

**Brain Injury Alliance of SD  
Minutes from the 2011 Annual Meeting  
Sept. 17, 2011  
SD Hall of Fame, Chamberlain, SD**

**Minutes prepared by Secretary, Lori Sletten**

**Attendance:**

Ron Hoops, Maralyn Hoops, Karen Brokenleg, Mary K. Ohman, Denise Gannon, Margie Neugebauer (maneugelauer@midstates.net, (605) 234-0115), Justine Ashokar, Ron Sasso, Mary Tommeraasen, and Lori Sletten.

The Brain Injury Alliance of SD held their annual meeting in Chamberlain, SD at the SD Hall of Fame museum.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mary Ohman.

**Guests introduced:**

Ron, former chairman, and Marilyn Hoops were in attendance:

Margie Neugebauer, the executive director of Learning Disabilities Association, saw the meeting announced in the Chamberlain newspaper.

Ms. Neugebauer gave an overview of the group she represents. The organization is active in advocacy for people with learning disabilities and their families. The annual conference for the LDA is in June. The LDA also participates in the Disability Advocacy Network. Ms. Neugebauer shared several handouts prepared by her organization with the group.

Members of the Brain Injury Alliance spent some time discussing with Ms. Neugebauer the unique education needs of people who have sustained a brain injury.

**Agenda:**

Chair, Mary Ohman, introduced the agenda. The agenda was read and approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Minutes read:**

The minutes of the May 5, 2011 meeting were read by the chairman. Ron Sasso moved to approve the minutes as read. Karen Brokenleg gave the second. The vote was called and the motion carried.

The minutes of the 2010 annual meeting were read. Karen Brokenleg moved that the minutes be approved. Ron Hoops gave the second. The motion was voted on and passed.

***It was decided that Karen Brokenleg would forward a copy of the SDBIA mission to everyone so that the consistency of the wording could be looked at by the members and discussed at the next meeting.***

**Membership report:**

Karen Brokenleg gave the membership report. Six people have paid membership for the 2011-2012 year.

**Treasure report:**

Karen Brokenleg gave the treasurer's report. The checking account balance of the group is \$2,982.72.

**Chairman report:**

Mary Ohman read the mission statement. Her main goal for this year is for the SDBIA as a whole to set goals for the group.

**Sunrise Villa report:**

Mary Ohman read the report that Becky McMannus sent by email.

**From:** Becky McManus(Irene and Wakonda) [<mailto:BMcManus@avera.org>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 13, 2011 1:45 PM

**To:** Mary Ohman

**Subject:** FW: Emailing: Vermillion Plaintalk - TBI Bike Ride raises nearly \$5K

Hello Mary,

I will not be able to attend this Saturday. Thanks so much for the invitation. We have been keeping busy at the Villa this summer with some fun activities including going to a couple concerts, a water ski show, and a car show along with our regular outings. We also sponsored a bike ride as a fundraiser for cognitive therapy software. Our Sunset Manor Foundation donated \$4000 toward the purchase and we were able to raise the rest with this one event. We were extremely pleased with the support we received and would like to share the article below with you.

**Community Transitions report:**

Ron Sasso, Director of Community Transitions, gave the Community Transitions of Rapid City report.

He reported that the staff is still working with the funding cuts brought on by the change in SD medicaid fees guidelines.

*The assisted living project is stalled at this time.*

The facility is serving an average of 20 people at a time through 24-hour care and daily rehabilitation programs.

The annual brain injury conference has been moved to September of next year in order to avoid the new competition with other workshops offering CEU credits in the same field. The tentative date for 2012 is Sept. 20 and 21.

### **SD Achieve report:**

The SD achieve report was presented by Denise Gannon.

The strategic planning committee is addressing funding issues now that SD medicaid only covers funding for people who have sustained a traumatic brain injury before the age of 21.

The committee is reaching out to all avenues to seek funding for those people who have brain injuries and are over 21 and need their services.

Vocational Rehabilitation has the option of opening cases for individuals with brain injury for one year.

The Sioux Falls facility has one residential home and one apartment. They also provide daily living assistance for some individuals in their own homes.

The facility now has funding for a new position of Brain Injury Employment Specialist. This person will be able to act as a job coach. The facility is in the hiring process at this time.

GREENStar Symposium hosted by SD Schieve will be held Thursday, October 27, 2011 -- 8:00 am - 4:30 pm -- Holiday Inn City Centre, Sioux Falls, SD

### **Aberdeen Area Brain Injury Support Group report:**

Ron Hoops, group facilitator, reported that the group meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Sharing meetings are the type of meeting most needed by the participants in this group. One person drives over 100 miles to attend this group.

The group actively helps families understand brain injury.

The Independent Living Counsel is sending out the monthly notices, and is sending a representative to each meeting. The notices are sent out the week before each meeting.

The local hospital furnishes the room for the meeting. This group meets year round.

**Sioux Falls Area Brain Injury Support Group report:**

Karen Brokenleg reported that the Sioux Falls group meets from 1pm to 3 PM every second Saturday of the month.

Most of the meetings are sharing meetings consisting of mostly individuals who have sustained a brain injury.

Each year the group does invite some speakers to talk to the group. Speakers are announced in the monthly newsletter.

The group also takes a fishing trip each year to "My Fishing Pond" near Bridgewater.

The Sioux Falls group has met consistently since 1987.

**Rapid City Area Brain Injury Support Group report:**

Ron Sasso gave the report for the Rapid City group.

The group usually has 25 people who meet on the last week of the month.

Mr. Sasso and a counselor co-facilitate the meetings. They usually have break out sessions for individuals with brain injury and for family members.

Community Transitions provides pizza and soda for all the meetings.

Notices are sent by email from Community Transitions the day before the meetings. This group meets year round.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Election of new board members:**

The terms of the following board members ended this year:

Mike Gilleland  
Ron Sasso  
Mary Ohman  
Karen Brokenleg  
Dennise Gannon

According to the bylaws the board must have a minimum of five members and a maximum of nine.

Sasso, Ohman, Brokenleg, and Gannon have expressed a desire to continue on as board members. Gilleland was not present and had not contacted the board to offer to continue to serve on the board.

Hoops moved to re-elect Sasso, Ohman, Brokenleg, and Gannon. Justine Ashokar seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

At this time the board has an open seat as no one has expressed interest to be on the board.

**Justine volunteered to speak to a physician who she knew who had expressed past interest in the board.**

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Membership:**

Mr. Hoops moved that the no membership dues will be assigned by the board for the year of 2011 – 2012.

Sasso seconded the motion.

The discussion included the need to increase membership and the hope that not calling for dues at this time would be helpful.

This year's newsletter would mention that donations are welcome.

**Mary Ohman would look at the bylaws and report on the status of voting members and if they must be "dues paying." This subject will be addressed at the next meeting.**

Lori Sletten called the question. Ron Sasso seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lori Sletten moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Sasso seconded. The motion carried and Chairman, Mary Ohman adjourned the meeting.