

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

September 30, 2016 at 12:00 – 2:30 PM (CST) at First National Bank in Chamberlain

Present: Doris Schumacher, Glenn Schumacher, Mary Tommeraasen, Karen Brokenleg, Denise Johnson, Mary Ohman, and Koral Olson

Absent: Justine Ashokar and Ron Sasso

Doris called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken.

Karen purchased pens as a donation and provided Board members with business cards and pens to hand out on behalf of BIASD.

Updates:

Mary T. provided an update on Sunrise Villa from Kari Severson. Sunrise Villa is working with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and with Independent Living Services to provide employment and other services to Sunrise Villa residents. Sunrise Villa would like to set up a weekend support group for its residents. The facility cannot admit individuals with feeding tubes or ventilators at this time. The facility will have openings soon due to discharges.

Koral provided an update on The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center. There are currently five individuals receiving residential and day services, and an additional eight individuals receiving day services only.

Denise provided an update on Lifescape. Denise will now supervise the brain injury day program and the employment specialist and autism day programs, but she will no longer supervise the residential program. Jackie Adams will supervise the residential program. Lifescape currently serves 12 individuals; three are living in their own apartments with staff available as necessary, two live at home with their families, four live in a group home, and three live in staffed apartments. There are no limitations for the length of time services may be provided. Lifescape is in need of more staff before more residents and day program participants can be accepted for admission.

Support Groups:

Aberdeen – Mary O. was unable to receive an update from support group facilitator, Ron H., but the group continues to meet monthly at Avera.

Black Hills – Koral reported that the group continues to meet monthly, and that attendance has been smaller over the summer months, which is typical.

Brookings – Glenn reported that there have been new members. The meeting location will change from the hospital to a local bank in Jan. An average of 10 people attend regularly, including those from surrounding communities. Independent Living Choices calls and sends out meeting reminders. Steve Heidenreich led a yoga session for individuals with brain injury at the SDSU Wellness Center, sponsored by Independent Living Choices. The group is considering having a float in the parade of lights in Brookings on Dec. 1.

Sioux Falls – Karen and Mary T. continue to co-facilitate the group. Summer attendance has been smaller, with an average of 15-25 people attending Fall through Spring. It is difficult to find speakers to come speak to the group for free. The group is considering using tip cards for addressing social skills and emotional problems. The group had an indoor potluck picnic for the Aug. meeting.

Mary T. reported on The South Dakota Brain injury Work Group. A save-the-date flyer for The Center for Disabilities Symposium on Sept. 10-12, 2017 was sent out. The group would like to receive the dates for The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center's conference in March. SD EMS for children presented on substance abuse and on helmets. The Jazz Fest parking fundraiser went well, and \$200 will be donated to the BIASD account. A group membership list will be updated. Karen is presenting to Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), with 31 people signed up to discuss brain injury basics. The work group is developing a manual of resources for brain injury services in SD, with a goal of finishing it by Jan. 2017. The work group discussed what its next project will be, with fundraising likely to be the most important agenda.

One correction was made to the 6/24/16 BIASD meeting notes. Mary O. motioned to approve the notes, and Karen approved the motion.

Updates from 6/24/16 Meeting:

Karen drafted a letter and sent it to Senator Johnson.

Ron drafted a letter to the State legislators on behalf of the BIASD and sent it to Board members for review. Mary T. read it aloud to the group. The group made recommendations to change the author to "on behalf of BIASD" with Ron's contact information, bullet point the letter's facts, and move last paragraph to the beginning of the letter in order to grab the reader's attention. Koral will email Ron with the group's suggestions.

Denise researched the cost of BIASD rubber band bracelets and found a variety of styles and pricing. The group made the recommendation to hand out less expensive options at parades and use imprinted (more expensive) bracelets for other events.

Denise purchased name tag holders for BIASD to use at booths/events.

Karen will call to establish an account with a print shop in Brookings to get the available \$200 credit for BIASD brochures.

Karen created and provided copies of the receipt template to be provided when donations are made to BIASD.

Justine will complete an application for the Tradition of Caring Grant once the applications become available in Oct. Mary O. will notify Justine to complete the grant application as soon as it's available. The grant is for funding for advertising.

Karen read the treasurer's report. Karen donated the funds for BIASD pens and business cards. Mary O. donated \$10 for filing the annual report. Doris motioned to accept the treasurer's report, and Mary O. seconded.

The DOJ held listening sessions in Sioux Falls, Pierre, and Rapid City. Glenn and Doris attended and spoke at the Sioux Falls session

Mary O. recently spoke with Kristi Noem at an event. Mary O. emailed Noem's state director, Beth to request a meeting with Kristi and BIASD Board members. Board members will prepare questions and talking points in preparation for a meeting. Mary O. will inform Board members when she hears back from Beth.

Koral provided Ron with Board members' pictures and bios for the BIASD website.

A student from Southeast Vo-Tech contacted Doris, because she had an assignment to make a brochure for TBI. Doris will ask the student for her instructor's name and contact information so that BIASD can send a thank you note.

Doris proposed the idea for a central location for a library of brain injury reference materials. Doris recently purchased tip cards for adults from Lash & Associates for \$25. The Board agreed that each support group will make a list of the brochures they would like to have to hand out for resources, and Denise will use the \$200 from Jazz Fest to purchase them.

The Board discussed recruiting new board members with legal, accounting, and/or fundraising experience. Mary T. will send Doris contact information for John Hamilton, an attorney with brain injury experience who spoke at NAMI, so that Doris can contact him about joining the Board if he is interested.

The next quarterly Board meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 13, 2017 @ 2:30 PM (CST)

Doris adjourned the quarterly meeting.