

**South Carolina Autism Society Board of Directors Quarterly Meeting**  
held at SCAS headquarters, 806 12<sup>th</sup> Street, West Columbia, SC 29169  
July 29, 2017

**Members present:**

Chair Becky Hughes  
Edward Addison  
Denise Chastain  
Susan Kastner \*  
James Mack  
Kelly Nash  
Joyce Nielsen \*  
Ron Reames  
Nina Saini  
Randall Sisam  
Brooke Thomas  
SCAS President and CEO Kim Thomas

\* denotes phone participation

**Members Absent:**

none

**Call to Order**

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

**Approval of Agenda**

Kelly Nash moved and Brooke Thomas seconded, amending the agenda by moving Executive Session to be the next item.

Executive Session - Kelly Nash moved and Brooke Thomas seconded that the Board go into Executive Session. Kelly Nash moved and Brooke Thomas seconded that the Board leave Executive Session.

**Approval of Minutes**

Copies of all minutes for which approval was required were included in the Board packet. Denise Chastain moved and Randy Sisam seconded that the minutes for the following meetings be approved:

8-27-16 Quarterly Meeting	3-18-17 Committee Meeting
8-27-16 Annual Meeting	5-6-17 Quarterly Meeting
2-4-17 Quarterly Meeting	6-22-17 Conference call

**Legislative Update**

Kim Thomas presented the Legislative Update, provided by McGuireWoods Consulting. PSP Proviso Budget – “Our funding of \$500,000 has been adopted by the House and Senate and was not vetoed by Governor McMaster. At this point, the money is at the agency level and is typically distributed in August/September.”

ABA Therapist Rates (Rate Increase) – “The legislature increased the rates from \$13.58/hour to \$17.28/hour which is a 27% increase that went into effect on July 1, 2017. I have spoken with the House Ways & Means subcommittee chairman and staff regarding the need for ABA rates to increase, and they have assured me that the goal is to increase it incrementally each year until we get close to the southeastern average. In addition to the rate increase, the legislature amended a proviso that will allow the transfer of some funds to go towards ABA rates, but this is mainly an administrative issue to help fund the increase in rates.” Kim added that, due to the low rate, there are therapists in South Carolina who will not work with Medicaid. There are people who are approved for services, but no therapists to take them. Even with the rate increase, SC is losing therapists to other states where they can earn \$30-40 per hour.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Brooke Thomas presented the Treasurer’s Report. The balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statement were included in the Board packet. Highlights:

- Net fundraising for this year is around \$26,000.
- SCAS received a duplicate payment from DDSN of \$65,684.32 in April, 2014. This was not caught by our accountant or by the auditors. DDSN has requested that SCAS repay this amount in installments of around \$1,500 per month.

### **Director’s Report**

Kim Thomas presented the Director’s report.

- This year SCAS has received grants from DDSN, GHS, the Barbara Stone Foundation, and PhRMA. SCAS has been the recipient of funds from a number of funding campaigns from over 20 separate organizations. These are listed in the Board packet.
- SCAS has conducted outreach and training for nearly 20 different groups. These are listed in the Board packet.
- The 22 case managers carried 1,988 cases in the second quarter, up from 1,945.
- Mentors in the Parent to School Partnership assisted 599 families (119 of which were new families), attended 244 meetings, and made 8,912 contacts (including telephone calls, emails, text messages, and such). There are currently eight parent mentors and Kim is in the process of adding another in the upstate area.

### **Ongoing Business**

Succession Plan Approval – Brooke Thomas moved and Kelly Nash seconded that the succession plan, included in the Board packet, be approved. The motion carried.

Bylaws – Board members looked over the draft of the Bylaws once again. It was agreed that all Board members should review this document and be prepared to discuss it at the next quarterly meeting, to be held on October 21, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Becky Hughes at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Denise Chastain, Secretary  
July 29, 2017