
Fairfield Voice

FAIRFIELD COUNTY
DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
NEEDS BOARD

♦
Spring 2025



Since the release of our last Newsletter, there has been many updates and activities here at FCDSNB. Between a Valentine's Gala, Talent Show, representation of our individuals at the State House, we have rung in the new year with amplified inspiration to enhance our care for those whom we serve and achieving our best efforts with community outreach. Our agency has been recognized by high political figures for Disabilities Awareness Month through proclamations from various offices, we have celebrated Easter with colorful festivities, and there are on-going updates with the park, currently entering its next phase of construction to exhibit our Agency's efforts in supporting our individual's health and contributing to the beauty of our historic town of Winnsboro. We have continued to strive for the best in representing our cause through ambitious community engagement and continue to embrace and reflect upon our achievements over the last quarter.



Valentine's Day Gala, Talent Show, and Easter Party

Valentine's Day Gala

On February 13th, our Day Services program organized a Valentine's Day Gala, hosted at the Carolina Event Center, providing an opportunity for those we serve to dress up, couple up, and have an evening of formal festivities with food and drink. Our individuals took part in dancing, sharing Valentine's, and our Day Program personnel ensured their day of sharing love was fruitful and filled with community and compassion.



Missy Evans & Randy Johnson



Brittany Dreher & Sherill Smith

Talent Show

On March 28th, hosted at the Fairfield County High School Auditorium, FCDSNB held its annual Talent Show, featuring a plethora of talent from across the agency from our individuals and staff alike. The theme was *Boots on the Ground*, a tribute to a western aesthetic and country hospitality. From fashion models to faith dancers, the Talent Show was a two-hour showcase of fun, immense talent, and teamwork, to bring our community and individuals together for a night of unforgettable performances.



Charman Glenn



Tanya Lyles & Pamela Riley

Easter Party

On April 14th, our Day Services program put together an Easter Party for our individuals, held at the new park site. The party included a park-wide Easter egg hunt, a grill-out, cupcakes, and beverages, all accompanied by lively music to accentuate the party's vibes. With the help of Day Program personnel and our Executive Director, decorations were spread out throughout the party-area and our individuals enjoyed several hours of unfettered Easter-themed celebrations.



Shelby McCravy & Tony Chumley



Jerry Moon & Brittany Dreher



Charman Glenn, Barbara Glenn, Francis Ellisor, Myra Greer, & Christine Green

State House Representation and Proclamation Signing

Disability Advocacy Day

Every year, *Disabilities Awareness Month* is celebrated throughout the duration of March. This occasion brings to light the acknowledgement of those with disabilities and special needs across the country through the support of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) and their partners. As of February 15th, 2025, the state of South Carolina has deemed March 5th as *Disability Advocacy Day* in conjunction with spreading awareness throughout the month. To commemorate this new advocacy day, several of our own individuals attended a gathering at the South Carolina State House to represent our agency and how we contribute to the support and care of our individuals, and our community. Their presence helped in spreading awareness for those with disabilities and special needs by advocating for themselves and their peers, and we are proud to have them as the face of our agency and further helping spread awareness on those who we serve.



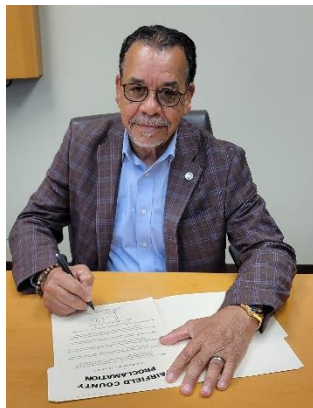
Richard Hegwood, Kavorious Peay, Jason Tavenner, Willie Young, & Sherrill Smith



Jerlean Cook, Kavorious Peay, Sherill Smith, Willie Young, Richard Hegwood, & Latasha Sampson

Proclamation Signing

In the tradition of celebrating *Disabilities Awareness Month*, we try to recruit high members of our community—from politicians to local representatives—to sign a proclamation, deeming the month of March *Disabilities Awareness Month* for Fairfield County. This year, we were fortunate to have had Fairfield County Council Chairman Mr. Clarence Gilbert, District 3 Representative Peggy Swearingen, District 6 Representative Oren Gadson, and Mayor John McMeekin. Each respective representative attended a signing at our agency in show of support for our cause.



Fairfield County Council Chairman
Clarence Gilbert



Ravin Jackson

Fairfield County Council District 2
Don Goldbach



Town of Winnsboro Mayor
John McMeekin

South Carolina Service Provider's Conference



Angel Cheatwood, Brittany Dreher, & LaVelma Toland

Rufus Britt, Laura Collins, Jerlean Cook, & Julia Boggs

SCHSP Annual Conference

This year, the South Carolina Human Service Providers (SCHSP) hosted an annual conference, held at the Hilton in Myrtle Beach on March 10th-12th, to provide updated information regarding technology advancements that could be beneficial to Boards, THERAP training, finance seminars, and much more. This year, a group of our staff attended the conference and participated in seminars given by achieved individuals in their respective fields to better prepare them for upcoming changes in policy, actions, and many other genres of transitions that could affect our agency's functions. Throughout the conference, there was a large focus on the use of THERAP, which included navigating through the application in emergency preparedness, the use of Ai, data analytics, and THERAP Connect. Those who did not attend these seminars participated in other topics, such as training resources for HR, HCBS Settings Rule, ABLE Savings Program, analyzing financial impacts within an agency, ASD/IDD Housing Options, behavior analysis, navigating single-case agreements, remote support practices, Tele-Health services, and aging in the I/DD population. In-between these sessions, vendors from various organizations represented themselves and offered insight to their services and/or products that might would be beneficial to any agency or provider or acted as fundraisers for specific entities. This yearly conference offers invaluable insight on upcoming or developing methods, information, and products, that would help in enhancing the overall efficiency, oversight, and quality of care for any agency and their representatives that are able to attend.

SCHSP/FCDSNB Employee of the Year

SCHSP

Employee of the Year

Every year, Boards from across the state put in a recommendation for one of their Direct Support Professionals to be honored with the award of SCHSP Employee of the year. FCDSNB has had a handful of personnel win this title over the years, and this year, we have one special DSP take the prize. Ms. Jearlene Cook was awarded with Employee of the Year based on her years of service in the field, and her unlimited compassion she shows towards those we serve.



SCHSPA Elizabeth Krauss & Jearlene Cook

FCDSNB

Employee of the Year

In conjunction with SCHSP Employee of the Year, our agency also awards a separate honor to a DSP who has displayed an insurmountable quality of excellence in the duties they perform. This year, Ms. Jearlene Cook took home the title of SCHSP Employee of the year, and FCDSNB Employee of the Year for her outstanding work and commitment to our agency. Her dedication, support, and unwavering dedication to providing the best quality care to our individuals has shone through, proving she deserved this year's nomination.



Rufus Britt, Christopher Turner, Laura Collina, Jearlene Cook, & Magie Johnson

“Ms. Cook has excellent attendance, compassion for all the individuals we serve, a team player and always willing to help whenever needed and upholds civility. It was with great pride that Ms. Cook was to be nominated as Direct Support Professional of the Year as she has been dedicated to our agency for twenty-three (23) years, throughout which she has proven to be more than dedicated to this agency and to the individuals we serve in Fairfield County. Ms. Cook has compassion for the people we serve, and it shows in her work performance. She does her best to ensure the consumers have independent choices in their day-to-day activities and with their work schedules, and personal lives, and goes above and beyond in her commitment to those we serve.” – *Margie Johson, Director of Resource Management*

FCDSNB Employees of the Month

Staff

Linda Armstrong – *November 2024*

“Ms. Linda is a very dedicated staff. She is employed as a part-time staff but will work as many additional hours offered. I can’t think of another staff that is as reliable and dependable as Ms. Linda. She has never called out or even taken a vacation. I have witnessed firsthand her work ethic, and she works in a single-staffed home and has to care for all four individuals, assist with dressing, and prepare meals without any complaints.”



Monica Perry – *December 2024*

“Monica has gone above and beyond to help the staff at Evan’s Street CTHII. Even if she has to come in and help, she is willing. Monica has a great personality and always greets you with a smile.”



Louise Robertson – *January 2025*

“Louise is a very hard worker and dependable. She loves the individuals at her assigned house.”



Tammy McCullar – *February 2025*

“Tammy exceeds her expectations of her job. She arrives on time and completes all of her assignments in a timely way. She goes beyond her job duties and doesn’t brag about it. Tammy is great at anticipating situations before they occur and takes the proper steps to avoid them. She pays close attention to our consumers, and she treats them with dignity and respect.”



Jeanette Davis – *March 2025*

“Ms. Jeanette Davis, a weekend staff at Pine CTHII, deserves this award because despite being weekend personnel, she goes beyond her duties to pick up the individuals from South Winnsboro CTHII every day. When asked to come in during the weekdays, she will adhere to that duty as well. She is a very nice person to work with and is always courteous to consumers and staff. She does her job with attention to detail in everything that she does. I truly enjoy working with her.”



FCDSNB Employees of the Month

Consumers



Debra Price – *November 2024*

“Debra Price is a very friendly and outgoing individual. She loves to give compliments and enjoys sitting outside and being with her friends. She loves her family and gets along well with those she lives with. Debra is a part of the Fairfield Winners and is an advocate for herself and others.”



Boyd Manning – *December 2024*

“Boyd is very talkative and enjoys football, but only Gamecocks and Clinton. Boyd has been coming to the office to get medications and has been helpful with anything else that he can do.”



Jeanette Cook – *January 2025*

“Jeanette Cook should be Employee of the Month because she tries to do what she is asked of her. Jeanette is willing to learn and try new tasks with the support of staff. Jeanette is a positive thinker and a joy to work with.”



Randy Jones – *February 2025*

“Randy is a quiet, laid-back person. He is very soft spoken and kind. Although he is shy, he expresses himself through his art. He is taking art lessons and is very talented. He is a great candidate for Employee of the Month.”



John Mozie – *March 2025*

“John does exceptionally well cleaning the Admin building. Any task you give him, he is willing to do so with no questions asked.”