MINUTES

South Carolina Commission for the Blind

1430 Confederate Avenue

Columbia, SC 29201

Special Called Board Meeting

June 7th, 2019

Notifications of all regular, called or special meetings are compliant with the FOIA requirements,

Section 90-4-80.

Convene: 3:00pm Adjourn: 4:30pm

Chairperson Smith called the meeting to order and a moment of silence followed.

Present: Dr. Judy Johnson: Via phone – Mary Sonksen and Peter Smith: Rosemary Roberson gave the Members her proxy.

Executive Session: Chairman Smith stated the Members will go into executive session to discuss personnel and agency business.

Chairman Smith stated the Members are out of executive session and back into the public session.

Chairperson Smith stated the Board of Commissioners appreciate the staff for working as a team during the transition of Mr. Kirby’s retirement. The Members’ decisions are based on the staff of SCCB and the blind citizens of South Carolina. Ms. Sonksen, Dr. Johnson and Peter Smith have discussed what they believe is needed at this time for the agency operation. The Board has received Mr. Kirby’s resignation effective September 26th, 2019. The Members appointed Elaine Robertson as the Interim Director with limits on the executive power. Anything on a senior level will be sent to Chairman Smith for guidance. Wanda Miller is crucial in setting up the process in the search for a Commissioner. Dr. Johnson said the organizational structure during this interim phase may not be changed by the Interim Director. She stated the Members have heard great things about the staff and want to give them their support as Commission Members. If there are major issues in a department Ms. Robertson will notify Chairman Smith. The Members do not want to be involved in the day to day operations. Ms. Miller will be playing a critical role in helping the Members with a search committee. The committee will involve the Commission Members and a representative from an outside agency. Dr. Johnson assured the staff their jobs are ok. Chairman Smith stated delegated authority can be called in at any time. Dr. Johnson said if there is a struggle with any issue that is not being addressed staff has the option to get in touch with Chairperson Smith. Ms. Sonksen thanked the staff for all they have been doing in the past six weeks.

Adjourn: Dr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sonksen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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Chairperson

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Secretary

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Date