

## **Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Annual Board Meeting**

July 28, 2018 at 12:00 – 3:15 PM (CST) in Chamberlain at AI's Oasis

**Present:** Mary Ohman, Mary Tommeraasen, Doris Schumacher, Denise Johnson, Glenn Schumacher, Justine Ashokar, and Koral Olson

**Absent:** Karen Brokenleg

Mary O called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken.

Doris motioned to accept the meeting minutes from 03-24-18 with no corrections. Justine seconded the motion.

### **Brain Injury Services Updates:**

**TBIRC** – Justine reports that TBIRC has expanded services to now serve individuals under age 16. These services include assessments and individualized cognitive re-training services, but not the structured day program or residential services. TBIRC will begin to provide education groups for caregivers this fall. TBIRC received grant funding to purchase a 3-bedroom Governor's home to be placed on-site at TBIRC, with a move-in date this fall or winter. TBIRC plans to apply for another grant to obtain a second Governor's home.

**Sunrise Villa** – Mary T reports that Sunrise Villa is at full capacity with a waiting list. They had new admissions with 3 applications. They found out-of-state placement for an individual, but the funding cannot be arranged immediately, so the individual is currently waiting with lacking services.

**Life Scape** – Denise reports that the CEO is retiring, and Life Scape is in the process of hiring a new CEO. Life Scape has a program called Pathways to Life for children aging out of the school district to learn life skills, and there will be 30 participants at the end of Aug. Denise will begin supervising the Rise program for individuals with brain injury and autism with behavior challenges. An individual with a brain injury was recently admitted into the residential program from the waiting list, as another individual moved out of the program.

### **Support Groups:**

**Sioux Falls** - Dr. Kate Higgins, neuropsychologist from Sanford, attended a recent support group meeting, and support group members had the opportunity to ask her questions.

**Rapid City** – The group continues to meet monthly.

**Brookings** – Independent Living Choices sends out the notice for the monthly meetings. The group is planning to reschedule Steve Heinrich to attend the support group to provide a yoga session. The group is meeting again at the hospital. The group is using funds from the green light sale to provide coffee and refreshments at the support group meetings. The group is planning to do the green light project again. The group had 9 volunteers to assist with parking at the Sioux Falls Jazz Fest as a fundraiser for BIASD.

**Aberdeen** – Independent Living Choices sends out the notice for the monthly meetings. The group continues to meet monthly.

**Committees:**

**Nominating (membership):** Mary T and Karen – Justine will contact Kristin Berg to inquire about her joining the Board. Denise will email Koral the old membership list to keep in a central location.

**Legislation:** Justine – Rep Shawn McPherson passed away. Justine has made contacts with other legislators to move forward with the bill. Justine sent a letter to Senator Thune's office, and they will respond if they have an individual who can assist. Billy Sutton, gubernatorial candidate recently visited TBIRC.

**Newsletter/Advertising:** Doris and Mary O – The newsletter will be published in Aug. and Feb. Doris will take submissions and ideas from Board members. Doris will create the content, and Mary O will organize the format for the newsletter. Justine will submit educational information for each newsletter. Justine will email Doris a form to use for publishing an individual's likeness/story in the newsletter.

**Website:** Koral and Glenn – Mary O and Koral will contact Facebook to retrieve the password for the BIASD account. Glenn will post on the FaceBook account, and Koral will send him regular reminders to do this. Koral will create a new website for BIASD using WordPress, and she will transfer the domain name from GoDaddy.

**Fundraising/Brain Injury Awareness Month:** Denise – Mary O motioned for Denise to allocate Jazz Fest funds to pay for the website and for printing and postage of the newsletter, and Justine seconded the motion. The support groups will host an Unmasking Brain Injury mask-making project which can then be used as a traveling exhibit to raise awareness for brain injury. The BIASD will begin planning a 5K walk/run for June 2020.

Contacts or correspondence to Board members was discussed. BIASD will begin to use a central Google Drive and gmail address to record and respond to contacts.

Doris provided board members with free copies of the book *Legal Rights of The Seriously Ill and Injured: A Family Guide* by Joseph L. Romano. She also made Board members aware of *The Challenge!*, published by BIAA, a 2017 Resource Guide published by the MN Stroke Association, an article about domestic violence and brain injury, as well as a notice of upcoming MN brain injury conferences.

Mary O will update the annual SD Secretary of State Annual Report.

Justine provided information on the National Association of Head Injury Administrators and Medicaid waivers.

Doris provided updates from the BIAA.

Treasurer's report – Karen emailed the Treasurer's report to Board members. The balance as of June 2018 is \$3228.46. The balance of the Brookings Support Group is \$64.36. Board members paid dues to Mary T during today's meeting, and she will give the funds to Karen. Mary O donated \$150, and it was matched by her employer. Koral motioned to accept the report, and Mary O seconded the motion.

Next meeting is Saturday, Oct. 27 @ 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (CDT) via Skype.

Mary O adjourned the annual meeting.