

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Board Meeting

November 7, 2015 at 12:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M. (MST)

Present: Justine Ashokar, Ron Sasso, Koral Olson (Skype from Rapid City); Mary Ohman (phone); Glenn Schumacher, Doris Schumacher, Mary Tommeraasen, Denise Johnson (Skype from Sioux Falls); Tom Schumacher (provided tech support in Sioux Falls)

Absent: Karen Brokenleg

Doris called the meeting to order. Notes from the 08/28/2015 board meeting were approved with one name correction.

Koral will compile a list of board members' work and home addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, for board members' use only. Everyone will email their info to Koral.

Mary T gave the treasurer's report. The balance as of 10/2015 is \$2481.25. It was agreed that the Board will file its own annual report with the State in the future, instead of paying the attorney to file it. Mary O will contact the attorney to obtain the current balance owed to her, and she offered to pay this. The address on file for receipt of the notice to file is Karen's, and she can give it to Mary O to file upon receipt. The IRS accepted e-filing receipt on 10/30/15. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Mary T reported on the large workgroup meeting:

Brochures will be printed when donor funds for this are received. A possible merger with BIASD was discussed to streamline efforts. Mary T will share information from BIASD meetings to increase sharing of information between groups. Brain Injury Awareness month was discussed. The SD Special Ed. Conference will be held in March. The group would like to request that John Hamilton from SD Advocacy provide info about SD laws on advocacy. There was discussion of finding opportunities for both groups to present together on brain injury, including at the Brain Symposium in Sioux Falls on April 18-19 and/or YAMWI on the first Wed-Thurs in June. It was discussed that a resource or handbook for disability resources in SD should be created. The group was updated on the results of membership surveys. Mary T will give Lacy updated addresses for BIASD board members.

Justine reported on TBIRC:

A conference will not be held until Sept. 2016 at the earliest. TBIRC has been discussing Brain Injury Awareness Month activities, including a poster contest for school kids and providing education to the school district on brain injury and sports injuries.

Denise reported on Lifescape:

Day services within the agency have been increased. There is an employment opening for the position of Employment Specialist for brain injury.

Ron will change SD Achieve to Lifescape on the website, and Denise will provide Ron with an updated bio for Lifescape for the website. Board members will send updated photos/bios to Ron for the website. The group photo will be updated at the next in-person meeting together.

Sunrise Villa contacted Denise asking for resources in Sioux Falls regarding psychiatrists and counselors for brain injury survivors. Denise will contact Sunrise Villa for updates prior to BIASD meetings.

Support Group updates:

Aberdeen - Doris was unable to get an update from Ron. Mary O will contact the Aberdeen group (Ron) before each BIASD meeting to get updates.

Black Hills - Group still meets on the 2nd Tues. of each month, and it's going well.

Sioux Falls - An average of 15-25 people attend. Break-outs for family/caregivers are helpful. There was a death of a support group member, and his family came to a meeting and found this helpful.

Brookings - The group is small – 7 attended last time. Glenn shared that a music therapist came and presented on relaxation therapy and memory, attention, and motivation at the last group. There were a few new faces last time. Glenn took attendance.

BIASD has been asked to endorse letters to State legislators advocating against increasing vehicle length/weight limits due to the safety concerns posed by this proposed legislation. It was decided that Board members will research this issue further before agreeing to endorsement.

Goals to accomplish for awareness and fundraising efforts:

Denise will explore an opportunity to volunteer to park vehicles at Jazz Fest in July as a fundraiser.

Justine and Koral will represent BIASD at a booth at the Capitol on Feb. 10 for Disability Awareness Day. Justine will call to make sure we will have a booth.

Doris was contacted by Cristabelle (www.hopeafterheadinjury.com) about her possibly making a stop in SD on her tour during Brain Injury Awareness Month in March, as she will be stopping in Fargo, ND on March 29-30. Doris will further research the costs involved with this.

Mary O will speak with Ron Hoops about proposing legislation to add \$2 to a speeding ticket, DUI offense, etc., with the money going to brain injury services or research.

Doris and Glenn will attend the State Special Education Conference on March 22-23 as vendors for BIASD. The deadline to register as a presenter is Nov. 16, and Justine will let Mary T know if she will present.

The group discussed writing articles and letters to editors during Brain Injury Awareness Month to raise awareness of brain injury and of local support groups. Discussion was also had about posting articles on the Face Book page.

The next BIASD Board meeting was scheduled for Feb. 10, 2015 at 1:00-3:00 P.M. (CST) in Pierre while Board members are there for Disability Awareness Day.

The Board meeting adjourned.