

SPECIAL MEETING
DARLINGTON COUNTY COUNCIL
DARLINGTON, SC

June 26, 2017

A Special Meeting of the County Council of Darlington County was held this 26th day of June 2017, at 5 p.m., at the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building, 1625 Harry Byrd Highway (Highway 151), Darlington, South Carolina.

NOTICE OF MEETING

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda providing the date, time, and place of the meeting was emailed to the local newspapers, persons requesting notification, and posted on the county's website, on the bulletin board in the lobby of the courthouse, and at the entrance of the Courthouse Annex/EMS Building.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Bobby Hudson, Vice Chairman Marvin Le Flowers, Chaplain Dannie Douglas, Jr., Mr. J. Lewis Brown, Mr. David Coker, Mr. Robert L. Kilgo, Jr., and Ms. Joyce W. Thomas.

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Ms. Mozella Nicholson.

ALSO PRESENT

County Administrator Marion Charles Stewart, III, County Attorney James C. Cox, Jr., Clerk to Council J. JaNet Bishop, Finance Director Sherman Dibble, Historical Commission Director Brian Gandy, Library Director Jimmie Epling, Sheriff Tony Chavis, and others.

REPORTERS PRESENT

Ms. Samantha Lyles of the News and Press.

Call To Order/Invocation/Pledge Of Allegiance

Chairman Hudson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. Mr. Douglas presented the invocation and Mr. Coker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Personal Appearance - Ms. Denise Cooper, Director, Rubicon Family Counseling Services - Status Of Services/Programs Provided As The Designated Agency In The County For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Planning For Programs Funded By Excise Tax Revenue

Ms. Denise Cooper, Executive Director of Rubicon since June 2016, reported that Rubicon has existed for many years and is the county's authority for alcohol and substance abuse. She provided the operating hours and emphasized that they have on-call services during the weekends and holidays. The clinicians are certified through South Carolina Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse; the counselors have to be certified in three years;

a majority of the clinicians are dual certified with substance abuse and various other credentials such as Licensed Professional Counselors, Social Work, etc.; and all clinicians receive regular supervision from a Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, and the staff attends various meetings, training, etc. as sponsored by South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services to keep them informed of national and state trends.

Ms. Cooper reported that Rubicon provides specialty services such as women's group, trauma-specific therapy, Alcohol Drug Safety Action Program, nurturing parenting program geared toward those involved with Child Protective Services System and referred from South Carolina Department of Social Services; adolescent children program, substance abuse counseling groups, individual counseling, intensive out patient (counseling three or more times per week), multi-family groups, crisis management, and evidence-based practices. Rubicon is audited on a regular basis by South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services.

Ms. Cooper talked about the increase in opioid addiction and specialized treatment for those clients in conjunction with CareSouth. Clinicians are also trained with South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) in order to conduct, at the discretion of the client, testing for HIV, AIDS, hepatitis, etc.

Ms. Cooper said Rubicon has been in existence for many years and is a good source for treatment. She envisions the implementation of services to treat clients with mental health and substance abuse diseases since the staff is very well trained and capable of working with mental health and substance abuse clients. She talked about her open door policy and being transparent. Ms. Cooper hopes to have an open house to meet local politicians and various leaders in the area.

Clinician Specialist Cindy Shipman and Treatment Director Denise Kelley were also present at the meeting.

Mr. Flowers asked whether Rubicon's approved plan had been forward to the county.

Ms. Cooper explained that the Rubicon's plan from last year was submitted to the state office (South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services) for approval and received back at Rubicon as she was transitioning into the Executive Director position and Mr. Winston McElveen was transitioning out. However, County Council did not receive the document, which was submitted to County Administrator Charles Stewart on Thursday, June 22, 2017.

Mr. Stewart confirmed that he picked up the plan, along with a copy of Rubicon's 2015/2016 combined audit. He also confirmed that Rubicon's current year plan had been submitted to the state office (South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services) and should be approved by mid-July, which is normal operating procedure for approval of the plan.

Mr. Flowers pointed out that Rubicon's plan and audit are public record and could be requested by anyone wanting to see it.

Ms. Cooper briefly talked about her transition into the Executive Director position wherein she was just finding out some things. She also talked about her plans and strategies for Rubicon.

Mr. Stewart stated that he asked Ms. Cooper whether she would be willing to appear before Council to present updates regarding the funds which was not done in the past, and she indicated that she would be willing to appear.

Ms. Thomas wanted to know the basis for Rubicon being closed on Fridays.

Ms. Cooper said this schedule was established prior to her employment with Rubicon. The staff works ten hours per day, Monday through Friday, and the work was being done.

In response to Ms. Thomas' question about the vision for Rubicon, Ms. Cooper talked about a program to treat opioid addiction in a different way to include social workers, case managers, counselors, etc. with funding from the State.

Mr. Kilgo wanted to know the amount of physician prescribed opiates versus street opiates.

It was Treatment Director Denise Kelley's assumption that a lot of opioids come from medical doctors for legitimate pain issues. She explained that an individual becomes dependent on opiates during an initial pain situation, and when the pain situation and prescription no longer exists, this becomes a street issue.

Clinician Specialist Cindy Shipman, who currently works with opiate problems, said she has data to back up the problem and has seen doctors over prescribe and pharmacies fill the prescriptions.

In reference to Rubicon being closed on Fridays, it was pointed out that the Prevention Department operates on Fridays if requested.

Ms. Thomas asked about Rubicon's family services and requested a scenario of an emergency.

Ms. Cooper talked about the Nurturing Parenting Program wherein the referrals come from South Carolina Department of Social Services. This science-based curriculum caters to people who have a problem with nurturing and includes the entire family. She also talked about grant funds from the Byerly Foundation used to hire child care workers to work with children while the parents are in therapy. Rubicon does not provide incentives for people to attend these programs because most of South Carolina Department of Social Services' referrals could possibly lose their children, etc.

Mr. Hudson asked the yearly number of clients. Ms. Kelly's response was 200 to 300 clients per month.

Mr. Kilgo emphasized that he wanted to know how the \$100,000 that the county passes through to Rubicon was being used.

Ms. Cooper talked about alcohol treatment involving the family and people being referred who have a nurturing problem as well as a substance issue. One client could be involved in several programs. Rubicon also offers a DWI Program, outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, adolescent substance abuse, etc. She said Rubicon's primary function is alcohol and drug (substance abuse), although they offer behavioral health.

Ms. Thomas asked and Ms. Kelley talked about cases involving law enforcement, especially involving teens, women who are abusing drugs and being abused, homeless individuals, etc. Ms. Kelley said their biggest challenge is finding placement for individuals. Morris Village has limited beds and some people have to wait six to eight weeks for placement. Many of their crisis situations are people needing referrals for inpatient services.

There were no further questions for Rubicon staff.

Personal Appearance - Mr. Patrick Bresnan, Executive Director, Pee Dee Mental Health Center- Proposal For Designation As The Agency In The County For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Planning For Program Funded By Excise Tax Revenue For FY2017/2018

Mr. Patrick Bresnan, Executive Director of Pee Dee Mental Center, introduced members of Pee Dee Mental Health Center Board of Directors who were present at the meeting (Dr. Gladys Gilbert, Ms. Beverly Hamlin, Mrs. Mariscia Cooper, and Dr. Amanda Coleburn). Clinical Director Lisa Campbell was also present.

Mr. Bresnan reported that Pee Dee Mental Health Center serves Darlington, Florence, and Marion counties; is one of fifteen mental health centers in the state; and falls under the umbrella of South Carolina Department of Mental Health. He explained that after reviewing the county's ordinance that designates the agency in the county for drug and alcohol planning programs, it was determined that Pee Dee Mental Health Center is not qualified as the ordinance is currently written. Mr. Bresnan stated that he provided a copy of the ordinance to his agency's legal department in Columbia, and they agreed that this would be a major change in the services that Pee Dee Mental Health Center currently provides.

Mr. Bresnan then talked about the services Pee Dee Mental Health Center provides to Darlington County residents. Pee Dee Mental Health Center currently has 573 Darlington County residents in active caseloads, and since July 1st, has provided 19,444 services to individuals to include psychiatric medical assessment by psychiatrists, nursing services, group services, individual therapy, inmate assessment, and several school-based services. They have about nine counselors in the schools in Darlington County and are a part of the Pee Dee Resiliency Project which combines all sorts of health services with mental health services. Darlington County is one of three school districts involved in this study project.

Mr. Bresnan stated that although Pee Dee Mental Health Center does not qualify for the alcohol and drug funds, they would accept any allocation that Council would be willing to provide.

Ordinance No. 17-03, An Ordinance To Designate That Agency In The County For Alcohol And Drug Abuse Planning For Programs And To Make Appropriations Pursuant To Sections 6-27-40(B) And 12-33-245(B) And (C) Of The 1976 Code Of Laws Of South Carolina, As Amended, For Darlington County For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2017, And Ending June 30, 2018 - THIRD READING

MOTION was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Flowers to approve third reading of Ordinance of Ord. 17-03.

Mr. Coker confirmed that this would designate the allocation of funds to Rubicon. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote For Executive Session - Executive Session For Discussion Of Negotiations incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements

MOTION was made by Mr. Brown and seconded by Mr. Flowers to vote for an executive session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements.

The motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session - Executive Session For Discussion Of Negotiations incident to Proposed Contractual Arrangements

MOTION was made by Mr. Flowers and seconded by Mr. Kilgo for Council and the County Administrator to go into executive session for discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements after a five minutes recess.

After a brief recess, County Council and the County Administrator went into executive session. County Attorney Cox arrived at the meeting at 5:55 p.m. and entered the executive session with County Council and the County Administrator.

Upon reconvening at 5:58 p.m., Chairman Hudson announced that no action was taken in executive session.

Reschedule Of County Council's July 3, 2017, Meeting

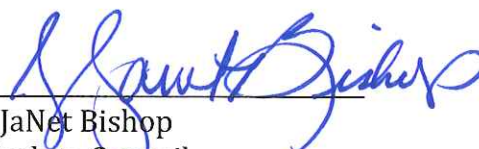
MOTION was made by Mr. Coker and seconded by Mr. Kilgo to change the Monday, July 3rd meeting date to Monday, July 10th.

The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

MOTION was made by Mr. Kilgo to adjourn the meeting. There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



J. JaNet Bishop
Clerk to Council



Bobby Hudson, Chairman
Darlington County Council

Approved at meeting of July 10, 2017.