

Brain Injury Alliance of South Dakota Board Meeting,

3-28-15, 1:25-2:30 PM CST

Skyped from Center of Active Generations in Sioux Falls and

Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center, Rapid City: Present Justine, Ron in Rapid City and Mary O., Denise, Glenn, and Doris in Sioux Falls. Tom Schumacher served as the technician in Sioux Falls. Absent: Karen, Mary T., and Patricia.

Justine called the meeting to order. None of us could locate the 9-20-14 and 11-14-14 board meeting minutes to approve. Mary T., can you send those to us again so they can be approved and added to our website?

Justine reread the email received from the US Brain Injury Alliance. Due to the \$1600 membership fees or \$500. associate member annual dues, we as a state, are not able to join due to lack of funding. We also discussed the benefits of joining on the national level, including downloading from national's library.

We discussed our filing for non-profit status, 501-C. Mary O. will talk with Karen about Karen or her sending a letter to IRS requesting an update on our status.

Ron reported that the BI Alliance of SD Facebook page has 170 "likes". He suggested that board members post on this Facebook page, in addition to himself. Once you "like" the Facebook page you are sent updates.

Reports were given from the support groups:

Sioux Falls: Lora Barthelman, Music therapist, and Tina Jacobsen, Avera Speech Therapist spoke at our last monthly meeting in recognition of BI Awareness Month. Between 20-25 individuals usually attend.

Brookings: Jenny Hallan, Independent Living choices, is assisting with leadership. Advertisements were put in the Brookings Register each Monday in March with facts regarding BI and announcing our support group. Doris was interviewed on KBRK radio station about the support group and BI. Between 2-4 individuals attend monthly meetings.

Rapid City: Meetings are going well. 12-20 individuals usually attend.

Aberdeen: We have not had a report from Ron Hoops but the group is still meeting and sending out announcements.

Mary Ohman shared that radio ads were provided by Real Tuff, Inc. of Mobridge, SD which were matched by Dakota Radio Group and were aired on their radio network during BI Awareness Month.

Denise Johnson from LifeScape shared that the day space provided at Kilan Community College for 6 years is ending in May. Several new sites in Sioux Falls are being considered.

Brain Injury Rehabilitation Center, Rapid City, will be welcoming Justine Ashokar back on staff in July. Several staff were recently trained as Certified Brain Injury Specialists.

Ron Sasso spoke with Kari Syverson, staff member of Sunrise Villa in Irene. Kari indicated a new director, Stacy Bindi, is in place and they have been working on improving rehabilitation services. According to Kari, in the first seven years there has been no change in the clients served. However, since the change in personnel, they have transitioned three individuals within the past year. It was discussed to have either Kari or the director of the facility provide us a report at the next BIASD board meeting. We are considering East River board members to gather at Sunrise Villa for our next board meeting.

Ron shared that the Black Hills Brain Injury Conference lost money last year. The conference was put on hold for this year but there is hope for it to be held in 2016.

A report was given by Denise on the TBI Task Force. Their next meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on April 7, 2015 at the University Center in Sioux Falls. Karen, Mary and Denise from our board are active attendees. Denise shared that a brochure is being designed to show the services being provided in each division of our state.

Justine brought up the fact that Patricia has not attended meetings and has not responded to emails. As per by-laws, if a board member is absent from one-half the board meetings, he or she will have to be removed from the board. Ron made a motion that Patricia Patrick be removed from the board since she has not

kept in contact with the Alliance. Mary Ohman second it. The motion was passed.

Justine Ashokar is offering her services in educating families or survivors of the changes one may face following a brain injury. This is a resource all of us can keep in mind when we meet a survivor/family who needs to talk further to someone in our state.

Future 2015 meetings: (Please mark on your calendar although there will still be discussion about finalizing these dates at our next meeting.)

May 16, (Skype) possibly at Sunrise Villa and BI Rehabilitation Center (Mary O. will contact Sunrise Villa)

August 28, Annual meeting, Chamberlain (location TBD by Justine)

Nov. 7, Skype from Sioux Falls (possibly at new LifeScape BI Day location) and BI Rehabilitation Center.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by, Doris Schumacher