and she will provide the Board with information on these activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Chastain
February 4, 2017